

# The Oyster



*“...the oysters are a gentle kin, they willna tak unless ye sing”*

October 2014

## Music to My Ears

By David Trounce

October 1<sup>st</sup> is World Music Day and that gives me the excuse I needed to say something about Bach.

In April 2009, British atheist, A.N. Wilson (Author of *Dante in Love* and the *Lampitt Chronicles*) shocked the world by announcing that he was returning to Christianity.

When asked in an interview what the worst thing about being an atheist was, he replied,

*“When I thought I was an atheist I would listen to the music of Bach and realise that his perception of life was deeper, wiser, and more rounded than my own... The resurrection, which proclaims that matter and spirit are mysteriously conjoined, is the ultimate key to who we are. It confronts us with an extraordinarily haunting story. J.S. Bach believed that story and set it to music.”*

A.N. Wilson is not alone. In the introduction to his book 'Does God exist?', Peter Kreeft noted several former atheists he knew that were personally persuaded to believe the Gospel by the argument, *“There is the music of Bach, therefore, there must be a God.”* (p.27)

This would have pleased Bach who



typically wrote SDG (Sola Deo Gloria – To God Alone be the Glory) at the end of his compositions.

Johann was the grandson of a Miller by the name of Veit. Veit loved two things, and taught his descendants to love them also – Jesus Christ and Music.

So solid was Veit's impact that by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century there were over 70 Bachs occupying posts as professional musicians.

Johann was one of those Bachs – and one of numerous Johanns to grow up under this loving and devoted Miller.

J.S. Bach wrote that the underpinning for his music was drawn from 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 25 in the Bible, where King David separated his army into “Musical Garrisons”. Scribbled in the margins of his Bible, Bach had written, “The true foundation of all God-pleasing music. Wherever there is reverent music, God with His Grace is always present.”

## The Muse

*“Rescue those being led away to death. Hold back those staggering toward slaughter.” Proverbs 24:11*

In Greek Mythology, the Muses were the daughters of Zeus. They were the personification of the arts, especially literature, dance and music, and were referred to as water nymphs.

Often known as Sirens, they were known to lure sailors to their drowning death with a bewitching song.

From them we get words like music and amuse. A muse in popular culture became known a play thing, a distraction. It was something that laid hold of your senses and lured you away, possibly to your own destruction.

In his 1984 book, *Amusing ourselves to Death*, Neil Postman points out that the world we live in today is reflected in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, where people are oppressed by their addiction to amusement and where people medicate and entertain themselves into bliss.

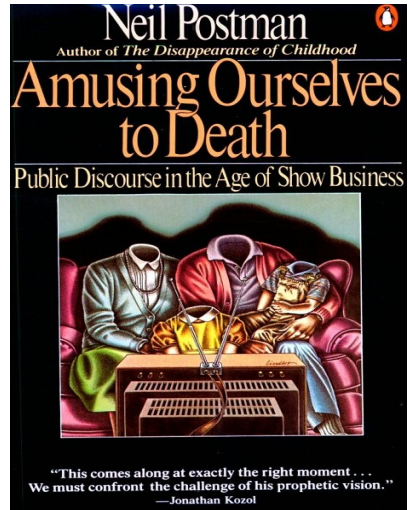
And the drug responsible, in Postman's view, is the music and entertainment industry, especially that entertainment provided by television. A look at the revolution of the internet and the amusement on tap tells us that perhaps Neil was on to something.

We crave escape from the dreary. We crave an elevated position, above an existence mingled with pain. The problem is not, as C.S Lewis once pointed out, that our desires are too strong, but that they are too weak. We are content to amuse ourselves to death with things that are transient, things that do not last.

We get lured in by things which are weak, shallow and beggarly, and we have lost the capacity for deep thought, deep reflection and serious conversation. You only need to jump online to witness the absence of depth in our discussions.

Childish one liners have taken the place of serious public conversation. We have become like the childish things that entertain and amuse us.

Postman's book has dated well and is an insightful read for anyone who wants to actually understand western culture, rather than just be amused to death by it.



# News, Views and Events

## Lemon Jam

Mixed local market stalls  
10-2pm. A local band  
plays from 1-4pm.



Lemon Jam is a series of music events being held on the waterfront Henderson Park, Lemon Tree Passage on the fourth Sunday of every month. Support local musicians and get down to the waterfront for a jam!

## Two Ways to Live

'Two ways to Live' is a simple booklet with some eternal truths about where we have come from and where we are heading.

The message at the heart of Christianity is this:



God is the Creator of the world and He created humanity to rule over and enjoy the earth which He had made. But, humanity, wanting to rule without God, has rebelled against Him.

God judges (and will judge) humanity for this rebellion. Man, in declaring his independence from God, has also separated himself from the source of life.

That rebellion has left us in a state of death.

In his love, God sends Jesus to die as an atoning sacrifice. In his power, God raises Jesus to life as ruler and judge.

This is the Good News of the Gospel.

In the death and resurrection of Jesus we are presented with the possibility of life on God's terms, in His world. And that life is eternal life to all who repent and believe.

**Get the Booklet: Our Church Book Shelf has a whole bunch of these booklets. Drop in and grab a free copy.**

## What's On This Month

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### Women's Get Together

Join with other local women each month for an evening dinner and chat.

Next meeting is on Friday November 7<sup>th</sup> 7pm, Tanilba CRC Church.

Call Kylie on 4982 4623

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### Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at Henderson Park, Lemon Tree Passage.

This month October 4<sup>th</sup>  
7.30am

For more Information call  
Mark on 4982 4623

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## Published By Tanilba CRC.

02 4984 5442

Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.

## Nine Reasons to Believe the Resurrection

G D B M B X C C T Y B B T N Y  
Y N X Y A S H H F J A V Q J M  
K J I B C C D S R C V C D T P  
X Q A R H T T E G Y O X F S G  
H C E C P M M V E Z S I K X C  
L T C G R S S S J S M A M A S  
A X R U V H U P E E L S L U G  
Z S P I T X S Q L V D Y N I X  
A L K F B E E T J M W R H C S  
R V Q W F D J F I F I U O C T  
U E C D H Y L U B S L P L N D  
S Y P S Z E U I E S P X I L P  
M Z K D W C I N H I A G I P K  
R K J I H L V H N C S Q M P W  
Y H Z I Y K R Q J O B B M D Y

JESUS SUNRISE SEEDS	BACH CHILDBIRTH SLEEP	SPRING LAZARUS CHRYSALIS
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