

CREATIVE **MINISTRY** E

THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY OCTOBER 2012 | VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 4



**WHAT A
BLAST!**

Earlwood free music lessons a hit with kids

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Music to his ears - Phil Laeger has a burning passion for worship | **Creative connections** - New team poised to take territory by storm | **Taking up the baton** - Graham Ainsworth unveiled as new Sydney Staff Songsters leader

PERFECT PITCH *with Major Neil Clanfield*



Major Neil Clanfield is Territorial Mission Director (Corps)

TAKING MUSIC AND CREATIVE ARTS INTO THE FUTURE

For almost six years now, my wife, Sharon, and I have had the privilege of leading the Territorial Mission and Resource team (Corps) which incorporates the territorial Music and Creative Arts team.

While over those years the personnel in the team has changed, each person who has been involved during our term has brought a passion and giftedness which has been both God glorifying and fruitful to our Territory.

There is no doubt that in our Army's DNA, music and the arts have always had an important role to play. Whether it has been in attracting people to our meetings, giving people a meaningful way to serve God, or supporting our worship, music in particular has been integral to our movement. As one who has had both the privilege and responsibility of leading people in worship for over 25 years, I have come to appreciate and value the place that music and the arts have in helping people to connect with God in a meaningful way. While over the years there have been those times when either the style or origin of the song has raised discomfort and even tension, really they are insignificant compared to times when the music, no matter what genre it belongs to, has helped to bring people into the very presence of God. This has certainly been true for me. Whether I have been leading, participating in, or being led by others, there have been countless times when the worship has helped me to encounter God in a very real and intimate way.

VITAL MINISTRY

In recognising the importance and impact that music and the arts will continue to have into the future, the leadership of our territory is committed to investing into personnel and resources that will both support and promote music and creative arts especially in frontline ministries. While the structure and make-up of the territorial team may change, the desire to see people in corps and centres worship God in a personal and meaningful way will be the constant motivation that will see our territory continue to invest into this vital area of ministry. In this edition of *Creative Ministry*, you will be introduced to four people the territory has identified to help resource and support frontline expressions across the territory. Knowing each one of them personally, they are not only people who come with experience and giftedness, but more importantly all are Salvationists who enjoy a meaningful and growing relationship with Jesus.

While Nathaniel, Phil, Keith and Michelle are currently the team working out of territorial headquarters, they are really only four of the many others across the territory that have an integral part to play in resourcing and promoting music and creative arts into the future.

In closing, my prayer for myself and my family is the same prayer I have for our territory, that we will be a people who glorify God and worship him in such a way that we ourselves and others will be drawn closer to him.



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the **BIG** picture

Meet (pictured from left) Phil Laeger, Nathaniel Brown, Michelle Kay-Browning and Major Keith Hampton. These four talented musicians make up the inaugural Australia Eastern Territorial Creative Arts Department under the leadership of Major Neil Clanfield, the Territorial Mission and Resource Director – Corps.

While they are the territorial creative arts team, Major Clanfield says they are stationed at different locations to enable the team to enhance the wider territory.

“Historically the Army has used music and it’s always been important to the heart and ministry of the Army,” Major Clanfield said. “Through this new team we want to recapture how to use the art forms to be more effective in our ministry.

“We didn’t want them to be locked in offices at territorial headquarters because they are all creative practitioners. Each one of them has local experience and the territory has contracted them to be greater resources to the territory as a whole.”

Major Clanfield believes the new team will bring a fresh energy and inspiration to the territory through their individual skills and passion.

“These people are all incredible musicians and they’re not only gifted but they’ve got a real heart for what they’re doing. They’ve got a heart for seeing people engage in worship however that’s expressed, whether through playing an instrument, through singing a song, dancing or drawing.”

While these four musicians are bringing an exciting new era to The Salvation Army musically, says Major Clanfield, the team consists of more than just these individuals.

“We have other talented people around the territory and we want to utilise them well. We realise that many people around the territory have much to offer and the intention is to try and build on that.”

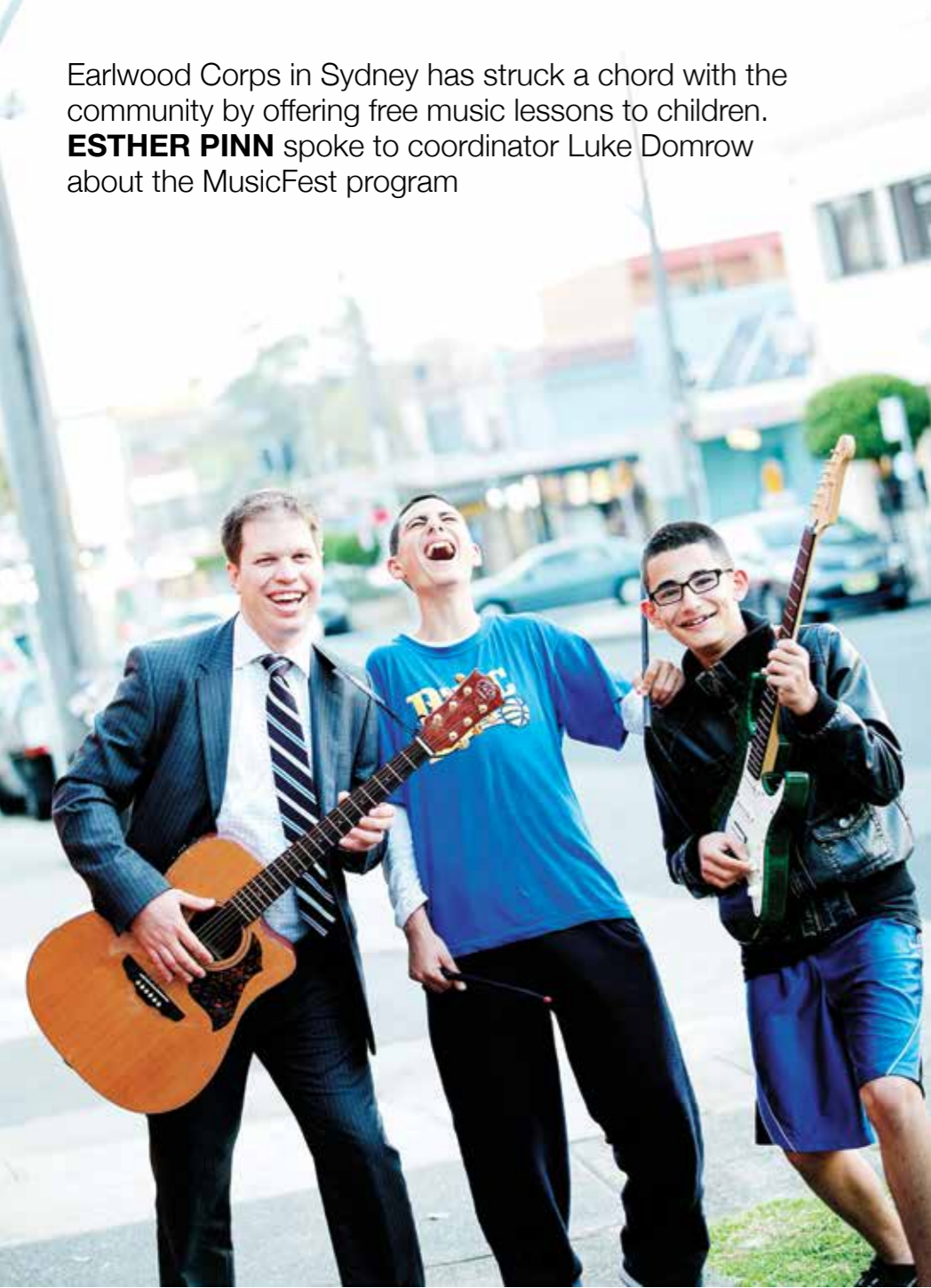
FULL STORY STARTS ON PAGE 10 >>>

Photo: Shairon Paterson



Free music lessons a
BIG HIT
 at Earlwood

Earlwood Corps in Sydney has struck a chord with the community by offering free music lessons to children. **ESTHER PINN** spoke to coordinator Luke Domrow about the MusicFest program



A huge grin appears on the face of nine-year-old Amelia as I ask her, “Do you enjoy learning the piano?” Nodding her head, she replies with an enthusiastic, “Yes”.

Amelia is one of 30 children aged between five and 18 who come away from The Salvation Army’s Earlwood Corps every Wednesday night with a smile after taking part in the church’s MusicFest program.

The children spend up to half an hour learning an instrument of their choice for free – whether piano, guitar, percussion or brass.

There is an atmosphere of joy at Earlwood Corps, located in Sydney’s inner south-west, and it’s being brought through music. And it’s not only the children who are happy but the parents too.

Amelia’s mother, Marina, who also brings her son, Andrew, to learn guitar, says the free lessons are having a positive impact on her family.

“The best thing about it is hearing music at home. We love hearing her [Amelia] play. And she just loves it. If this wasn’t available we probably wouldn’t be doing it at all.”



Luke Domrow (above and bottom left) with some of the children who attend the MusicFest program. Photos: Shairon Paterson

Luke Domrow, the Earlwood Corps bandmaster, heads up the MusicFest program. Having grown up in The Salvation Army – Luke’s parents, Majors Bruce and Glenys Domrow are officers, currently serving at Campsie Corps – Luke is a talented musician who specialises in everything from brass to piano.

He works alongside five other music teachers who, he says, have freely volunteered their time and expertise to MusicFest.

Firstly there is his wife, Anna, who with Luke, teaches beginner’s piano.

Luke says he is also blessed to have on board Major Christine Unicomb, who works at The Salvation Army Booth College as the Acting Head of Christian Practice. She teaches piano.

Kem Pobjie, a Salvationist at Earlwood Corps, teaches guitar and Ben Knight, who also attends the corps, teaches guitar and percussion.

Lastly, Ian Jurd, who has university degrees in music and education, has spent the past 24 years teaching music at a number of schools including North Sydney Boys High School and has chosen to spend part

of his retirement teaching children to play piano, guitar and bass.

Reaching out

MusicFest was birthed in May 2010 out of Earlwood Corps’ mission statement to “create meeting places where people could connect”.

Part of developing this mission was through consultation with Dr Paul Borden, an American Baptist Minister who runs the “Growing Healthy Churches” ministry. This ministry seeks to identify skills within churches and suggests fresh ways to utilise these skills.

“He said we needed to focus more on our community, particularly children,” Luke explains. “And he encouraged us to hold events to have an impact.”

Taking this idea on board, Luke saw music as a way of reaching out to children within their community and began conducting research into music lessons. He was surprised by what he discovered.

“As I did some research I realised music is costly for a lot of families. If a family wants to get their kid tutored in brass or piano or any particular >>>

“I have a vision for each child in the program, that no matter their skill or level of performance that they will make us proud; that they will realise that they have the ability to achieve remarkable things.” – Luke Domrow



The MusicFest program has received a tremendous response with children flocking to take part. Photos: Shairon Paterson



musical instrument, they have to invest thousands of dollars a year in order for that to happen.”

Armed with research, Luke and the leadership team at Earlwood Corps hosted a Salvo Festival at Earlwood McPherson Reserve. Overwhelming amounts of people from the Earlwood community attended and were particularly intrigued by the Salvo music tent advertising free music lessons.

“We had a tent with ‘MusicFest: free music lessons’ advertised all over it. We had a number of instruments – drum kits, guitars, brass instruments – where the kids could come and trial, have a play.”

With strong interest from the community, a few weeks later Luke held an information evening and was astonished by the large number of people who attended.

“We took down people’s names [at the Salvo Festival] and sent them an email but I was worried that nobody would actually turn up,” says Luke, laughing.

“But sure enough, right on time people started walking across from the road. We filled this front room the first night with people wanting to find out

about music lessons.

“There are many people in our community, even though we are in an affluent area, that can’t afford music tuition. So we’re sort of providing a niche where people have the opportunity to learn.”

Since then, Luke says the ministry has grown rapidly to the point where there is a waiting list.

“It’s amazing. We did that initial little bit of advertising as part of the [Salvo] Festival and since then it’s been word of mouth.”

Connecting families

The Salvation Army has a rich history of teaching children how to play instruments so, according to Luke, MusicFest is not a new concept.

“This is something the Army did for years. They always taught kids music. We’ve just conceptualised into some program now but the Army has always been good at doing this. And we have the skills. There’s no reason why every corps can’t be doing something similar.”

During Luke’s research, he was amazed to discover how music can play a vital role in a child’s development.

“The studies show kids who learn

“This is something the Army did for years. They always taught kids music ... And we have the skills. There’s no reason why every corps can’t be doing something similar.”

music actually do better at school. Kids who have learning disabilities have improved their schooling through music. There’s clear evidence to show that kids benefit from music.”

Sam and Josie have been bringing their 10-year-old twins, Matthew and Sarah since September last year and have seen an increase in their development, particularly Sarah who has a medical disability.

“We are very appreciative that we have the opportunity for our children to enjoy music. We thought the trumpet was good for Sarah because she has lung problems. The breathing helps her as well and it’s something fun away from the medical treatment,” says Josie.

Teresa brings her three boys Pippin (4), Toby (8) and Oliver (10) to Music Fest every week and says she has seen an improvement in her children’s ability to concentrate.

“My boys are not the calmest of kids. While they have a good ear for music, I didn’t think they had the patience to sit through a traditional class. And whenever I’ve taken them to activities, they’ve only lasted a week. They’ve never stuck at anything. But they come every week quite happily and I think it’s because of the community here.”

Building a community is one of the main aims of MusicFest, says Luke. While the children are having their lessons the Earlwood Corps Officer, Major Chris Millard, serves coffee to the parents in the waiting room and spends time getting to know them. These times have also opened up ministry opportunities, says Luke.

Cesare Popoli and his five boys are just one example. For Cesare, Music Fest started out as a way for his kids to learn music. Now they attend Sunday church at Earlwood Corps on a regular basis.

“I came to the music lessons on Wednesdays first for three months.

And then [someone] asked me, ‘why don’t you come on Sunday? It’s really good’. So we started coming on Sunday and we’ve never stopped.”

Luke and his team of music teachers have a bright future ahead. The success of their program has already caught the attention of Bexley RSL and Bendigo Bank, who together have donated \$9000 to improve their music equipment. While Earlwood already host a Christmas concert once a year, the donation will also provide more opportunities to host concerts in the near future.

“I have a vision for each child in the program, that no matter their skill or level of performance that they will make us proud; that they will realise that they have the ability to achieve remarkable things.” □



Esther Pinn is a staff writer for Creative Ministry.

WORSHIP

IS MUSIC TO PHIL'S EARS



PHIL LAEGER COULDN'T IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT MUSIC AND, AS **ESTHER PINN** REPORTS, HE IS NOW IN A POSITION TO SHARE HIS MUSICAL SKILLS AND PASSION IN HIS NEW ROLE WITH THE THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORIAL WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

It all began with a simple act of kindness. Growing up in a creative family – his father a poet and his mother a singer – it was natural for Phil Laeger's parents to send their children to piano lessons.

Phil, however, looked like missing out as his parents could only afford lessons for his two older siblings.

But out of the kindness of the piano teacher's heart, she decided to give Phil free lessons. It was a decision that paid dividends as her kind gesture was the springboard for Phil's musical career.

Phil has recorded three solo albums, has co-written the theme song for the 2006 National Day of Prayer in the United States with Australian recording artist Rebecca St James, and has penned new arrangements for some of The Salvation Army's most-loved hymns including *I'm In His Hands*, *Send the Fire!*, and *Burning, Burning*.



Phil Laeger finds the countryside around Maitland an inspiring backdrop for his songwriting. Photos: Shairon Paterson

As well as being an accomplished pianist, he has taught himself the acoustic guitar and can also play the tenor horn.

"You've got to play a brass instrument if you're in the Salvos," he says, laughing.

Phil says his passion for music definitely comes from his years of growing up in The Salvation Army in the USA Southern Territory.

"My parents [Majors David and Anna Laeger] were officers. So I've been a Salvo for pretty much all my life. Embryonic Salvo is what I think they call it," he says, smiling.

Along with his passion for playing instruments, Phil says his great love is songwriting. When he was just five he began writing poems and "little" songs on the piano.

"Both my parents are musical; they play the piano and sing.

"I was always trying to pick stuff up and make stuff up. They were

definitely my influences growing up.

"My grandfather wrote songs, too. I actually have a folder of hymns that he wrote. Music just runs in my family – my mum has a beautiful voice. But I started songwriting seriously in high school for girls," he admits.

Now a professional musician, songwriter and recording artist, Phil definitely has the talent to make it big in the music industry. But it was his heart for worship that altered his perspective about what type of music he should write.

"I was really influenced by a couple of songwriters in the Christian music scene – one, Keith Green, and the other, Rich Mullins. I just really admired the fact that they both had a heart for the Lord first before their craft and for me that has really influenced the way I go about songwriting," he says.

Phil received his first taste of the music industry with his band, "Quarter

Past 3", gaining an opportunity to record an album in a professional studio in 2002.

"I had been writing songs since high school and I kept accumulating and I guess I looked at my huge folder of songs and thought, 'is anyone ever going to hear any of these?'"

"The album will never be nominated for a Grammy, but it was a chance to experience what it was like to record professionally. From there I just knew I wanted to make music and I wanted people to hear the music I was playing," he says.

Firmly believing God had called him to be a songwriter, Phil was finally given the opportunity in 2003 to record his first solo album.

Leap of faith

For the young boy who learned to love music at The Salvation Army, it seemed quite natural that Phil would transition into a worship ministry >>>



Phil and Sarah Laeger and their three children Aiden (3), Hope (2) and Samuel (7) have settled in Maitland and attend the Northlakes Corps. Photo: Shairon Paterson

“SONGWRITING WILL BE ONE AREA THAT I WILL BE FOCUSING ON. WE WANT TO COME OUT WITH SONGS THAT ARE REALLY ACCESSIBLE.”

role for the organisation.

In 2004, he began working as Music Evangelism and Worship Specialist for the USA Southern Territory. Along with resourcing the territory, Phil partnered with a contemporary worship Salvation Army band called transMission where they took traditional hymns and wrote new arrangements.

“Through this group we started revitalising some of the songs [traditional Army hymns], putting them into context and young people really ate it up.

“They loved the words and the missional focus of the songs.”

A few years later, Phil took a leap of faith and decided to leave his job at the Army and study a degree in songwriting at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

While a daunting decision, Phil says he trusted that God would bring along another opportunity after he graduated in 2008.

And God did exactly that. Phil and his family packed their bags and flew thousands of kilometres to Melbourne to work as the Contemporary Worship

Consultant/Songwriter for the Army in the Australia Southern Territory in 2009.

“It was a three-year contract. The role was a resourcing role and the goal was to create resources that would assist in worship renewal in corps and to train worships leaders.”

As the contract came to a close, Phil says God was calling him, his wife Sarah and their three children Samuel (7), Aiden (3) and Hope (2) to move closer towards their family in Australia.

Moving from city to country, Phil and his family made the jump to life in Maitland, near Newcastle, where Sarah’s family lives.

They now attend Northlakes Corps.

Website initiative

Since April this year, songwriting has been Phil’s focus in his new role as The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territorial Worship Development and Resource Consultant.

“The scenery here [in Maitland] is an absolute inspiration for writing,” says Phil. “Songwriting will be one area

that I will be focusing on.

“We want to come out with songs that are really accessible.”

Along with songwriting, Phil is in the process of setting up a “one-stop-shop” resource website that will be available to all Salvationists.

“There’s a whole bunch of material and songs in the Army that people don’t know about. We are working on a resource website so we can promote that better.”

Phil is also eager to create a network of songwriters within the territory and provide a forum where they can share their songs with one another.

“I want to encourage corps to have a night where a talented songwriter in their corps can try out one of their songs. It’s about giving songwriters a chance.”

Alongside his busy schedule, Phil is releasing a new EP, just one of his many side projects. It focuses on the theme of surrender.

“It’s about just how when you surrender to God’s plans for your life, even if you can’t see the end project, it’s the best way,” he says. □

MAKING UP THE CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT ...

In addition to Phil Laeger and his role as Territorial Worship Development and Resource Consultant, there have been a number of other new positions created. They are:

MICHELLE KAY-BROWNING

Songwriter and worship leader Michelle Kay-Browning has been associated with worship education for many years within The Salvation Army, particularly the Unlimited conference.

Earlier this year, Michelle came on staff as the Australia Eastern Territorial Spiritual Renewal and Worship Consultant. She has a passion for helping Salvationists to engage with the heart of God through worship.

“For Michelle, worship is not just about the music,” says Major Neil Clanfield, Territorial Mission and Resource Director – Corps. “Worship is how we talk; it’s how we do everything. So Michelle is available for people who really want to engage in worship and be resourced in the area of worship education.”

Michelle is currently exploring how worship connects with spiritual renewal and is available to assist all corps’ and divisions within the territory in the areas of worship education and spiritual renewal through worship.

MAJOR KEITH HAMPTON

Major Keith Hampton is an enthusiastic brass band man who has a rich history of being involved with numerous Salvation Army band ministries. Along with his appointment as Dulwich Hill Corps Officer, Major Hampton was given the additional role of Territorial Brass Ministry Development Coordinator earlier this year.

Major Hampton is working towards developing a children’s brass band learning program across the territory, which is already running at Orange Corps. He also manages the territory’s brass band library and aims to ensure all corps are properly resourced.

“Keith’s got a real heart for renewing the mission of brass banding,” says Major Clanfield. “His role will certainly include resourcing and being a voice of brass banding in the territory and trying to support and resource where possible.”

Major Hampton is available for all corps and divisions to contact for brass band development and resources.

NATHANIEL BROWN

Leading Salvationists into worship is one of Nathaniel Brown’s passions. For the past two years, he has been providing practical resources to many corps’ and divisions within the territory as Territorial Worship Resource and Development Coordinator.

“He’s done some excellent work with that,” explains Major Clanfield. “He offers to the territory a number of practical resources. He’s often helped with local corps and divisions with the practical aspects of worship, how to engage people in worship and how to lead people into worship.”

Nathaniel’s role also connects well with his other position as Territorial Youth Mission Consultant, having a positive influence over young people by teaching them how to worship. He organised the recent Gospel Arts Camp which brings together young people to enhance their creative arts skills.

Nathaniel is also available for Salvationists, corps and divisions to access when they need to refresh, resource and enhance their practical worship skills.

Piano reflections do justice to great hymns

Day by Day – Piano reflections. Based on the great hymns of the church – Graeme Press

This is a sensitive and easy-listening CD which will hit home with anyone who grew up with the great hymns.

Being a pianist and church organist, I enjoyed the many well-known melodies and felt at home with the music. After listening to the CD three or four times, I found myself with the tunes going around and around in my head which is usually indicative of familiarity and enjoyment.



With a style of presentation similar to my own, I found Graeme's choices to be well selected and his harmonisations excellent. These factors drew me in and explained why I found it easy to marry the lyrics to the music. Because of this, I think the people who would enjoy the CD most are probably older generation. I guess that many Salvation Army supporters will similarly enjoy the selections and be as connected as I.

I do wonder, however, if it would appeal to a younger generation or to an audience that was not so well versed in the repertoire of the wider church. The melodies cover a strong and exciting period of our church music history. However, as I have experienced in my own musicianship, the world of church music is changing rapidly. Many of our younger church base are not connected with this music nor would even recognise many, if any, of the tunes which is a great pity.

I commend the work as sensitive and talented.

– Ian Minnett

Available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (www.salvosuppliessyd.com) for \$20.

Composition honours legacy of Gullidge

Unconquered - The Music of Arthur Gullidge

I found it both a privilege and a challenge to review this CD. A privilege because the history and music associated with the composer is legendary. A challenge because this is a compilation of works by the composer played and originally recorded by a variety of bands at very different times. This is quite noticeable as the quality of sound and recording vary greatly throughout.

The review was also challenging as I found myself having to put aside some personal bias. For example, with *Jubilate* – Brian Davies v John Allen, with *Spirit Of The Living God* – Arthur Gullidge v Len Baxter, and with *Divine Communion* v *Light Of The World* (Dean Goffin).

The CD commences with Black Dyke Band (an interesting choice) playing what is perhaps the most used 6/8 March in The Salvation Army repertoire, *Emblem Of The Army*. They take this march to a level I haven't heard elsewhere. In particular, the note production and sound of the bass section caught my attention.

There is a lovely touch of variety with the inclusion of the male voice number *Priceless Treasure*, in which Boscombe Citadel Band provide a quality of tone, balance and diction.

Divine Communion, probably considered by many to be the "crème de la crème" of devotional selections in The Salvation Army repertoire, is handled very delicately by the International Staff Band, and allows one to soak up the spiritual blessing so obviously intended by the composer.

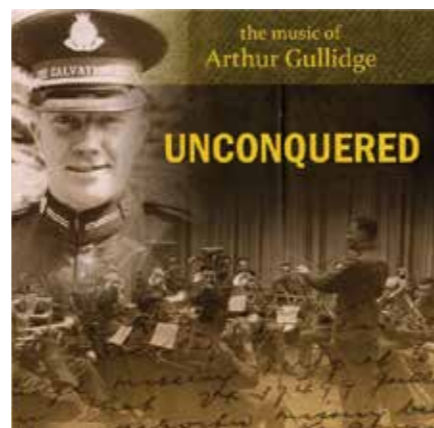
If one listens carefully and dissects parts of a number of these pieces, there are some nuances that

would seem to be a Gullidge trademark. I am of the opinion that he was quite gifted in stirring emotion through his composing.

Without doubt, the real value of this particular CD is its historical significance, due to the legend that is "Gullidge" and "Australian", both in regards to World War 2 and Salvation Army banding. In addition, the CD is being released on the 75th Anniversary of the catastrophic event of the Montevideo sinking that took Gullidge and other Salvation Army bandsmen from us.

– Major Edwin Cox

Available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (www.salvosuppliessyd.com) for \$20.



Musicals a timeless offering of creativeness

The latest offering from General John Larsson (Ret.) is reviewed by Commissioner Harry Read

There has always been a strong element of "sanctified theatre" within the life and imagination of The Salvation Army. Our early days of open-air meetings with seekers using the drum as a mercy seat, our bands, uniforms and our choice of music halls for meetings were, without intention and probably inadvertently, pure Christian theatre.

Therefore, when Captains John Gowans and John Larsson were invited to join forces and blend their immense God-given gifts to produce a musical, no seismic Salvationist shocks were registered – only pleasure and delight at this creative initiative. Their remit fell well within the bounds of Army tradition in terms of innovative outreach and the desire to convey gospel truths simply.

The first musical became the first of many and very quickly corps groups (other churches also) took this exciting ministry on board and were revitalised in the process.

This CD, the third volume in the series, recalls the musicals *Glory!* and *The Blood Of The Lamb*.

The first points to our beginnings and the second to – we hope and trust – our endings. Both portray life at its worst and, because of the grace of God, life at its very best. The CD successfully encapsulates the Christian's experience of salvation from sin, laced with the happy prospect of Paradise.

Glory! is based on Colonel Edward Joy's book *The Old Corps*, which is about the characters whose conversions built the spiritual foundations of the historic Folkestone Corps. *The Blood Of The Lamb* is based on a poem by the American Vachel Lindsay about William Booth entering Heaven and the colourful, diverse characters who pass through the pearly gates due in part to his and the Army's influence.

Since there are so many songs in each musical a sense of "sameness" would be understandable. Instead, there is a rich variety in lyrics and music and, remarkably, the songs never seem to lose their freshness. Listen to them, sing them, whistle the tunes as often as you will and still they remain fresh, contemporary and relevant.

The secret is that the composers, with the simplicity and skilfulness granted by the Holy Spirit's obvious guidance upon their efforts, wrote from their hearts to our hearts; we are fellow aspirants after a better life with Jesus as our mutual goal and master. As one of their "so easy

to identify with" songs has it, "We're all seeking the same Saviour".

Our two hugely inspired Generals have blessed us immeasurably and the timeless element of their songs – and scripts, of course – will bless all future generations. That these blessings have been shared, enjoyed, used and appreciated beyond Army boundaries is an added bonus.

I have two suggestions to make. The first is to play the CD with the words of the songs in the 32-page booklet before you and prepare yourself to be blessed.

The second suggestion mainly, though not exclusively, relates to those who have taken part in the musicals.

Would you think of those who were members of your cast and who no longer worship with us? Perhaps you could pray for them and send them a gift copy of the CD in the hope that their spiritual aspirations may again be stimulated.

Available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (www.salvosuppliessyd.com) for \$20.



Salvo Country Band album a gift to rural community

More than 5000 copies of the Salvo Country Band's limited edition album *One Day at a Time* have been gifted to rural communities and graduates from various Salvation Army Recovery Service programs this year.

More than half have been distributed by Salvation Army Rural Chaplains offering the album, which is a fresh take on a selection of songs from previous albums recorded by the Salvo Country Band including *Home Again* and *God On The Mountain*.

"It's just to give people hope. We find

with people who come through our centres, if they go back to a country town, they might not link in with The Salvation Army. So they are able to still listen to music and songs that they recognise from when they sang at chapel," said Captain Vanessa Garven, Project and Design Manager, Territorial Recovery Mission and Resource Team.

The nine-track album was a partnership between The Salvation Army Territorial Recovery Mission and Resource Team and Rural Chaplaincy.





TAKING UP THE **baton**

Assuming leadership of the Sydney Staff Songsters came as an unexpected progression for Graham Ainsworth, but, as **ESTHER PINN** finds out, he's relishing the challenge

“It wasn't something I had really expected that would naturally occur,” ponders Graham Ainsworth, while talking about his new role as the Sydney Staff Songsters leader. “I didn't really have any desire to be the leader at that time,” he continues. “It wasn't until three weeks or so before the actual announcement [that he had assumed leadership] I really had a change of heart. God just seemed to be closing some doors and reminding me of goals and deadlines I had set for myself.”

“BEING PART OF THAT PARTICULAR GROUP WITH THOSE SINGERS IS REALLY SPECIAL. IT'S JUST SUCH A GREAT MINISTRY ALL ROUND AND I ENJOY SEEING THE WAY PEOPLE RESPOND TO IT.”

For the past 10 years, Graham (pictured above) has been bandmaster of The Salvation Army's Parramatta Corps Band. He believes his switch to leading the Sydney Staff Songsters came at the right time, and he has the full support of his wife, Carissa. The Ainsworths have two daughters, Mollie, 5, and Ella, 2.

“I wanted to make sure that as far as Parramatta Band went that we had a new leader by 10 years. That was my goal, that there was a succession plan in place and I was going to finish this role. This [Sydney Staff Songster position] came about and got the wheels in motion,” he says.

Musical influence

Like many before him, The Salvation Army was the place where Graham fell in love with music. Growing up in the Army, Graham began learning a brass instrument at an early age. And his parents, Majors Rod and Leonie Ainsworth, Corps Officers at Pine Rivers in

Brisbane, encouraged musical involvement at the various local corps' where they were appointed with both his sister, Alison, and brother, Luke.

“Music is part of our family make-up and being part of ministry, we would help out whenever needed,” explains Graham.

Aside from playing brass instruments, Graham spent many of his adolescent years singing in various songster groups. While music is Graham's passion, he says he was surprised when Graeme Press, former Australia Eastern Territorial Music Secretary, asked him to join the Sydney Staff Songsters.

“Interestingly enough, it was something that I didn't really initiate. I had friends in the group but I hadn't really thought about it for myself. Graeme Press spoke to me and said, ‘it's about time you auditioned’.

“There are so many facets of it [Sydney Staff Songsters] that's so worthwhile. Being part of that particular group with those singers is really special. We place a lot of importance on the family that we have within the group. It's just such a great ministry all round and I enjoy seeing the way people respond to it.”

Huge responsibility

For the past 11 years, Graham has been singing in the tenor section of the Staff Songsters and for the past four years serving as the deputy leader of the group.

“It's been great to see the workings of the group as deputy and to be responsible for some of the trips, the logistical side of things. I see this as quite a challenge for me, being responsible for repertoire as well as pastoral aspects of the group,” he says.

While Graham says his new role as leader of the Sydney Staff Songsters will be a huge responsibility, he looks forward to growing the group's ministry with their albums, weekends away ministering to local corps' through choral worship, and international tours.

After a brief recess earlier this year, the Sydney Staff Songsters reconvened with Graham as their leader in July.

Trombonist headlines Brisbane band's anniversary concert



Ashley Gittens and Greg Aitkin perform a trombone duet during the anniversary concert.

About 400 people packed the Stafford Corps auditorium to celebrate the Brisbane Divisional Fellowship Band's 10th anniversary on 28 July.

Ashley Gittens, famous trombone player who holds the FMusA diploma prize and winner of the prestigious Champion of Champions award, was the highlight of the evening, performing solos at the anniversary celebrations including *Fiesta*, *Word of Grace* and *If Ever I Loved Thee*.

For the first half of the concert the guests were entertained by the Brisbane City Temple Band who opened the concert with *Psalm of Thanks*, then followed with a traditional Salvo march, *Mighty to Save*, *Song of the Eternal* and *Down the Street*.

Ashley then conducted a combined section with both the Divisional Fellowship Band and Brisbane City Temple Band with his own compositions of *Logan Citadel*, *Healing Stream* and *Trust and Obey*, which included a trombone duet by both Ashley and Greg Aitken, who was also the Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Led by Ray Simpson, the Divisional Fellowship Band and Timbrels put on a spectacular display throughout the second half of the concert

with the march, *One Parade*, accompanied by the timbrels, *Shine On Us*, *Bring Him Home* with a vocal solo by Daryl O'Donoghue and a contemporary arrangement of *Robe of White*.

For the finale, Ashley joined with the Fellowship Band to conduct *Kingdom Triumphant*.

Before the evening concert began, a special celebratory dinner was held for the Divisional Fellowship members, both past and present, including Major Jean Buckmaster, the Divisional Seniors' Secretary in 2002 and Maurice Bull, the band's first bandmaster.

“This anniversary was the band's first major milestone. And we wanted honour the vision and commitment of the members of the band, not just the foundation members but the current members of the band,” said Keith Lucas, Divisional Fellowship Band's Assistant Secretary.

From humble beginnings with only 13 band members, Keith says the band is growing from strength to strength, as they now have 59 band members, including 13 timbrellists. And its popularity hasn't faded as the band maintains a busy schedule of engagements at church and community functions throughout south-east Queensland.

Puppeteers on a string and a prayer in Cowra

The “Messups” puppeteers, with their passion for Jesus through the ministry of comedy, were the special guests at Cowra Corps to celebrate The Salvation Army's International Day of Prayer for children.

“The prayer theme for 2012 was, ‘The Cry of My Heart’ and the puppets, along with the children and attendees, participated in different prayer activities during the meeting,” said Lieutenant Kim Gorringer, Corps Officer.

“The meeting ended with Richard Turvey, Ian McDonald, Thelma Holmes and ‘Messups’ puppeteer Dallas Aitkins, dressing up in Beatles gear to help the puppets sing the song, *Help*, as the children blew

bubbles filled with prayers for children, which floated throughout the citadel.

“The show was hilarious, and everyone, the little ones and the kids at heart, laughed so much and really enjoyed it.”

Dallas and Bonnie Atkins, puppeteers from Canberra, are focused on spreading the message of Jesus through comedy.

“Proverbs 17:22a says that ‘A merry heart does good, like medicine’, which is so true,” said Lieut Gorringer.

“I would highly recommend ‘The Messups’ puppets for any corps event.”

For more information, go to www.messups.com



Steven Mead performs with the Hurstville band at Dulwich Hill. Photo: Carolyn Hide.

Euphoria on the euphonium

English virtuoso euphonium soloist Steven Mead gave a flawless performance in front of more than 300 people during his Ultimate Euphonium Series concert at Dulwich Hill on Saturday 15 September.

Accompanied by the Hurstville Citadel Band, Steven treated the audience to a variety of pieces which demonstrated his vast ability on his instrument.

The concert also featured the North West Wind Ensemble.

“Steven produces probably the purest euphonium sound on the planet and the audience was simply blown away by his incredible performance,” organiser Rob Murphy said.

“Steven also conducted a euphonium workshop on the Friday which was well attended by brass enthusiasts.”

Financial boost for Kids Music Therapy program

The Parramatta Corps Kids Music Therapy program has received community endorsement from a \$3000 donation of musical equipment from the Parramatta and Parramatta Westfield branches of the Commonwealth Bank.

Children in the program will now enjoy use of a drum kit, computerised beat box, a set of ukuleles, an African drum and hand percussion instruments. A camcorder for the program’s teachers to pass on recorded feedback of the children to their teachers and parents was also part of the package.

Commonwealth Bank representatives presented the equipment to Corps Officer, Major Alwyn Robertson, and Talitha Evans, Music Therapist, to mark a century of the Bank’s operations in the community.

“We look forward to another 100 years of supporting the communities in which we operate,” said Monique Morrison, Parramatta branch manager.

The Music Therapy program is a new initiative of the Parramatta Corps, through Talitha Evans, a fully qualified Music Therapist,” said Major Alwyn Robinson, Corps Officer.

“It is designed to reach children especially with learning and or behavioural and or emotional disorders, and can release unlocked potential and give them a ‘voice’. It is amazing how well this works.”

American choir raises the roof at Congress Hall



A combined choir treats the audience to a rousing finale at the Emmanuel Baptist Praisings concert in Sydney.

About 40 talented voices from the Emmanuel Baptist Praisings, an Oklahoma choir in the United States, gave a special performance at The Salvation Army Sydney Congress Hall on 15 July.

More than 120 people came out to enjoy the worship led by this talented group.

They performed a number of songs from their recent album *Hymns Alive*, which is a collection of well-known old hymns that have fresh arrangements.

For the final performance of the evening, one mass choir

was formed with the Emmanuel Baptist Praisings, the Sydney Staff Songsters, Congress Hall Songsters and a few members from the Glebe Community Choir.

“I don’t think you can go past being part of a mass choir of about 50 or 60-odd voices,” said Ash Sellers, a Sydney Staff Songster member.

“People said they were just blown away with how open and loving these guys were, who obviously perform to a very good standard, and how welcoming they were of us joining with them and I know that [we] felt really encouraged to join with them in worship.”

Brisbane adds new dimension to brass concert

Brisbane City Temple’s “Brass Dimensions” concert is becoming quite a tradition within the local community, according to Corps Officer, Major Earle Ivers.

“I was excited that there were a whole lot of faces who came who I had never seen before. We exposed our ministry and message to a whole new group of people,” said Major Ivers.

Over 200 people attended the concert on 18 August and enjoyed a “3D experience” of brass band music, drama and cabaret-style experience.

“3D is about exploring the dimensions of a normal presentation of Salvation Army music sections. We’re just trying to engage the scope of what that is and make it far more engaging, far more relational. Certainly from the feedback we received, many people have been impressed with the improvements in

style and presentation,” said Major Ivers.

For the first half of the evening, the Brisbane City Temple band, led by Stuart Lang, and timbrels, led by Elizabeth Brown, entertained the audience with classic Salvation Army songs including Song of Exaltation and Better World.

The theme of the concert was “Best Day Ever” which referred to a drama script that was written by Major Ivers and performed throughout the second half of the concert. The script followed the story of the Brisbane City Temple Band on tour and how they witnessed to a troubled man while stuck at an airport.

The Brisbane City Temple Band accompanied the script, supporting the storyline with a blend of devotional and contemporary music as well as some original pieces from members of the band.

“It was a story of transformation and hope, even when hope seems unlikely,” said Major Ivers. “And all the music was designed to fit the script.”

Major Ivers said he received many comments from people who attended the concert and is making plans for “Brass Dimensions” to become a regular event on their calendar.

“The response from people was positive in terms of how blessed they were by the message, by the smoothness of the presentation and the quality of the meal. We hired a chef this year so the overall dining experience was first class.

“They loved the way the script and the music were so beautifully intertwined. They appreciated the high standard of presentation, the competence of the music and the performance.”

PICTORIAL

EARLWOOD MUSICFEST PROGRAM



Photos: Shalton Paterson