



The Organ Music Society of Sydney Inc.
Incorporating the American Guild of Organists (Sydney Chapter)

ABN 18 754 002 095

ANNUAL REPORT
for year ending 31st August 2018

1. OFFICE BEARERS

At the Annual General Meeting held at 4.00 pm on Sunday, 19TH November, 2017
at Christ Church St Laurence, 812 George Street, Sydney

the members present confirmed the election of the following office bearers:

President – Dr Greg Cunningham

Vice Presidents (2) – Godelieve Ghavalas and Peter Jewkes

Honorary Secretary (and Public Officer) - Geoff Lloyd

Honorary Treasurer – Kerrie Keene

Committee Members (5) –

Gareth Baard, Andrew Davidson, Robert Fox, Garry Hoyle and Peter Meyer.

It is accepted practice that the elected president also assumes the office of Dean of the Sydney Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the elected secretary also assumes the office of Secretary of the Sydney Chapter of the American Guild of Organists as well as the Public Officer under the Associations Incorporation Act.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

While considering advancement in the cause of the organ and its music, it is worth reminding our members of the purpose of the Organ Music Society of Sydney. Its key aims including fostering and promoting an appreciation, understanding and interest in organs, organ building and organ music. The Society holds activities for the exchange of ideas, mutual support and fellowship of those interested in organs and organ music. We seek to encourage young people and others to learn to play the organ and to enter formal study while also supporting church, concert and amateur organists in their craft and to provide opportunities to increase their skills through our organ academies, young organists' events and organ rambles. The Society supports local organizations and churches in promoting solo recitals or concerts incorporating organ by local and visiting artists while provide information on the organ and its music. Finally, the OMSS liaises with other musical groups with similar objectives. Our Society members receive regular e-newsletters and the quarterly Sydney Organ Journal.

Following our Sydney Organ Competition in October 2017 and a Reception for the Pipedream's Historic Organs of Australia Tour Group at Shore School in November which was an opportunity for our members to meet Michael Barone and the Pipedream's Tour Group from the USA, Young Organists' Day in late December saw our young

organists play the Sydney Town Hall organ under the guidance of City Organist, Robert Ampt, including the talented winners from the 2017 Sydney Organ Competition perform to a substantial audience.

Organ rambles in 2018 included an Easter Monday Lower North Shore Organ Ramble where ramblers enjoyed the organs at Scots Kirk Presbyterian Church, Belmont Road, Mosman, St John's Uniting Church, Neutral Bay and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Mosman. Queen's Birthday Holiday, Monday 11 June, was a players' afternoon at All Saints' Hunters Hill, where Director of Music at All Saints', Philip Reichardt, also demonstrated the Bevington organ after which members who attended had an opportunity to play.

The President, several OMSS Committee and members attended the Auckland Organ Association's 2018 Congress over the New Zealand Queen's Birthday Weekend (Friday 1 – Monday 4 June, 2018). The featured organist was Peter Wright, Organist and Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral, London. Organs featured included the new Nicholson

organ at Holy Trinity Cathedral, St Mary's in Holy Trinity, Auckland Town Hall, the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, St Matthew-in-the-City and Ponsonby Baptist Church. The Congress Dinner was held in the historic Selwyn Library at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Further OMSS presence overseas saw several OMSS members including the President attend the 2018 ATOS Convention in Los Angeles in late June.

With sadness we record the death of organ builder, Roger Pogson, in July. A Roger Pogson Memorial Concert was held at the Sydney Conservatorium to celebrate his life and his enormous contribution to music. Organists at this event were Peter Guy, Peter Kneeshaw, James Goldrick and Keith Asboe.

Labour Day, 1 October, is the 2018 Sydney Organ Competition again held St Aloysius College (Junior), Shore School (Intermediate) and the Great Hall at the University of Sydney (Open) and our AGM. I extend our thanks to these institutions for providing the venues and facilities to enable the OMSS to hold this event. Again I acknowledge the interest and active contribution of the Friends of the Sydney Town Hall, the Sheppard and Vern-Barnett families, Ellen Dyer, Betty Roberts and the underwriters of the John Brown and Jessie Lyle Marsh awards in supporting the Sydney Organ Competition prizes. My thanks to the Organ Education Sub-committee led by Godelieve Ghavalas and Society Secretary, Geoff Lloyd, for their outstanding organisation of and contribution to this important annual OMSS event.

I wish to acknowledge the support of the OMSS Committee, who have all made a significant contribution in supporting the activities of the Society, particularly members of the Education Subcommittee, the Editor of the Sydney Organ Journal, Peter Meyer and Garry Hoyle, our Membership Secretary and Kerrie Keene, OMSS Treasurer.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the sterling work of Secretary, Geoff Lloyd, for his work and contribution to the aim of the Society.

3. LIFE MEMBERS

The Society has five Life Members, viz.

Keith Asboe, Dr Neil Cameron, Peter Kneeshaw, Howard Pollard and Ron Sharp,

4. MEMBERSHIP

Year Ended	31/8/16	31/8/17	31/8/18
Ordinary Members	207	189	115
Pensioners/Seniors	78	87	149
Students	9	9	11
Journal Subscribers	-	-	
Institutional Subscribers	7	7	5
O/S Journal Subscribers/Members	14	13	11
Total Members and Subscribers	314	305	291
Complimentary Journals	16	17	17
Overseas Complimentary	9	9	8
Advertisers		3	5
Total Mailed Out	339	334	321

5. SYDNEY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

A prerequisite to being a member of the Sydney Chapter of The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is to be a member of the Organ Music Society of Sydney (OMSS).

One advantage to being a member of the Sydney Chapter of the AGO is receipt of the monthly magazine *The American Organist*, which presents organ information on the USA and the world.

The American Guild of Organists has settled into a new system, ONCARD, for renewals which, inter alia, removes the administrative difficulties experienced including with overseas fund transfers, late applications and simultaneous renewal activity.

AGO memberships become due on 1st September of each year. A timely renewal notice should be expected from AGO whereupon membership is effected using their ONCARD payment facility.

If you have a change of address you need to log on to ONCARD and update your personal details.

Any difficulties (if any) with dealing with the AGO system may be referred to our Secretary or Membership Secretary members@omss.org.au.

OMSS does not accept or bill AGO renewals.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Balances Year Ending 31 st August 2017	Westpac Banking Corporation	Balances Year Ending 31 st August 2018
5,873.98	Cheque Account, Community Solutions One	3,510.15
21,234.73	Community Solutions Cash Reserve	23,511.00
20,000.00	Term Deposit @ 2.5% pa to 13/3/18, 2.35% to 13/3/19 Interest at maturity	20,000.00
70,000.00	Term Deposit @ 3.05% pa to 21/3/20 Monthly Interest	70,000.00
\$117,108.71	TOTAL	\$117,021.15

Again, we must acknowledge the great effort exercised by our Treasurer, Kerrie Keene, and also the assistance rendered by Garry Hoyle, our Membership Secretary.

7. THE SYDNEY ORGAN JOURNAL

Fifty-four OMSS members contributed during the last twelve months to the four issues of the Sydney Organ Journal Volume 49. This is an outstanding participation rate and an indication of the extent to which Society members value their journal. It is appropriate that contributions have come from the exceptionally talented cohort of young and student members of our Society as well as those of 'riper' years and that these contributions have ranged from reviews and letters to research and reports across the range of activities which our small but vigorous community enjoys. Beginning with Vol 49, No 1 the opportunity was taken make changes to the format and presentation of the journal using a greater variety of type and less absorbent paper which produced sharper, clearer images. This change, at no additional cost to members, has been widely appreciated. Further changes were consequences of the retirement of our printers, Jon Gallimore and Beeprint, with whom our Society enjoyed a long and productive association. Fortunately we have been able to retain the efficient and creative services of our graphic artist, Michael Ritchie, who continues to work closely with the editor on format. We look forward to the development of a similarly successful relationship with the Michelle Sherring and the Lindsay Yates Group. While there have been changes in appearance, the editor continues to endeavour

to maintain a balance and variety of articles to enhance the appeal of the journal. Thus, for example, the SOJ continues to be as much about people as about pipe organs and despite its essential Sydney focus it strives to stay abreast of interesting developments beyond New South Wales and Australia. Even so, the Journal would benefit from more articles on performance and readers qualified to make a contribution of this type will find a ready welcome in our pages. We are grateful for the continuing support of our commercial advertisers and would also be pleased to publish more. The editor is grateful to his associate editor, Robert Parkinson, whose Mixture column has long been a favourite with readers. Peter Jewkes adds his duties as reviews editor to the unrelenting pace of his work as an organ builder and organist with valuable assistance in the reviewing of Mark Quarmby. Pastór de Lasala continues to adorn the Journal with his photography as the Society's dedicated committee members, like our many contributors, provide solid support and valued encouragement.

Peter Meyer

8. SOCIETY'S WEBSITE AND LIBRARY <omss.org.au>

Mark Quarmby, our web master, reports:

The Organ Music Society web site is the main way we advertise our events, along with the Sydney Organ Journal and e-newsletter.

As the Journal only appears four times per year, the web site can provide immediate updates to recital details and news between Journals. The web site can only be as good as those who provide these details to the web master for uploading. Increasingly, organ event organisers are only uploading details to Facebook, sometimes within a couple of hours of the actual recital, and not passing them on to us. This is only of use to those using Facebook at the time and no good for those wanting to plan their schedules well in advance. The advantage of our site is that recitals are advertised, often for several weeks or months prior to their dates, with easy access to details. On Facebook, the ads are often missed and then vanish from view as they are replaced by later posts. People often only learn about what they have missed out on by seeing Facebook posts after the event!

Our most viewed pages are those relating to the organs of Sydney. Various people, including organ builders, take photos of various instruments and pass them on, or correct details which have been uploaded from old organ journals. It is a bit like Wikipedia in this regard.

In August 2018, the site was upgraded from being unsecured to being a secure site so viewers should notice the secure padlock icon next to the site's URL plus https:// instead of the former http://.

The Organ Music Society library continues to be housed at St Stephen's, Macquarie Street, where it is used frequently by the organ scholars and organist but other members don't use it so much these days, preferring to download free music from the Internet and play from sheets of paper rather than books.

9. EMAIL NEWSLETTER

The *E-Letter* continues to be produced by Garry Hoyle, our membership secretary. Its regular transmission to members is a valuable service. Thank you, Garry.

We do remind members that any change to your email address should be reported as soon as possible to enable continuing receipt of the *E-Letter*.

10. EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Sydney Organ Competition 2017

Special thanks must go to those who help us with venues and access: Peter Kneeshaw for St Aloysius College and Robert Fox for Shore. We are also most grateful to the schools who gladly let the society make free use of their chapels and pipe organs.

Eight entrants competed at Shore for the Intermediate section with the winner being Samuel Giddy.

Eleven entrants competed at St Aloysius College for the Junior section with the winner being Jayden Lohe.

We continue to enjoy the support with donor awards – Friends of the Sydney Town Hall, Michael Dyer Award, Ron Roberts Prize and the Doris and George Vern-Barnett Prize. Our donors are very happy and proud sponsors of our talented young organists, who never cease to amaze the audiences.

However, without the teachers – Peter Kneeshaw, Allan Beavis, David Clark, Philip Swanton and Mark Quarmby – where would we be?

Much preparation goes into organising the smooth running of competition with thanks to the Education Sub-Committee – Godelieve Ghavalas (Chair), Gregory Cunningham and Robert Fox. Geoff Lloyd also puts in a huge effort regarding donors and trophies and on the day of the competition many of the committee help to make the event special.

The adjudicator was Tom Bell who was here on a double mission.

Our competition was followed by a satellite event “Tom Bell Festival” from Wednesday 4 October to Friday 6 October 2017

The Festival included Open Console at the Town Hall, Tom Bell Recital at St Andrew’s followed by a masterclass, Open Console at St Mary’s and our mystery performer, a beat-boxer Nadia McCarthy, playing duets with Tom and then encouraging students to improvise with Nadia.

Young Organist Day

Young organists played for this event with Robert Ampt at the helm.

CDs recorded by Greg Ghavalas at the Organ Competitions were sent to Robert for auditioning those who are to play. This event always has a very large audience and it is a unique and wonderful experience for them. Rehearsals are scheduled the day before and again we must thank our teachers who make themselves available during the holiday period to tutor their students to perform their best on this grand instrument.

11. RADIO BROADCASTS

Broadcasting of organ music continues on Fine Music 102.5 FM with Andrew Grahame now in his seventeenth year with the program.

Andrew has experienced some health problems over the year. He has mentioned the support he's had from other presenters on such occasions. With some missed broadcasts he thanks long-time presenter Peter Bell who stood in for him. Thanks also to Maureen Mears who put his program to air - immediately before presenting her own. Andrew says “Good to know that this collegiality and support is there when needed. Apart from these hiccups, all is going well.”

Best wishes to Andrew for the future and may we remind members that the Society’s monthly programme “Colours of the King” is streamed live to the internet from finemusicfm.com as well as being broadcast on Fine Music 102.5 FM.

12. FUNCTIONS

Our President has provided in his report a comprehensive list of the functions over the year. This has been expanded by the Education Sub-Committee's report.

There was one other function worthy of note: The Hunter District Organ Music Society's (HDOMS) 40th birthday. Geoff Lloyd was able to attend the luncheon and to present a birthday certificate to HDOMS president, Peter Guy.

13. DEPUTY ORGANISTS

Andrew Davidson continues to maintain the Register of Deputy Organists. Participants are always welcome. Andrew’s contacts are by mobile 0414 385 311 or email <andav046@gmail>. Thank you, Andrew.

14. CONCLUSION

Thank you to President Dr Greg Cunningham for his leadership over the year.

Thanks also to all members for supporting the work of the committee. We hope we are achieving the objectives.

WE DO NEED COMMITTEE MEMBERS – WHAT ABOUT YOU OFFERING TO HELP

The Committee