

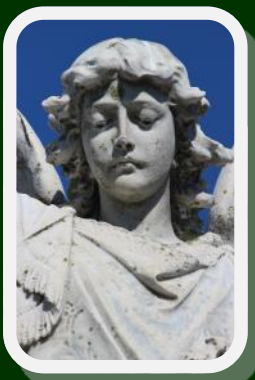


R.I.P.orter

February
2021

Leon Caron - Musical Director (1850-1905)

- Cemetery searches detailing the location of a grave of those interred can be shown on iCemetery. Download the FREE app now!
- Size of Cemetery 40 acres (or around 16.5 hectares).
- Over 90,000 interments in 50,000 grave sites.
- The Cemetery offers a service of grave planting sites with Gazania (prostrate ground cover with silver foliage and yellow flowers, as can be seen in banner). Contact the cemetery office if you are interested in this and other services, such as annual maintenance of allotments.
- Waverley Cemetery St Thomas Street, BRONTE NSW 2024 P: (02) 9083 8899 F: (02) 9665 4785 Email: cemetery@waverley.nsw.gov.au



Leon Caron was born on 13 January 1850 in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France and died on 29 May 1905 in Sydney.

M. Caron wrote the music for DJIN DJIN, OR THE JAPANESE BOGIE-MAN, an 1896 production which saved J.C. Williamson's company from going into liquidation. He became conductor of the Lyster Grand Italian Opera Company and his own Caron Opera Company, giving local premiers of many European operas in English, including Bizet's CARMEN. He also conducted the Sydney Opera House Theatre orchestra for Emelie Melville's Company, including the performance of GIROFLE-GIROFLA in 1882.

In 1889 he joined the J.C. Williamson Royal Comic Opera Company as Musical Director, partnering Henry Bracy who was Stage Director (also interred in Waverley Cemetery). Among their

many productions were PRINCESS IDA, THE MOUNTEBANKS, THE MIKADO, DOROTHY, FLORODORA, IOLANTHE and the Australian Premier of THE YEOMAN OF THE GUARD. THE ROSE OF PERSIA was staged at Her Majesty's in July 1900, with the SMH commenting: *"The first act of the opera is enriched by one of the longest finales, and here the chorus and orchestra carefully following M. Caron's beat, worked a long crescendo in splendid fashion right up to a fine climax."* Caron conducted the orchestra at the opening celebrations in Melbourne of the first Australian Parliament, the orchestra performing *"Old Hundreth Hymn"*, *"Hallelujah Chorus"*, *"Rule Britannia"* and, at the entrance of the Royal Party, *"God Save the King"*. It was a very grand occasion.



M. LEON CARON, THE COMPOSER OF THE CANTATA

As was Caron's funeral. Three bands played Handel's Dead March, Beethoven's Funeral March and the Chopin March. All along the route great throngs of people gathered. The SMH reported on the obsequies which took place at Waverley Cemetery *"very late in the afternoon, with the slant beams of the slowly setting sun falling upon an azure breadth of ocean, giving radiant whiteness to innumerable headstones, and placing in bold relief the great concourse of people that surrounded the last resting place of the French Musician."*

Why not join the Friends of Waverley Cemetery?

Here also a band of choristers from the Royal Comic Opera Company, rendered as a last and sad anthem, "The Long Day Closes". Sullivan's music swelled out upon the evening air with melancholy sweetness in a tender sequence of unhurried harmony".

(Source: Waverley Cemetery Archives; A Family of Brothers by Viola Tait; Australian Dictionary of Biography; New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians edited by Stanly Sadie; Sydney Morning Herald 9-8-1892, 2-9-1893, 23-12-1893, 27-10-1894, 23-7-1900, 8-9-1900, 1-4-1901, 31-5-1905).

Corry, Marion, *Waverley Cemetery Who's Who: Encore*, Waverley Library 1996, p 44

Image of M. Leon Caron: (1880). *M. LEON CARON, THE COMPOSER OF THE CANTATA*. David Syme and Co, Melbourne, held by the State Library of Victoria.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Friends of Waverley Cemetery (FoWC) has had a specific remit in relation to Waverley Cemetery (WC) since the volunteer group was formed on 13 September 1988. However, the FoWC group has provided assistance to Waverley Cemetery Management as far as South Head (SH) Cemetery is concerned as well. Volunteers have taken photographs of sections of SH Cemetery and have begun the **planning of a walking history tour of South Head Cemetery**. When the tour is available to the public, it will be advertised through R.I.P.orter, on our face book page and on **Nextdoor** a neighbourhood website. Other platforms and media are also being considered to spread the word when the tour/s become available.

Take a tour

**General History Tours
A, B, C & D are held
on Saturdays**

**06 Feb 09.00am Tour B
13 Feb 10.00am Tour C
20 Feb 09.00am Tour D
27 Feb 09.00am Tour A**

**06 Mar 09.00am Special Tour:
International Women's Day
13 Mar 09.00am Tour B
20 Mar 09.00am Tour C
27 Mar 09.00am Tour D**

**Bookings for tours are essential.
Book through Eventbrite
Waverley Cemetery Tours**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waverley-cemetery-tours-tickets-35366776982>



Friends of Waverley Cemetery

The **iCemetery** app was decommissioned at the end 2020 by the Canadian developers. The Cemetery's website is linked to its data base is now searchable. The Friends of Waverley Cemetery's Face Book page has a posting on how to access that search capability.

The next general meeting of the Executive and Standing Committees of the Friends group will be held on **Saturday 13 February at 9.00am at the Cemetery**. Depending on what health restrictions might be in place and numbers attending, the specific venue will be decided on the day. Potential and recent members are encouraged to attend this first meeting of the year so that current members can put a name to your face.

The Friends of Waverley Cemetery group has several projects currently underway and is looking for interested volunteers to assist with photography of monuments, and research of individuals interred in the cemetery. If you have an interest in gardening then you might be just the person to join the Friends of Waverley **"Adopt a Grave"** initiative.

Volunteers with a specific skill set which they feel would be of assistance are encouraged to contact the group through its email which is **friendsofwaverleycemetery@gmail.com** with the view to becoming members and assisting FoWC group in its work.

To visit the FoWC Face Book Page which is updated every few days go to **<https://www.facebook.com/FoWCBronteNSW2024/>**

Gregory Ross
President/Secretary

