



# Ostinato Opus

Ostinato Inc

Number one  
April 2006

### Editors Note:

Hello All and welcome to the 2006 season of Ostinato. An "Opus—being a musical composition usually numbered" I have taken some literary license though whilst not musical the newsletter is certainly about musicality.

### About us:

Ostinato-which means a repeating pattern, began in 2004 as a Community Singing Group. We are very fortunate to be led in our musical endeavors by Ruth Hill Noble a singer of enormous talent and some renown in the circles of music in the Northeast and beyond. Ostinato welcomes singers of all ages, voice types and gender. In the last two years we have performed at a variety of Community events such as CWA functions, charity events (e.g. leukemia foundation), stitched up festival, Carols by Candlelight and have also staged our own concerts. We are available to the community for the community to provide enjoyment and entertainment by sharing our love of singing. Performing music from rounds, to shanties, ballads, themes from musicals such as Gilbert & Sullivan, Irving Berlin, traditional folk songs of many countries, National Anthems and some classical mostly in 4 part harmony there is something there that everyone will enjoy, both young and old. This year we have even included some nursery rhymes.

### Welcome to 2006:

We welcome back all 'old' members and especially welcome our new members for 2006:- Bev Vonarx, John Pedler, Agnus Kendall and Carmel Carmody we trust you

will enjoy the Ostinato Choir experience. All input and suggestions are appreciated so if you have any ideas and are able to source the music please see a member of the Committee or have a word with the Musical Director.

### Committee:

Having just had the AGM the new Committee comprises of:-

- Conductor: Ruth Hill Noble
- President: Joan Huggan
- Vice President: Jennie Hammon
- Secretary: Marita Hansen
- Treasurer: Glenda Burke
- Members: Evelyn Canavan
- Members: Bronwyn Pearse
- Members: Patrick Ward
- Members: Janet Wigg
- Members: Irene Niederegger
- Members: Leo Maguire

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6.30pm and any choir member is welcome to attend and/or include items on the agenda.

### Section Leaders:

- Bass: Neil McPherson
- Tenor: John van Riet
- Alto: Irene Niederegger
- Soprano: Helen van Riet
- Historian: Ann Van Rooyen

### Our new president:

Joan Huggan warmly welcomed the new committee and paid tribute to the previous committee and outgoing members for their hard work and enthusiasm over the last 2 years.

### Our Historian Ann van Rooyen:

Ann was born on a cargo ship owned by her father in Rotterdam, Netherlands. After moving constantly as a young girl her family eventually settled in the city, only to be unsettled again by the coming of the war. Ann survived 5 years of occupation by the Nazi's until being liberated by the Canadians, her father died at the beginning of the occupation. Studying secretarial skills following the war, Ann met her husband and emigrated to Australia, with Darwin the first stop and working on a sheep station. Mildura was next working two jobs and raising two girls. A move to the Ovens Valley followed and Ann found herself widowed and bringing up two girls on her own. She began singing as a young girl to her dolls and was a member of church choirs, joining the Wang Choristers in 1987. Ann also writes poetry and has written verses especially for the Ostinato choir to perform to well known tunes. Ann reports that she has always been an archivist filing post cards as a young girl. She brings a wonderful history of her own to our choir and is an extraordinary example of the diversity Ostinato holds within its ranks. Her skills both vocal and literary are greatly valued by the choir.

## The never ending energy of our amazing Ruth

### About our Conductor:

Having performed very successfully at the South Street and other eisteddfods, at 16, Ruth was the youngest student to have been admitted to the Melba Memorial conservatorium of Music, in Melbourne, studying for a Performer's Diploma, majoring in singing. From 15 she sang in folk duo specialising in Australian music. The next 25 years were spent performing at various venues, including a program of Australian folk songs for the ABC in Albury. In 1979 she was asked, with three other musicians by the

County Education Project (CEP) of Victoria to establish a Kodaly based development music education program, for the rural primary schools of the Ovens and King Valleys. After participating in many residential workshops and studying with the Kodaly Education Institute of Australia, in 1985 Ruth was invited by Associate Professor Lois Choksy of Calgary University, Canada, to attend that university to participate in part of their summer school graduate Diploma in Kodaly Music education course. Professor Choksy tailored Ruth's course of study to suit the needs of the CEP Music

Program which was by this time well established. Over the years she and Ruth McLay another very talented musician, have run or contributed to many workshops with the Vic Education dept for 5th and 6th graders through to adult music camps. With her colleague Ruth McLay, Ruth Hill has written a developmental music education text book which they hope to see published in 2007. As you can see we are privileged to have such a talented person as part of our group, giving her time and effort to make our choir such an enjoyable experience

### Highlights for 2006

- Patti Graetz conducting a Master Class May 9th at 7.30pm
- July 23rd- Annual Concert at Trinity Cathedral at 2.30pm.
- Christmas Concert December 2006 at St. John's Village Hall
- Performing at all the Aged Care Facilities for Christmas, December
- Performing at Carols by Candlelight on invitation from neighbouring towns.