

The Guild



of Church Musicians

Australian Patrons:

The Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney
The Most Rev'd Phillip Aspinall, Anglican Primate

UK Patrons:

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury
The Archbishop of Westminster
The Archbishop of Wales

The GCM was founded in England in 1888 as *The Church Choir Guild*, and was renamed *The Incorporated Guild of Church Musicians* in 1905. The Guild was initially a Church of England organisation until its centenary year, when membership was opened to those of any Christian denomination. In 1988, the Archbishop of Canterbury invited the Archbishop of Westminster to become a joint patron. The GCM is now an international organisation with members in the UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the USA and South Africa. The Guild's Australian Advisory Council (AAC) was inaugurated in 1998, and is now the governing body of the Guild in Australia, under the authority of the parent body in the UK. 1998 also saw the appointment of Australian patrons in the Anglican Primate of Australia and the Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney.

The Guild exists to encourage all musicians within the church, whether amateur or professional, to foster the highest attainable standards of music in the worship of Almighty God. Membership is open to all members of the Christian Church. The Guild does not focus on any one church music genre, but is rather a guild of **individuals** who care about church music, and who wish to make the best of whatever resources and technical ability they have, in whatever worship style is appropriate in their Christian community. The membership reflects the rich diversity of Australian church music – it includes professionals and amateurs from cathedrals and suburban churches, choristers, cantors, organists, choral and instrumental directors/leaders, guitarists, keyboard players, instrumentalists, clergy and members of most Christian denominations. The Guild offers formal study courses in support of its aims, but offers many other benefits, not least of which is the opportunity for contact with fellow church musicians from backgrounds, yet with a shared purpose, which provides encouragement and a sense of perspective for an individual's work in their own worship situation.

Benefits of membership:

- Borrowing rights at the Guild Church Library
- Eligibility to undertake the Guild's study courses
- Reduced or free admission to talks with guest speakers
- the Guild Year Book and the magazine *Laudate*, published by the Guild in the UK
- Regular opportunities to discuss church music issues, both practical and conceptual, with other committed church musicians

Australian Advisory Council:

The GCM in Australia is governed by the Australian Advisory Council, under the authority of the Guild's Council in the UK. The AAC is made up of members of several different denominations (musicians and clergy) and both professional and amateur musicians to ensure that as many as possible of the diverse interests in Australian church music have Council representation.

Courses offered by the Guild:

The Guild is affiliated with the Newcastle University Conservatorium of Music, and Trinity College, Melbourne. Courses are offered through these institutions, and may be undertaken by correspondence. Candidates in isolated areas may be asked to travel to a regional centre for practical examinations, though all reasonable efforts will be made to arrange for candidates to be examined in their own church. Syllabus information and Guidelines for Candidates may be obtained from <<http://www.guildofchurchmusicians.org.au>> or from the Director of Studies or AAC Chair (see overleaf). The Guild's courses emphasise the way that candidates make use of whatever resources (human and material) are available, regardless of how limited those resources may be. The courses are therefore equally relevant to amateurs and professionals, from both well-equipped and not so well-equipped churches, whether the preferred style of worship is traditional, contemporary, or a mix of the two.

A summary of the available courses is provided below. Complete syllabi, guidelines and enrolments forms for all courses are available at <<http://www.guildofchurchmusicians.org.au>>.

The Archbishops' Preliminary Certificate in Church Music

Candidates enrol as an instrumentalist or singer, and undertake a practical examination and a project on a topic of their choosing.

In the practical examination, the candidate is asked to:

- play two prepared pieces (minimum standard Grade 3 Associated Board or equivalent)
- sight read a simple hymn tune (five minutes study time allowed; pedals are optional for organists)
- detect wrong notes in a melody played by the examiner whilst following the score
- answer elementary questions (a) on the rudiments of music (b) relating to the quality and pitch of organ stops, their chosen instrument and its technique or to vocal technique as appropriate, and (c) the Service of Holy Communion, Eucharist, Mass or any form of Sunday or weekly service in regular use at the candidate's church.

Candidates under 18 do not need to join the Guild in order to undertake the Preliminary Certificate, but need only be sponsored by a Guild member.

The Archbishops' Award in Church Music

Candidates enrol for the Award in one of the following categories:

- Organist/keyboard player and choir director
- Organist/keyboard player (accompanist)
- Choir director
- Choir singer
- Instrumental leader
- Instrumentalist
- Worship leader (cantor/animateur)

Where a candidate's role is not covered by one of these categories, the Guild will consider specific requests for other options. Candidates undertake a practical examination, a viva voce examination and submit a diary/portfolio of weekly church music activities. Successful candidates may wear the Guild badge.

The Archbishops' Certificate in Church Music

The Certificate consists of three practical sections identical to those of the Award, two prepared essays and a three-hour written examination on the history and general knowledge of both worship and church music. (Candidates who already hold the Award are eligible for the Certificate on completion of the essays and written examination.) Successful candidates may wear the Certificate academic hood and append the letters ACertCM to their name.

The Archbishops' Certificate in Public Worship

The Certificate is similar in content to the ACertCM but is tailored to those who lead public worship, whether clergy or lay persons. It consists of a practical examination, a viva voce examination, a diary/portfolio of weekly church music activities and two essays. Successful candidates may wear the Certificate academic hood and append the letters ACertPW to their name.

The Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians

The FGCM is the highest award made by the Guild. An applicant should normally hold the award of ACertCM. The Fellowship course may cover the following topics: Christian liturgy and worship, studies in church music, composition and arrangement, studies in music and worship, and practical studies. Assessment is by way of essays, dissertation, practical examination and other assessment as appropriate. Successful candidates may wear the Fellowship academic hood and append the letters FGCM to their name.

Academic Presentations:

Successful candidates receive their awards at the annual Festival Service which is normally in Sydney in the third quarter of the year.

Further information (Australia & NZ):

Web page: <<http://www.guildofchurchmusicians.org.au>>

Postal address:

Guild of Church Musicians
PO Box 420
Gordon NSW 2072

Director of Studies:

Dr Brett McKern
Ph 0408 303 225
<dos@guildofchurchmusicians.org.au>

Aust. Advisory Council Chair:

Ms Madeleine Rowles
Ph 0429 202 557
<chair@guildofchurchmusicians.org.au>

Australian Registrar & Treasurer:

Mr James Peet
Ph/Fax 02 9449 7690
<registrar@guildofchurchmusicians.org.au>

Further information (UK):

The General Secretary

Mr John Ewington OBE
Hillbrow, Godstone Road
Bletchingly, Surrey RH1 4PJ
UNITED KINGDOM

The Guild's Registered Office:

St Katharine Cree
86 Leadenhall Street
London EC3A 3DH
UNITED KINGDOM

Application for membership

Name(s): _____

Surname: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Denomination: _____

Occupation: _____

E-mail address: _____

I hereby apply for membership of the Guild, and agree to conform to all rules and regulations thereof. I enclose the sum of AUS\$45, being for one year's membership.

(Please make cheques payable to **The Guild of Church Musicians** and post form & cheque to the Australian Registrar, address at left.)

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Applications for membership should be countersigned by a minister of religion or a member of the Guild whose name and address should be added below:

Signature: _____