

## HOW MUSIC CAN TOUCH THE HEART

Talk presented by Pauline Greig

**G**ood afternoon...and thank you Sabina and Sharon for inviting me to share with you my theme...Heart to heart with music.

As we are an MSC Parish we are asked "To be on earth the Heart of God".

So I thought I would share with you a story of "His Heart" coming to me through music.

When I was a little girl I was given the opportunity to learn piano. However I was a bit naughty, because once I had read the music and played it a couple of times, I would then play the piece – forgetting to turn the page and a look of despair coming from my music teacher. And theory was out of the question...why learn all that when I knew how to play!!

I have to confess I am sorry when I'm asked by my singers, what key is that in? And I haven't the faintest!!

When I became a school teacher in Tasmania I could play the piano for the singing teacher and I

also played the organ at the Church of England. (I later became a Catholic after marrying Robert).

I also began playing in an orchestra...and when I started thinking about this talk, I thought back to when my heart connected with hearts through the keys of a piano. And it was when playing for a

---

*It wasn't until I came to St. Johns that there have been times when through music I have felt a "presence" when hearts have met hearts.*

---

dance at Bronte Park in Tasmania for the migrant workers at the construction of a hydro-electric power station. Too many men, and no one much to dance with. Instead they stood and listened. Towards the end of the night I started to play songs they would be familiar with and they began to sing and their eyes told me they were remembering their homelands and families...hearts connected.

It wasn't until I came to St. Johns that there have been times when through music I have felt a "presence" when hearts have met hearts.

I go back to St. John's school...as you would know I taught there from its first day for quite a long time. There was one occasion when I think back, that I know "a presence" came through 600 little voices. Fr. Bede North was leaving Canberra and it was his last Mass to be said in the school hall. We knew his favourite hymn was "Here I am Lord".

As he processed...we waited until he was at the altar (on the stage) and 600 little ones brought out their streamers, hidden behind their backs, and as they waved their streamers they sang "Here I am Lord", with all their little hearts, and there came tears in Fr. Bede's eyes. A presence...Oh Yes...and all those little hearts touching the heart of a priest we dearly loved.

I can still know "a presence" when I

remember “little hearts” feeling and connecting with Fr. Chris Murphy as he sang “Did you think I would leave you dying, when there’s room on my horse for two” from the song “Two Little Boys” in preparation for

---

*Heart to heart with music...  
to be on earth the heart of God*

---

Reconciliation.

He touched us again – when he mentioned the word “forgiveness” and sang “Tie a Yellow Ribbon round the old Oak Tree”. The priest who could sing from his heart.

I keep thinking ...when hearts connected as Colleen Donnelly processed with her Confirmation candidates into the church to Gabriel’s Oboe from “The Mission” ...”a presence”.

The Easter Vigils when Joan Breen and her choir would fill the church with The Alleluia Chorus...”a presence” with hearts celebrating as one.

On Christmas morning when we arrived at Mass...filled with the joy of Christmas, Ken Moran sings “It’s a Wonderful World”. A gift of voice connecting with our grateful hearts.

And so as I “play by ear” mostly, I see now my

loving God went before me years ago...for there are times when there is such sadness in the church when we have lost one of our own...and I have been given the privilege of playing...I do not have to be

concentrating on the music...I can be playing with a heart that will be also grieving. Oh Yes.

**Heart to heart with music  
...to be on earth the heart  
of God.**