

THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PAPER No. 75

PREPARED and PRESENTED BY: D.G. Davis

DATE: 26 November 2001

THE GRAND LODGE ORGANISTS OF THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF NEW SOUTH WALES (and the A.C.T.)

The Dictionary defines the Organ as 'a large complex musical keyboard instrument in which sound is produced by means of a number of pipes arranged in steps or stops, supplied with air from bellows. The largest instruments possess three or more manuals and one foot keyboard and have the greatest range of any instrument.'

"Freemasonry encourages the study of the seven Liberal Arts and Sciences. Of these we would regard Music as one of the most significant, by reason of its being a readily available medium of expression and one capable of refining and uplifting those taking part.

There is historical evidence that from the earliest days of organised masonry, music and singing played an important part in lodge meetings. Masonic verse can be traced back to about 1600 and records in the early part of the following century refer to songs being included in the ceremonial. Early instruments of accompaniment ultimately yielded to the organ and harmonium."

These were the words of Most Wor. Bro. Noel William Warren, Grand Master, when he wrote the foreword to the Manual of Masonic Music in 1978. He announced at the June Communication of the Grand Lodge that he had commissioned a small Masonic Music Committee, under the chairmanship of the then Grand Director of Music, Rt. Wor. Bro. Noel Melvin, to prepare the Manual. The fact that publication was approved at the following Communication in September, was a tribute to the diligence of that committee.

The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales was inaugurated in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney on 16 August 1888. The Installation of the first Grand Master, Lord Carrington, took place on 18 September 1888 before over 4000 Brethren at the Exhibition Building, Prince Alfred Park.

During the 113 years that have followed, there have only been 13 Grand Lodge Organists, but as the much-loved Banjo Paterson wrote in 'A Bush Christening,'

"On the outer Barcoo where the churches are few
And men of religion are scanty,"

So too is masonic membership information concerning the Grand Lodge Organists !

The first of these Grand Organists was Bro. George Frederick Garland. He was a member of the Lodge of Tranquility, No. 1552 English Constitution, now No. 42, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the A.C.T.

He served as Grand Organist from the Inauguration meeting on 16 August 1888 to 12 March 1890.

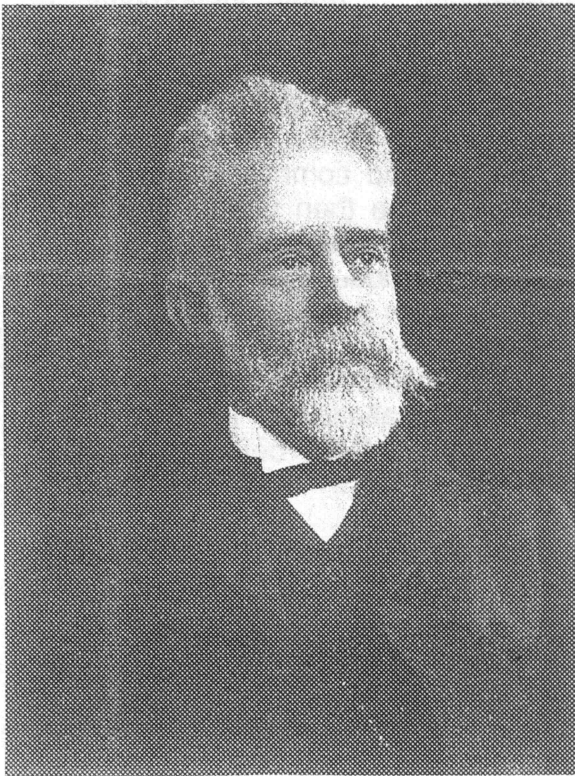
After his death, his Lodge paid him the following tribute:

"George Frederick Garland, the singer of sweet songs, had a heart as big as any two ordinary men. Generous to the utmost and possessing a personality which endeared him to all, his sudden death in November 1905, came as a great shock. For many years his memory will be cherished."

The second Brother to serve the office of Grand Organist was Bro. Augustus Gehde. He was initiated in Lodge Emulation No. 2071, English Constitution on 16 December 1886. The Lodge became No. 121, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1888.

In 1887-88 Bro. Gehde and three others formed a Musical Committee for Lodge Emulation and in 1889, the Lodge presented Bro. Gehde with a special Organists' pocket jewel in appreciation for his services to the Lodge.

He served three terms as Grand Organist from 12 March 1890 to 1 July 1898; from 18 July 1904 to 23 August 1910 and from 10 July 1911 to 17 July 1912 - a total of over 16 years.



BRO. JOSEPH MASSEY

Bro. Joseph Massey was probably one of the best-known Grand Organists although he only served the office from 1 July 1898 until 14 June 1899. In 1892 he had been elected Grand Director of Music.

He was also the Grand Organist of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of New South Wales for many years in the early 1900's and the Organist for Lodge Empress of India No. 57.

Bro. Massey was initiated in Lodge St Leonards Samaritan No. 1654 English Constitution (later Lodge Samaritan No. 50, U.G.L. of N.S.W.) on 5 March 1884.

He contributed greatly to the arrangement and composition of Masonic Music over many years.

Having occupied the office of Organist in Lodge Samaritan for 33 continuous years,

the following tribute was recorded in the *N.S.W. Freemason* of 31 July 1917:

"PRESENTATION TO BRO. J. MASSEY

At the Installation of Bro. Hector R. Moodie as W.M. of Lodge Samaritan on Wednesday night, July 4th, at the Protestant Hall, Crow's Nest, North Sydney, the M. Wor. Grand Master, Bro. Thompson, at the request of the Installing Master, Wor. Bro. A.E.J. Smith, presented Bro. J. Massey, Organist, with a gold watch, as a token of esteem from the brethren, and to mark his thirty-third year as Organist of the Lodge.

The Grand Master said it gave him especial pleasure to make the presentation, as he had known Bro. Massey practically all his life, and personally as well as Masonically he held him in the highest esteem. The length of time Bro. Massey had held the office of Organist in Lodge Samaritan was probably unique.

Bro. Massey, in responding and thanking the brethren for the gift, said it had always been a pleasure to him to serve the Lodge, and he had formed many friendships with its members."

Another tribute was paid to Bro. Joseph Massey on his completion of 50 years in Lodge Samaritan as reported in the *N.S.W. Freemason* of 2 April 1934:

"BRO. JOSEPH MASSEY HONOURED

The regular meeting of Lodge Samaritan was held in the Masonic Temple, North Sydney, on Wednesday March 7th. After the Third Degree had been conferred on Bro. W.H. Wettone, The Wor. Master moved a resolution congratulating Bro. Joseph Massey who that evening had completed 50 years in Freemasonry in Lodge Samaritan.

The choir, consisting of the Masonic present members and Old Boys' Union of St. Andrew's Cathedral Choir, with whom Bro. J. Massey was so long associated, rendered the anthem, 'Behold How Good and Pleasant a Thing it is for Brethren to Dwell Together in Unity.'

In submitting the toast of Bro. Joseph Massey in the South, R. Wor. Bro. F.S. Mance pointed out that the Lodge had had only two organists since its inception, and that Bro. J. Massey was now in his fiftieth successive year as organist. On behalf of the members of the Lodge, R. Wor. Bro. Mance presented Bro. Massey with an armchair. Bro. Massey feelingly responded to the toast, and expressed his appreciation of the gift."

Another tribute was recorded in the *N.S.W. Freemason* in August 1937 when he was again honoured in Lodge Samaritan:

"PERSONAL

Bro. Joseph Massey has a record as a Lodge Organist that will take some beating. On Wednesday, 1st July, he was invested with the collar and jewel of that office in Lodge Samaritan for the 53rd time. His playing has all the same vim in it as we remember it possessed thirty-five years ago. Moreover, he reads the accompaniment to songs etc., without the aid of spectacles. One Brother, nearing the 70 mark, was heard to say, 'He will see me under the daisies.' We hope not, but we do wish Bro. Massey will enjoy health and happiness in serving Lodge Samaritan for many years yet."

Bro. Joseph Massey was a foundation member of Lodge Athenaeum No. 195 where he was the Director of Music. In the historical notes of that lodge it is mentioned that he was a musician by profession and well known in Sydney yachting circles.

J. MASSEY & SON,
PIANOFORTE, AMERICAN ORGAN, AND
MUSIC WAREHOUSE,
10 PARK STREET, SYDNEY,
Beg to announce that they have NOW ON VIEW a
CHOICE ASSORTMENT of PIANOFORTES
BY ERARD, BORD, BROADWOOD, ROSENER, ETC.
Prices from £28 upwards.
J. MASSEY and SON are appointed Agents for
Taylor and Farley's CELEBRATED AMERICAN
ORGANS. Send for price lists.
MUSIC. MUSIC. MUSIC.
THE LATEST AND MOST POPULAR MUSIC IN STOCK
J. Massey & Son.
10 PARK STREET, SYDNEY.

Advertisement from the
Freemasons Chronicle
of 1 March 1882.

Also mentioned in the historical notes is that on 15 July 1891, an impressive program was rendered by a large choir organised by Bro. Joe Massey.

The Freemason's Parting Song, otherwise known as the Junior Warden's Song was composed by Bro. G. Lardelli and arranged by Bro. Joseph Massey. It was last sung in the supper room in 1931.

Bro. Joseph Massey went on to serve as Lodge Organist for Lodge Samaritan for 59 years from 4 March 1885 until his death on 30 May 1943, aged 89 years.

A Memorial Service, conducted by Archbishop Mowll, was held at St. Andrew's Cathedral before his internment at St. Thomas' churchyard, North Sydney.

His obituary was reported in *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 2 June 1943:

"Mr Joseph Massey, who was organist and master of the choristers at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, for 23 years, died at his home at Woolwich on Sunday, aged 89.

The name of Massey has been associated with Australian church music for nearly 100 years. Mr Joseph Massey began his career as an organist at the age of 10, and was still practising his art a few weeks before his death.

One of his sons, Victor Massey, is music master at The Scots College, and has been choirmaster and organist at All Saints', Woollahra, since 1920. His nephew, Mr Noel Massey, is organist at St. Luke's, Concord.

He had four brothers - all musicians. One, Mr Thomas Massey, is organist at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle.

Mr Joseph Massey was a foundation member of the Sydney College of Music, and he had considerable gifts as a composer.

He is survived by Mrs Massey, seven sons, and three daughters."

Bro. Arthur Parkinson held the Office of Grand Organist for five years from 14 June 1899 to 18 July 1904.

He had affiliated with the Australian Lodge of Harmony No. 5 on 8 January 1890 and was also a member of the Lodge of Australia No.3.

A report in the *Freemason's Chronicle* of the meeting of the Australian Lodge of Harmony No. 5, states:

'The initiation of the three candidates was then proceeded with, and the degree was most perfectly carried out by Wor. Bro. Geo. Marsh being ably assisted by his Officers. The Lodge choir - recently re-formed - sang the music of the new ritual composed and compiled by the Lodge Organist, Bro. Arthur Parkinson, and, considering that the choir had only rehearsed the music once, the rendition was

satisfactory, and we look forward to an early date to the music in the Lodge room being as prominent a feature as is the working of Wor. Bro. Marsh and his Officers.'

It is reported in the same magazine dated February 1891, that at the conclusion of the Installation Ceremony in the Lodge of Australía, Bro. Parkinson, who had been invested as the Lodge's Organist, sang,

' "Be Thou Faithful unto Death," in good voice and impressive expression. The Installing Master then addressed the W.M., after, which a full choir, conducted by Bro. Parkinson sang

ANTHEM
No. 1 Fest Gesang.

Let all creation praise the Lord	Angelic hosts repeat the song:
Ye nations bow before Him;	Ye Prophets clad in glory,
In choral strains with one accord	Ye ransom'd tribes the echeme prolong,
Extol Him and adore Him.	Repeat the wondrous story.
Ye orbs of day that roll in light,	Ye spirits, who are flaming fires,
Ye distant stars that gem the night,	Awake your trumpets, strike your lyres,
O! praise your great Creator.	O! praise your great Creator.

The Installing Master addressed the Wardens. Then followed

ANTHEM
No. 2 Fest Gesang.

Let our theme of raise ascending,	Faith and Hope began to banish
Blent in music's lofty strain,	Doubt and soul-appalling Fear,
Soaring thru' the starry main,	Spreading, shining still more clear,
Peal in echos never ending.	Error in their beams will vanish.
Learning dawned, its light arose,	Learning dawned, its light arose,
Thus the truth assailed its foes.	Thus the truth assailed its foes.

Mortals roamed without a guide,
Darkness clouded every nation,
Not a ray could be descried-
All was gloom and desolation.
Learning dawned, its light arose,
Thus the truth assailed its foes,
Till the earth with one accord
Shall adore and praise the Lord.

This was given with fine effect, the basses taking up the lead in unison, and although the second tenors were, at times, unduly prominent, it was, nevertheless, an excellent musical performance. The Installing Master then gave the final charge to the members of the lodge. The choir sang:-

ANTHEM
No. 4 Fest Gesang.

Soon may we join the lay	Where shining cherubim
His heavenly chorus raises,	And flaming seraphim
And stand in bright array	Their Hallelujahs blend
To harp and sing our praises.	In strains that never end.

Both the M.W.G.M. and the W.M. thanked Bro. Parkinson and the choir for their magnificent rendition of the anthems and Bro. Parkinson for his solo.'

The next incumbent of the office was Bro. Nicholas J. Gehde. He was Grand Organist from 23 August 1910 until 10 July 1911. He served a second term from 17 July 1912 to 24 June 1915.

He had been initiated in Lodge United Service No. 24, on 4 September 1888, passed a Fellowcraft on 2 October 1888 and raised a Master Mason on 6 November the same year. His occupation was given as 'Professor of Music,' and his address was c/- Bro. William Paling's Music Store, George Street, Sydney.

He was elected Organist for Lodge United Service on 5 March 1889.

The Historical Notes of Lodge United Service state that on 1 August 1893, "the Brethren of the Lodge voted to pay the Organist a salary of 26/- for each Regular meeting and 10/6 for each Emergent Meeting at which he attends."

Bro. Gehde was also Organist for the Australian Lodge of Harmony No. 5, where the Lodge History states that he was one of the best-known figures in the musical circles of Sydney. He was also Organist for the Lodge of Australia No. 3.

Bro. Nicholas J. Gehde held the office of Organist of these Lodges until his death on 16 December 1923, aged 59 years.

Two tributes were published in the February 1924 edition of the *N.S.W. Freemason* following the death of Bro. Gehde -

"LODGE UNITED SERVICE No. 24.

The regular meeting was held on January, 8th instead of the 1st January, in No. 3 Room, Masonic Hall, when there was a good attendance of members and visitors.

Wor. Bro. Edwards, W.M., referred in feeling terms to the death of Bro. Nicholas J. Gehde, who had been a member of the Lodge for 35 Years, nearly all of which he had been Organist. The Brethren stood to order whilst the Dead March in Saul was played. The funeral took place on 17th December, and the Masonic service was conducted by the W.M."

The second report was as follows:

"BRO. N.J. GEHDE DEAD.
Late Grand Director of Music.

The Worshipful Brethren of Grand Lodge will note with sorrow that their genial Brother Gehde, whose artistic and picturesque character so fully adorned the position of Grand Director of Music, died at a private hospital at Lewisham on 16th December. He had organised and managed the musical portion of many Grand Lodge ceremonies.

Our late Brother was mentor to many successful public singers. He had the ability to inspire confidence in his pupils, and his judgement in regard to what the public could appreciate upon the concert platform was unerring. His originality on the Town Hall organ was a feature at many concerts, and as a performer capable of filling a gap caused by an absence was availed of often. His presence will be missed in many directions, his Brethren will mourn his loss, and many a present-day platform singer, as well as private pupils, will feel that they have indeed lost a friend."

Wor. Bro. Albert Fisher was Grand Organist from 24 June 1915 until 7 July 1916.

He was initiated in Lodge Unity No. 1169 English Constitution (No. 32 United Grand Lodge of New South Wales), on 17 April 1883.

He affiliated with Lodge Prince Alfred No. 94 in 1892, and in 1899, with Lodge Victoria No. 73, of which he became Worshipful Master in 1908.

Wor. Bro. Fisher served as a member of the Board of Benevolence from 1920 to 1926.

Wor. Bro. Albert Fisher, Past Grand Organist, died on 9 May 1933, aged 73 years.

The seventh Brother to serve the office of Grand Organist was Bro. Arthur Massey. He served for a period of 18 years from 17 July 1916 to 20 July 1934.

He had been appointed Organist in Lodge Ionic No. 65 on 19 September 1902. He was also Organist of The Leinster Marine Lodge No. 2, as evidenced in the history of that lodge:

"An Anthem was sung at the Installation of Most Wor. Bro. J.C. Remington in the Sydney Town Hall on July 20th 1905, when the Centenary of 'The Dawn of Freemasonry' was celebrated. The music was specially composed by Bro. Arthur Massey, Organist of Leinster Marine Lodge".

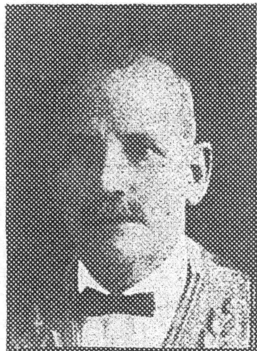
In their *History of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales*, Cramp and Mackaness, at the cessation of hostilities of the First World War, state:

"To commemorate the termination of the most calamitous war in the history of mankind and 'the glorious victory of the Allied armies,' a Special Communication was held in the Sydney Town Hall on 17 December 1918 following the Armistice. The accommodation was strained to its utmost, when a gathering of 4000 was presided over by the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. Thompson. Bro. Arthur Massey presided at the grand organ, whilst a choir of 200 Masonic voices under the baton of Bro. N.J. Gehde, Grand Director of Music, assisted in the harmony of the occasion. The service was opened with the ode 'Onward Brother Masons,' after which the National Anthem was sung by all present. The Grand Chaplain, Very Wor. Bro. Rev. S.G. Fielding delivered the beautifully worded prayer composed by himself for the occasion."

In the History of Lodge Australian Social Mother No. 1, (now Lodge Antiquity), it is stated:

"A Special Communication of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales was held in the Town Hall, Sydney, on the 12th August 1920, for the Installation of the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. William Thompson, and in order to fittingly celebrate the Centenary of Freemasonry in Australasia. There were over 4000 Brethren in attendance, and a vast number were unable to gain admittance to the Hall. A special place was reserved in the body of the Hall for the Brethren of Lodge Australian Social Mother.

A splendid choir of 300 Brethren rendered music under the Grand Director of Music, Bro. N.J. Gehde. Bro. Arthur Massey, Grand Organist, presided at the organ, and played a solo entitled 'Joy and Gladness,' dedicated to the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Lodge Australian Social Mother, and specially composed by him for the occasion."



Bro Arthur Massey†

It was during Bro. Arthur Massey's term as organist that the Grand Organ was installed in the Number One Room at the old Castlereagh Street Masonic Hall, Sydney.

Bro. Arthur Massey had been responsible for choosing the organ which was built by the firm of Holroyd and Edwards and was completed and installed in 1923. It was one of the firm's best efforts.

Massey refers to Edwards having built several instruments under his direction and said that he

" always carried out every detail of the specifications I have supplied. The organ of Grand Lodge at the Masonic Temple, Sydney will always be a monument to his excellent workmanship."

A report on the Grand Lodge Organ appeared in the N.S.W. Freemason on 1 April 1924 which stated:

GRAND LODGE ORGAN
Installed and in use.

"A good thing is worth waiting for," and the instrument which the Grand Lodge Organ Committee have gone to such pains to obtain is undoubtedly imposing and melodious. The Grand Master, in unveiling the organ, said that of all the liberal arts and sciences, that of music was the most pleasing. Bro. Arthur Massey, Grand Organist, arranged the following concise and entertaining programme for the occasion -

1. Grand Overture, 'Poet and Peasant' (Von Suppe), Bro. Arthur Massey, Grand Organist.
2. Solo. 'Lend Me Your Aid,' Bro. R.L. Harper.
3. Popular Hymn Tunes, specially arranged to show off the Soft Stops, Bro. Arthur Massey, Grand Organist.
4. Solo. 'Within Those Hallowed Walls.' Bro. Charles Smythe.
5. Grand Commemoration March, Arthur Massey, Grand Organist.

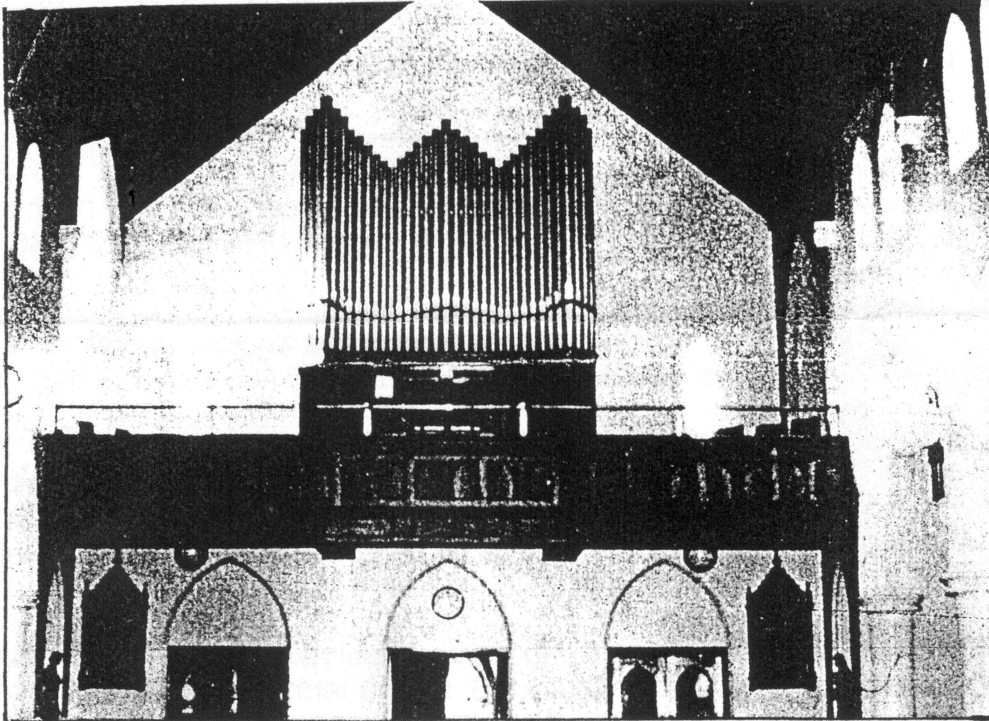
This programme was varied enough to exhibit the organ in all its registers and phases. As it stands now, it is most imposing. It completely fills the alcove which was always intended for the reception of such an organ, and there can be but one opinion, which is that the music from it will make still more sacred the ceremonies which take place nightly in the room."

Another report of this meeting was published in *The Square - Masonic Home Journal* of 1 April 1924.

"Rt. Wor. Bro. John Goulston, Deputy Grand Master, submitted the report of the Organ Committee, which is to be congratulated on the result of its efforts. The organ is valued at some £3000. The Most Wor. the Grand Master at this stage, at the request of Rt. Wor. Bro. Goulston, unveiled the instrument, which is constructed in oak and is a distinct ornament to the large No. 1 room in which it is placed. It was stated that every lodge meeting in the room and using the organ, will have to pay a fee of five shillings for the privilege, and that to ensure proper usage, the Grand Organist, Bro. Arthur Massey is prepared to instruct the organist of any lodge desiring to play it.

The musical interlude that followed was greatly appreciated by the brethren."

This organ served the Brethren well until 1970 when the old Masonic Hall was demolished to make way for the present Masonic Centre. The organ was dismantled and stored for ten years until purchased by St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Parramatta. It was installed in the gallery by the firm of Pitchford and Garside.



The Organ, installed in the gallery of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Parramatta, by Pitchford and Garside in 1980.

The Church and the organ were destroyed in the disastrous fire in 1998.



Bro. Arthur Hubert Haig

The next Brother to serve the office of Grand Organist was Bro. Arthur Hubert Haig. He was Grand Organist for eleven years from 20 July 1934 until 13 August 1945.

He was initiated in Lodge Sir Walter Scott No. 123, in 1901, and affiliated with Lodge Victoria No. 73, in 1913. He was elected Organist of this lodge in 1915 and remained in this office until his death.

The Grand Lodge proceedings of December 13, 1933, state:

"Nominations for the office of Grand Organist, vice Bro. Arthur Massey, resigned, were then invited by the M.W. the Grand Master, and the following Brethren were nominated - Wor. Bro. Frank Stonier (P.M. No. 65), Bros. E.C. Miller (M.M. No. 3),

Arthur Haigh (M.M. No. 73), James Brash (M.M. No. 631), Roy Freeman (M.M. No. 387), and W.H. Naylor (M.M. No. 417).

Ballot papers were distributed, collected and sent out to the Scrutineers, on whose report the M.W. the Grand Master subsequently declared Bro. Arthur Haigh duly elected to the Office of Grand Organist."

Bro. Arthur Haigh, Past Grand Organist, died on 28 January 1946.

Very Wor. Bro. Leonard McManus Trimble, a bank officer, was the ninth Grand Organist. He held the office for one year from 13 August 1945 to 3 July 1946.



V.Wor. Bro. Leonard
McManus Trimble.
Grand Organist.

Very Wor. Bro. Trimble was initiated in Lodge Rectitude No. 485 on 5 March 1924, passed to the second degree on 4 June 1924 and raised a Master Mason on 5 November of that year.

He affiliated with The Old Sydneians Lodge No. 639 on 16 August 1932 and was installed as Worshipful Master in September 1942. He also affiliated with Lodge Killara No. 670 on 26 June 1969, where he became an Honorary Member, and with Lodge Lindfield No. 362 on 6 November 1969.

Very Wor. Bro. Trimble was appointed District Grand Inspector of Workings for District 'B' for the term 1946/48, and the rank of Past Junior Grand Warden was conferred on him on the 10th September 1969.

Right Wor. Bro. Leonard McManus Trimble, P.J.G.W., passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 7 February 1975 aged 70 years.

The longest serving Grand Organist was Bro. Roy William Freeman. He held the office from 3 July 1946 to 21 July 1980, a period of 34 years.



Bro. Roy W. Freeman.
Grand Organist.

Bro. Freeman was initiated in Lodge Port Jackson No. 387, on 6 September 1921, at the age of 23 years. He was passed to the second degree on 18 October 1921 and raised a Master Mason on 15 November of that year.

A brilliant musician, Bro. Freeman gave freely of his talents to the Church and Freemasonry almost from the time he was able to play the piano.

Possessed with an impish personality and having a twinkle in his eye, he was known to play music such as 'Don't be Cross' as a Grand Master retired from the Lodgeroom after the Grand Master had spoken in strong terms in his address to the brethren at an installation.

Bro. Roy Freeman was also a member of Lodges Clovelly No. 443, Manly Temperance No. 568 and Port Jackson Lewis No. 687.

He received a 50 Year Certificate on 20 March 1972, a 60 Year Certificate on 23 July 1981 and a 70 Year Certificate on 24 September 1991.

Bro. Roy William Freeman, Past Grand Organist, passed away on 16 June 1992, aged 94 years.

Bro. William Bieth¹Shaw Pierce, a schoolmaster, served as Grand Organist from 21 July 1980 to 28 July 1982.

He was initiated in Lodge Viking No. 394, Queensland Constitution, on 6 September 1948, passed on 7 March 1949 and raised on 16 May 1949.

He affiliated with Lodge Antiquity No. 1, United Grand Lodge of N.S.W., on 5 May 1967.



Bro. Pierce was organist and choirmaster of St. Martin's Anglican Church, Killara, and a member of the music staff of Pymble Ladies' College.

He was a graduate of the University of Sydney and was the University Busby Music Scholar in 1950. He was patron of the Hunter District Organ Music Society and a former president of the Australian College of Organists and the Organ Society of Queensland.

Bro. W.B.S. Pierce

He studied the Organ in Australia, and later in London at the Royal School of Church Music.

His two favourite hobbies were gardening and restoring old English motor cars.

Bro. William Bieth Shaw Pierce, Past Grand Organist, died on 16 December 1996, leaving his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Peter Thornton Kneeshaw served as Grand Organist for a period of seventeen years from 28 July 1982 to 6 August 1999.

He was initiated in Lodge Killara No. 670, on 28 November 1974, passed to the second degree on 26 June 1975 and raised a Master Mason on 27 November 1975.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Kneeshaw was installed as Wor. Master of Lodge Killara on 12 May 1988.

He studied the organ with the late Frank Johnstone, Norman Johnstone and Christa Rumsey.

He has given recitals at the Sydney Town Hall, Wollongong Town Hall, The University of Sydney and in many cathedrals.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Kneeshaw completed the Licentiate of Music at Trinity College, London.

He became President of the Organ Society of Sydney and Assistant Director of Music at Christ Church, St. Laurence.

One of Australia's leading organists, Rt. Wor. Bro. Peter Kneeshaw became the Principal Organist at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Sydney.

He gave an organ recital at the Sydney Opera House in August, 1983. He had previously appeared as guest soloist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and had made frequent recordings for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

In June 1999, Right Wor. Bro. Peter Kneeshaw retired from the position of Grand Organist and he had the rank of Past Junior Grand Warden conferred.

Very Wor. Bro. William Patrick Mark Caukill, P.D.G.I.W., was invested as the Grand Organist on 6 August 1999.

He was initiated in Lodge Sandringham No. 884 on 13 April 1960, passed to the second degree on 8 June and raised a Master Mason on 10 August of that year.

Lodge Sandringham consolidated with Lodge Scarborough No. 984 in 1984.

On 14 June 1990, V. Wor. Bro. Caukill became a member of The Balmain Lodge No. 23. where he served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the term 1996-97.

V. Wor. Bro. Caukill has played for the Masonic Ensemble since 1991 and played for several Grand Installation Ceremonies during the absence overseas of Rt. Wor. Bro. Kneeshaw.

He also served as Secretary of the Organ Society during the Presidency of Rt. Wor. Bro. Kneeshaw.

V. Wor. Bro. Caukill has been the organist for the Campbell Street Presbyterian Church at Balmain since 1973.

In 1998, he played for the a joint choir which included the Masonic Ensemble and the Sydney Gaelic Choir of the Academy of St. Cecilia to raise funds for a replacement organ for St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Parramatta.

The rank of Past Grand Director of Music was conferred on him on 8 June 1994 and that of Past District Grand Inspector of Workings on 9 September 1998.

V.Wor.Bro. Caukill is also a director of the Laurelbank Masonic Centre Pty. Ltd.

These then are, and have been, the Grand Organists of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the A.C.T., and the musical talents of these unsung heroes, all too frequently taken for granted, have been appreciated by generations of Freemasons over the past 113 years.

May their contribution to our enjoyment long continue.

References

1. *Collins English Dictionary.*
 2. *The Manual of Masonic Music* - U.G.L. of N.S.W., 1978.
 3. *The Works of A.B. (Banjo) Paterson.*
 4. *The Freemason's Chronicle* - December, 1890 and February, 1891.
 5. The membership records - United Grand Lodge of N.S.W.
 6. *The Square- Masonic Home Journal* - Issues September 1923 and April 1924.
 7. The Proceedings of the U.G.L. of N.S.W. - Various reports.
 8. *History of the United Grand Lodge of N.S.W.* - Cramp & Mackaness.
 9. *The Masonic Guide of N.S.W.* - 1929, 1942, 1946 and 1950.
 10. *Historic Organs of N.S.W.* - Graeme D. Rushworth.
 11. *The N.S.W. Freemason* - various issues.
 12. *The History of Lodge Killara No. 670* - G.H. Cumming.
 13. Minute Books - Lodge of Australia No. 3.
Australian Lodge of Harmony No. 5 .
 14. *The Sydney Morning Herald* - 2 June 1943.
 15. Lodge Historical Records -
Lodge Australian Social Mother No. 1.
Leinster Marine Lodge of Australia No. 2.
Lodge United Service No. 24.
Lodge Unity No. 32.
The Lodge of Tranquility No.42.
Lodge Samaritan No. 50.
Lodge Emulation No. 121.
Lodge Atheneum No. 195.
 16. Personal assistance with research by Graham H. Cumming.
-