

# IN TUNE

Occasional newsletter for the friends of St. Matthew's Music Association Inc.



**WELCOME** to the renewed and revamped edition of "In Tune", our newsletter designed to keep you updated and engaged with our association's activities and accomplishments. It has been three years since we last communicated through this medium, and it's with great excitement and enthusiasm that we reinstate this connection.

I, James Flores, in my capacity as the Public Officer of the association, have taken on the mantle of revamping "In Tune". The aim is to create a more regular and engaging platform where we can share the significant strides we have made in promoting and providing musical opportunities for rural young people, thanks to your steadfast support and generosity.

**L-R: Thomas Summerfield and Samuel Beckett, both former organ scholars of the St. Matthew's Music Association.**



**Leo Adeney, organ scholar, recently returned to Brisbane to undertake an organ building apprenticeship with Pierce Pipe Organs. He is proudly pictured with his Grade 4 AMEB certificate for organ where he was awarded an 'A' grade.**

We are privileged and honoured to have an accomplished group of patrons supporting our cause, including His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) as our Patron in Chief; Lady Primrose Potter AC, a well-renowned patron of the arts; Mr Gregory Loveday, a former senior executive with Macquarie Bank; and Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC FAHA FASSA, a prominent Australian academic. Their collective wisdom, guidance, and support continue to be instrumental in shaping our initiatives and impact.

The St. Matthew's Music Association (SMMA) is deeply rooted in a mission to support the transformative power of music within the Church and the wider community. We want to remind you of our core objectives which guide our everyday activities and long-term vision.

First and foremost, SMMA aims to be a beacon for musician training, with a special emphasis on those wishing to participate in church music. We believe that every aspiring musician deserves the opportunity to hone their skills and express their faith through the medium of music. Our initiatives, workshops, and programs are designed to nurture these talents, helping individuals to grow not just as musicians, but as integral members of our community.

Furthermore, we are committed to facilitating performance opportunities for local musicians. These platforms (like our regular *Tunes on Tuesday Recital Series*) serve as an essential stepping stone for our musicians, providing them with valuable exposure, experience, and the opportunity to share their musical talents with appreciative audiences.

In our endeavour to ensure the sustainability of musical talent development, we are focused on creating a permanent endowment fund. This fund is envisioned to support young musicians of the future, providing them with the necessary resources to develop their skills and pursue their passion for music. This fund represents our investment in the future of music and the young talents who will shape it.

Last but not least, we are dedicated to providing funds for the maintenance and development of the Letourneau organ in St Matthew's Church. This historical instrument not only holds a special place in our church but also serves as a symbol of our commitment to preserving musical heritage while inspiring future generations of organists.



## Update on the St. Matthew's Organ

The St Matthew's organ, crafted by Orgues Letourneau of Canada, stands as a remarkable instrument, well-regarded within the community. However, as with all organs, a static state is rare; they're living instruments that evolve over time, constantly being enhanced and perfected.

One of our current ambitions is to refine the organ by integrating several additional pedal stops. This enhancement will introduce greater depth and enhance the tonal quality during climactic moments. Specifically, the organ would benefit from the inclusion of additional 16' and 32' pedal ranks.

Given the constraints of space and cost, installing real pipes presented a challenge. However, we believe that the viable solution lies in "digital pipes". Proven to be highly effective at low frequencies, these digital alternatives have been utilised with great success in other venues. One such example is the Letourneau organ in St Mark's Church, Darling Point, Sydney, which boasts a digital 32' rank, significantly increasing the organ's versatility.

We are thrilled to announce that we are making strides towards this improvement and anticipate having this upgrade in place by our Chamber Music Festival in November. This enhancement will enrich the experience of those that hear it and ensure that our organ continues to inspire for generations to come.



Zhiyuan Shen, a year 7 student at Xavier High School, is the association's newest organ scholar. We look forward to seeing him develop into a fine musician in the years to come.

**"This enhancement will introduce greater depth and enhance the tonal quality during climactic moments"**

**- JAMES FLORES**

If you would like to contribute to the ongoing maintenance and enhancements of the organ, please use the following details in your bank transfer:

**BSB:** 640 000; **A/C:** 111 238 628

**A/C Name:**

St Matthews Music Association Inc. Public Fund;

**Bank Branch:** Hume Bank Albury

**Description:** SMMA [Your name]

**Email:** office@stmatthewsalbury.com

## Thomas Summerfield ARSM

Introducing Thomas Summerfield, a distinguished young talent, well known and admired within the community of St. Matthew's. His musical journey, marked by consistent dedication and exceptional talent, stands as a testament to his formidable abilities and commitment to his craft.

Tom demonstrated an early affinity for the piano, mastering complex repertoire during his teenage years that surpassed expectations for his age. His talent, nurtured under the watchful guidance of the renowned Aurora Flores, was soon recognised by Fr. Peter Macleod-Miller who awarded him a foundation scholarship from the St. Matthew's Music Association.

This accolade marked the beginning of a series of triumphs for Tom, as he subsequently garnered a remarkable score of 99 percent in Music for the HSC (2020) and emerged victorious in the ASC Eastern Schools piano competition. This latter achievement culminated in a performance in Perth, highlighting his exceptional skills to a wider audience.

Tom developed a fascination for jazz and improvisation around the age of twelve, leading him to broaden his musical repertoire, encompassing a variety of styles and techniques. This adaptability showcased his innate versatility and willingness to evolve as a musician. His musical pursuit did not stop at the piano. Tom also embraced the organ, becoming St. Matthew's youngest sub-organist under the guidance of Dr. Allan Beavis OAM and subsequently, myself, James Flores.

Before embarking on his journey to Melbourne in 2022 to undertake a Bachelor of Music (Piano Performance), Tom achieved the Associate of the Royal Schools of Music (ARSM) diploma in organ. This performance-focused diploma, awarded after Grade 8, recognised his instrumental mastery, interpretation, communication, and delivery.

For his diploma recital, Tom selected the Prelude and Fugue in A major, BWV 536 by Johann Sebastian Bach and Louis-Nicolas Clérambault's Suite du Deuxième Ton. The examiner commended Tom for his thorough understanding and communication of the chosen music's style and character, lauding his evident enjoyment and commendable sense of flow throughout the performance.

Tom's musical journey is a testament to his relentless dedication and exceptional talent, showcasing a remarkable young man whose name continues to reverberate within the community of St. Matthew's and beyond. His journey, we have no doubt, will inspire many more!



**Thomas Summerfield visiting Christ Church St. Laurence (CCSL), in Sydney, after a Choral Evensong. CCSL is the home parish of Fr. Daniel Dries (who performed for us at the ACMF) and Mr Gregory Loveday (SMMA patron).**





**L-R: Callum Knox and James Flores at Tunes on Tuesday. Callum has made the trip down from Sydney, each year, since 2019 for his organ recitals.**

## Tunes on Tuesday

*Tunes on Tuesday* is a fortnightly recital series held at St. Matthew's church from 1.10pm - 1.50pm.

Website: [tunesontuesday.com.au](http://tunesontuesday.com.au)

I owe much to my former organ teacher, Dr. Allan Beavis OAM, for his unwavering support and encouragement over the years. It feels like only yesterday when I first knocked on the door of St. Matthew's, eager to learn more about the organ. My journey began in 2011, transitioning from an extensive piano background under the guidance of my aunt, Aurora Flores, to learning the organ. I express my gratitude towards my first organ teacher, Benedict Wilson, for many years of steadfast support, which continues to this day.

The St. Matthew's community has been incredibly welcoming since my initial "appearance" over a decade ago. I'm truly honoured to be a part of the music association. Rewinding to 2017, Allan Beavis

proposed the idea of initiating a recital series for our scholarship recipients and musicians from the local area and beyond. The aim was to create a platform for musicians to gain performance experience in a supportive environment. Little did I know that I would be challenged to perform one recital each month in 2017!

As Tunes on Tuesday became more widely recognised in the community, finding performers has been a relatively smooth process. Over the years, we've had the privilege of hosting recitals featuring various instruments, including the organ, piano, violin, cello, voice, classical guitar, tuba, and saxophone.

Your generous support enables us to provide this platform for musicians. Managing this event every fortnight involves significant costs and volunteer hours. Additionally, running and maintaining the church facilities, and providing a travel allowance for our out-of-town performers are substantial tasks. We greatly appreciate all donations at the door. If you wish to contribute regularly or make a one-off donation via bank transfer, please use the following details:

**BSB:** 640 000; **A/C:** 111 238 628

**A/C Name:**

St Matthews Music Association Inc. Public Fund;

**Bank Branch:** Hume Bank Albury

**Description:** Tunes on Tuesday [Your name]

**Email:** [james@jamesflores.net](mailto:james@jamesflores.net)



### Upcoming Tunes on Tuesday recitals

July 4	Dr Kieran Crichton	Organ
July 18	Dylan Forge	Voice
August 1	Arthur Hull	Voice
August 15	Dr Brett McKern	Organ
August 29	Lachlan McIntyre	Voice
September 12	Malcolm Halford	Organ
September 26	Dr Kieran Crichton	Organ
October 10	Ethan Porter	Cello
October 24	Thomas Summerfield	Piano
November 7	Stephan Bulmer	Classical Guitar
November 21	tbc	tbc

Samuel Giddy, an organist from Sydney, acknowledges one of our regular audience members.

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### A word of thanks

I acknowledge the musical bias towards the organ in this edition of *In Tune*, being an organist myself! In the next edition, I promise that you will hear about our current Music Association Scholars from their teachers and perhaps a review or two about some past Tunes on Tuesday recitals. If you'd like to offer some suggestions or comments, please email them through to me at [james@jamesflores.net](mailto:james@jamesflores.net) (I'll also put you on the **mailing list**). — James Flores, Public Officer: St. Matthew's Music Association





## Membership of the St Matthew's Music Association Inc.

☐ I/we wish to apply for membership / ☐ renew my membership (please tick)

At the following level (please tick):

- ☐ **Vivace Friend:** \$100 (\$150 couple)
- ☐ **Molto Vivace Friend:** \$300 (\$450 couple)
- ☐ **Presto Friend:** \$500 (\$750 couple)
- ☐ **Prestissimo Friend:** \$1,000 (\$1,500 couple)

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My Tax Deductible Donation

### The Further Development of the St Matthew's Organ

- ☐ **Open Wood (16')** (\$700 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Double Open Wood (32')** (\$700 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Donation** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Donation Albury-Wodonga Eisteddfod Organ Competition prize** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Cheque (payable to **St Matthew's Music Association Inc.—Public Fund**) is enclosed;

OR

☐ I have paid via EFT:

Please quote your name in the bank reference;

**BSB: 640 000; A/C: 111 238 628**

A/C Name: St Matthews Music Association Inc. Public Fund;

Bank Branch: Hume Bank Albury

Payment confirmation email: [office@stmatthewsalbury.com](mailto:office@stmatthewsalbury.com)

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Address:** *(For dispatch of receipt)* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email :** \_\_\_\_\_

Please post to: The Treasurer, St Matthew's Music Association Inc  
PO Box 682  
ALBURY NSW 2640

The St Matthew's Music Association (ABN 23 166 984 355) is registered to receive tax deductible gifts of \$2 or more.