

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren,

It has been a quiet month, I have predominantly been involved in activities outside of Lodge.

I did have the opportunity to attend a wedding at the Tarureka Estate www.tarureka.co.nz which is just as you are about to head out of Featherston. It is a beautiful setting for a wedding or other big function and it was a great night.

How it connects to us, is the possibility of two family members joining Lodge, some of us are catching up with them shortly.

Getting new members really is up to each of us, finding just one friend to join is the way to increase our membership. I cannot stress this enough as we do need new members especially with impending moves from Wellington as well which means a loss of regular attending members.

We also need to look at how we operate and strategic plans, this has taken a bit of a back burner after Covid got in the way. It is still current, but it is always worth a tweak. On July 17th, we will meet at 1pm for a few hours at Ngaio Scout Hall to have a casual chat to do a review. All members are welcome regardless of rank. We will provide some nibbles and something to drink as well, I'm not beyond bribing people with food.

Our meetings have been a bit hit and miss lately, in part because of unavailable speakers and my time to organise things. I will offer my apology to you all for this.

We have one more meeting after this one and then Warwick will be going into the chair for the new Masonic year.



*Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Hadya Nicholls*

Famous Freemason – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Mozart was admitted as an Apprentice to the Viennese Masonic lodge called "Zur Wohltätigkeit" ("Beneficence") on 14 December 1784. He was promoted to Fellow on 7 January 1785, and became a Master Mason "shortly thereafter". Mozart also attended the meetings of another lodge, called "Zur wahren Eintracht" ("True Concord"). According to Otto Erich Deutsch, this lodge was "the largest and most aristocratic in Vienna. ... Mozart, as the best of the musical 'Brothers,' was welcome in all the lodges." It was headed by the naturalist Ignaz von Born.

Mozart's own lodge "Zur Wohltätigkeit" was consolidated with two others in December 1785, under the Imperial reform of Masonry (the Freimaurerpatent, "Masonic Decree") of 11 December 1785, and thus Mozart came to belong to the lodge called "Zur Neugekrönten Hoffnung" (New Crowned Hope).

At least as far as surviving Masonic documents can tell us, Mozart was well regarded by his fellow Masons. Many of his friends were Masons.

During his visit to Vienna in 1785, Mozart's father Leopold also became a Mason.

Masonic ideology and Masonic music

Stage design for Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute* by German architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel, c. 1815, with Masonic symbols.

Mozart's position within the Masonic movement, according to Maynard Solomon, lay with the rationalist, Enlightenment-inspired membership, as opposed to those members oriented toward mysticism and the occult. This rationalist faction is identified by Katharine Thomson as the *Illuminati*, a masonically inspired group which was founded by Bavarian professor of canon law Adam Weishaupt, who was also a friend of Mozart. The *Illuminati* and rationalist Masons espoused the Enlightenment-inspired, humanist views proposed by the French philosophers Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Denis Diderot. For example, they contended that social rank was not coincident with nobility of the spirit, but that people of lowly class could be noble in spirit just as nobly born could be mean-spirited. This view appears in Mozart's operas; for example, in *The Marriage of Figaro*, an opera based on a play by Pierre Beaumarchais (another Freemason), the low-born Figaro is the hero and the Count Almaviva is the boor.

The Freemasons used music in their ceremonies (see Masonic music), and adopted Rousseau's humanist views on the meaning of music. "The purpose of music in the [Masonic] ceremonies is to spread good thoughts and unity among the members" so that they may be "united in the idea of innocence and joy," wrote L.F. Lenz in a contemporary edition of Masonic songs. Music should "inculcate feelings of humanity, wisdom and patience, virtue and honesty, loyalty to friends, and finally an understanding of freedom."

These views suggest a musical style quite unlike the style of the *Galant*, which was dominant at the time. *Galant* style music was typically melodic with harmonic accompaniment, rather than polyphonic; and the melodic line was often richly ornamented with trills, runs and other virtuosic effects. The style promoted by the Masonic view was much less virtuosic and unornamented. Mozart's style of composition is often referred to as "humanist" and is in accord with this Masonic view of music.

The music of the Freemasons contained musical phrases and forms that held specific semiotic meanings. For example, the Masonic initiation ceremony began with the candidate knocking three times at the door to ask admittance. This is expressed musically as a dotted figure:

This figure appears in Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute* in the overture, suggesting the opening of the Masonic Master Mason's degree. According to Katherine Thomson, there are many other examples of specific musical symbols taken from the Masonic rites that appear throughout Mozart's compositions. These include the use of suspensions to indicate friendship and brotherhood, the use of three-part harmony to emphasize the special significance of the number three in Freemasonry, and special rhythms and harmonies to signify fortitude and other attributes.



Notwithstanding these manifestations of Freemasonry in Mozart's music and activities, some scholars question Mozart's personal commitment to Masonic ideology. Peter Paul Fuchs notes that

Mozart was a devout Catholic, a religion that threatened Freemasons with excommunication. "Mozart was pulled in various directions stylistically and probably personally. There is little evidence that he found these tensions troubling..." he writes. However in his book *Mozart and the Enlightenment* Nicholas Till demonstrates that Mozart's original lodge "Zur Wohltätigkeit" (At Beneficence) was a reform-Catholic lodge following the tenets of the Italian liberal theologian Ludovico Muratori and was committed in particular to the Catholic ideal of charity. And musicologist David J. Buch notes that many of Mozart's musical devices identified with Masonry have precedents in non-Masonic music as well. For example, the three notes, which originate from the French genre of "le merveilleux", already appear in the musical theater of the early 18th century. The three chords in the overture can be found in many other 18th-century stage works, such as Traetta's *Armida* and Gazzaniga's *La Circe*, operas that have no connection with Freemasonry.

Ancient Masonic Building – Upper Canadian Village



The building that now houses the Masonic Lodge was originally built in 1863 and moved in 2008 from the Village of Kars in south-west Ottawa. Many original 19th century Masonic items gathered from eastern Ontario are on exhibit in the lodge. The building offers visitors the chance to learn about the history and role of the Masons and other fraternal societies in Upper Canada during the 19th century.

This old building stands in amongst a museum of houses and buildings in the Upper Canada Village.

Movie review - The Courier

The Courier is on at the movies at the moment and tells the story of an unassuming English businessman played by Benedict Cumberbatch recruited by the spy agencies to visit the Soviet Union to make contact with a Russian official wanting to pass on secret information to the West.

There are no James Bond action scenes in this movie. Rather, it shows an ordinary businessman selling industrial equipment on trips to Moscow to develop a commercial relationship with a Russian official and, by the way, to pass on messages and to pick up packages. Besides the story itself, the film does a good job at showing the stark contrast between London and Moscow and the easy-going lifestyle in England vs the harsh Soviet living conditions. Scenes from the ballet are an added extra.

There are some tense moments in the film where you think that the businessman or the Russian official might get caught, and then of course towards the end there's the scene of the businessman sitting on the plane on the tarmac waiting to return home to England and there's a delay and then well, I wouldn't want to spoil it for you.

One of the good things about this film is that it is based on a true story. The intelligence passed over played a part in bringing an end to the Cuban missile crisis. You can get home afterwards and read all about it on Wikipedia. If you're into movies about the cold war and espionage, then this film is a couple of hours of delightful entertainment.

This film is well worth seeing. I would give it 4.5 out of 5 stars.



David Ryan

Recipe Beef mince cottage pie with scalloped potatoes



Serves 4-6 - Prep time: 30 mins
Cooking time: 60-70 mins

Ingredients

500g prime beef mince.
1 onion, chopped.
1 carrot, chopped.
½ cup Pams Split Red Lentils.
2 cans Pams Diced Tomatoes In Juice With Garlic And Oregano (or similar).
2 tsp Pams Soy Sauce.
1kg Agria potatoes, peeled.
1½ cups Pams Tasty Grated Natural Cheese.

Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Heat a splash of oil in a large saucepan and add the mince, breaking up any lumps as you go, until the meat is browned.

Add the onion and carrot and cook for a few more minutes.

Add the lentils, tinned tomatoes, soy sauce and 1½ cups water, season well with salt and bring up to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer gently for 30 minutes until thickened and the lentils are cooked (add a little water to the mix if it's too dry).

Slice the potatoes 5mm thick and put into a saucepan of salted water. Bring up to the boil, lower the heat and simmer for 3 minutes. Drain well.

Put the cooked mince into a baking dish and top with the potato slices. Scatter over the grated cheese and bake for 30-35 minutes until bubbling. Slice into squares and serve.

Top Tip: Adding red lentils not only extends the beef but has added protein to help nourish your whānau.

Heart Foundation NZ

Every day, we connect with communities across the country providing much needed support, care and advice to people and their families affected by heart disease.

Each year, we fund around \$1.5 million of leading-edge research and specialist cardiologist training and it is all thanks to you. Our education and prevention programmes tackle heart disease head-on in the community, wherever it is needed most. The work that we do with young children creates a foundation for keeping hearts healthy into the future.

Our dedication and commitment to tackling heart disease drives everything we do.

