



## HASTINGS CHORISTERS

*'sharing the joy of song'*

Harley Mead was a very dear friend who called me his Port Macquarie Mum and shared with me many life experiences which I will treasure forever. His generosity in sharing his compositions was legendary and although we always had so much fun with him the musical integrity came first and his standards were high. I feel I have lost another son but I know his music will always be sung with joy as we rejoice in his life which though way too short, touched us all in so many positive ways.

Harley came to PMQ earlier this year for the premier of his work UNDER ONE SKY commissioned by Sydney Grammar Prep campuses for our annual choir exchange with my Tacking Point Public School childrens choir Bel Canto. Along with the kids my Hastings Choristers Cantorus & Cantabile adult choirs were able to experience the joy of working with Harley and have never been the same since! His affect upon each and every kid and adult chorister was palpable and right now we are all in deep sorrow struggling like everyone to accept such a tragedy.

But Harley I know would not want us to be sad....he would want us dressing up, dancing, laughing and most of all spreading the love and joy of music as he always did. If all of us Choral Directors could clone just a little of Harley I'm sure our rehearsals would be much more successful and we would feel better. I'm about to turn 70 and am out looking for a clown suit right now.

God bless you Harley you made the world a better place...get those angelic choirs tuned up, I want to hear good concerts when I get up there with you.

Robyn Ryan OAM  
Musical Director Hastings Choristers Choirs  
Bel Canto Childrens Choir