

PATRON:

Her Excellency
Marjorie Jackson-Nelson
AC, CVO, MBE,
Governor of South Australia

PRESIDENT:

Colin Styles

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw

ASST CONDUCTOR:

Edward Ananian-Cooper

ACCOMPANIST:

Edward Kriek

JOINT SECRETARIES:

David Evans
Phone: 8280 7759
Ian Milbank
Phone: 8339 1425

TREASURER:

John Winnall

COMMITTEE:

Bruce Risby
Jean-Pierre Rival
Neville Roach
John Wear
Denis West (*Librarian*)

CONCERT MANAGER:

Neville Roach
Phone: 8332 1895

VICE PATRONS:

Myfanwy James
Margaret Lambert
Genty Stevens
Len Turner

LIFE MEMBERS:

John Lawson
Robert McLeay

Choir practices are held every
Monday at 7.45 pm to 9.45 pm
at St Stephen's Lutheran
Church, 152 Wakefield St,
Adelaide.

WEB ADDRESS:

amvc.org.au

From the President

Like the threads that knot into a carpet, we make a pattern in our lives, each building on the other until we stop and look at the beautiful picture we have made.

Di Morrissey **Kimberley Sun**

That line from the book got me thinking about the men who make up the membership of the AMVC. I thought ... What a wide range of backgrounds these men have; what a variety of their or their parents' birth places; what vast varieties of life experiences they have had; how different their ages; and what amazing differences they have in their family lives, customs and traditions.

Yet, with all these seeming disparities they have all come together to form the carpet of the *Adelaide Male Voice Choir*. We have as one of our aims the bringing of delight and pleasure to others through a variety of harmonious music. I believe we really have achieved just that this year. We have tied many new threads to our AMVC carpet and enriched its texture and its patterns.

Here are some of the threads we have added this year.

Our *Out of the Square* concerts introduced us to many new friends - people from one side of Adelaide to the other came and enjoyed an afternoon of song. I thank most sincerely the members of the Choir who so willingly re-arranged their lives to take part in this series of concerts. Not only were they a challenge but they were also great fun and gave us a sense of unity and achievement.

The recent concert at Concordia College Chapel, featuring music from a variety of musicals, was very successful and we thank the College staff for its wonderful co-operation in allowing us to practise and perform

there.

We are looking forward to our **Voices from Heaven concert at Concordia on August 12th at 2.00pm**. I would urge you each to invite at least one extra person to the concert.

We have welcomed several new members to our group. Already we have appreciated their company and contributions. Unfortunately, ill health has taken its toll on some of us and we hope that they will soon be back adding their voices to those of their friends.

We have introduced a number of soloists new to our audiences as well as welcoming back others with whom we have sung many times previously. Our soloists this year are Deb Caddy, Jillian Chatterton, Adam Goodburn, Kirsten Johnston, Robert Macfarlane, Gaynor Meyer and David Perry. We thank them for the contributions they have made to the richness and variety of our concerts.

AND EVEN MORE IS YET TO COME

One of THE SOCIAL EVENTS of our calendar is the **Opera Banquet**. This year it is to be held at Martinhas Restaurant (Adelaide TAFE) on **October 26th**. Bookings for this fabulous evening of fine music, wine, food and service open on September 1st through the Choir.

Keep this night free and come and enjoy an evening you won't forget.

Colin Styles *President*

WEB ADDRESS: amvc.org.au

**Meet our Assistant Conductor:
Edward Ananian-Cooper**

Edward was appointed Assistant Conductor in February 2006. Here he tells us something about his background:

“When in Paris – that part’s censored” – Thus was I cheekily described at last year’s Choir Christmas dinner, and so seem to run the rumours of my errant, gallivanting lifestyle! So what is the truth? What does our assistant conductor do, apart from occasionally turning up on Monday nights?

I’m the second of four brothers, all born and raised right here in Adelaide. We were each made to learn all sorts of musical instruments while growing up, and all encouraged to sing, but I seem to be the only one it has really stuck with. In fact, however hard I try, I just can’t get music out of my life!

It all began when I was dragged along to my elder brother’s violin lessons at the tender age of three. After having learnt for a year, my brother (and mother!) had had enough: “Thank you for being so patient with him, but I don’t think it’s really going to work out.” Then apparently I piped up: “So it’s my turn then, Mummy?” It was. And then my first grade teacher thought I was concentrating far too hard on the violin, so she made me take up the piano as well!

I began singing as a boy treble at St Peter’s Cathedral at the age of eight. Back in those days, when your voice broke, you were generally forced into vocal retirement, but I was one of the first boys to “sing through the break” as they like to call it. When I started finding those top notes a little high, I moved down to the alto section, and it was not long until I found myself in the bass line. Not having one of those really bass-y kinds of voices, I’m much happier now in the baritone section, and am even occasionally happy to help the tenors out!

We had a small choir at school that I took part in, but it wasn’t until University that I started to do much other singing. I now sing regularly with the Elder Conservatorium Chorale, and I sometimes help aug-

part in, but it wasn’t until University that I started to do much other singing. I now sing regularly with the Elder Conservatorium Chorale, and I sometimes help augment the numbers in the Adelaide Chamber Singers. For the moment, I think that singing in four choirs is enough!

At the University of Adelaide, I completed Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Systems, which means that I’m apparently qualified to design and build all sorts of microscopic electronic devices, except I was never really sure that that was me. While still at University, I co-founded an Information Technology business where we specialised in the IT needs of small to medium businesses. My personal focus was on all things software, from performing server configurations to writing software for ourselves and for clients, and even designing websites.

But I’m never happy doing just one thing, so once my Engineering degree was finished, I took up a Bachelor of Arts on an ad hoc basis, so I could learn and study areas about which I had always been passionate. Thus over the past three years, this has led to intriguing study in Literature, Philosophy, Classics, Latin and Ancient Greek.

I’m sure that’s somehow related to my love of travel, which is definitely a disease I caught from my mother! In HER twenties, she was hitch-hiking through Afghanistan, and climbing erupting volcanoes in Indonesia. In fact, originally from Belgium, she met my father here in Adelaide on one of her travels and decided she never wanted to go home. I suppose the rather frequent trips back to Belgium to see my grandparents while growing up has enamoured me with globe-trotting. As the members of the Choir will have noticed, I have been known to disappear on little adventures for up to months at a time! Following my expedition to Africa last year, I’m waiting to cross Antarctica off my list so I can boast about having

I can boast about having been to every continent!

As the Choir will have noticed, I have a great love for the music of Mozart, and the highlight of last year’s holiday was an extravagant month spent in Salzburg for the famous music festival during Mozart’s 250th birthday year. As one would expect, the programme was rather Mozart-heavy, and I enjoyed productions of all 22 of his operas! You might think that this was enough music holidaying for one year, but over the recent summer period, I returned to Europe, this time to England with the Choir of St Peter’s Cathedral where we toured for two weeks, singing services in many of the great churches and cathedrals, including St George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle and Lincoln and York Minsters.

So for now, I’m on a break from holidays! I have sold my business and I am concentrating once again on my musical studies. These comprise mainly the violin and the piano, but I am also studying conducting at the Conservatorium, which teaches me lots of tricks to try out on the willing gentlemen of the Choir. I’m certainly aiming for a less technical and a more musical future, and the Choir has been not only a fantastic forum to allow me to develop my own skills, but Monday nights have become a highlight of my week thanks to the kindness and dedication of the members of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.



Edward wonders whether to have an icecream—St Petersburg 2006

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

Sunday 12 2.00 pm Voices from Heaven Concordia College Chapel
45 Cheltenham St Highgate

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 23 2.00 pm Concert St Stephen's Church
152 Wakefield St
Adelaide

OCTOBER

Tuesday 2 5.00 pm Concert for Launch of Art Gallery
Men's Health Centre North Tce, Adelaide

Friday 26

6.00 for 6.30 pm Opera Banquet Martinhas Restaurant
(Bookings through the Choir from Sept 1st) TAFE Light Square
Adelaide

NOVEMBER

Sunday 11 2.00 pm Highlights of Opera and Operetta Marion Cultural Centre
Diagonal Rd, Marion

Sunday 18 2.00 pm Concert Centenary Hall
Goolwa

Thursday 22 7.30 pm Concert Glynde Lutheran Homes
Avenue Rd, Glynde

DECEMBER

Friday 14 6.30 for 7.00 pm Christmas Dinner Glenelg Golf Club
(Bookings through the Choir)

SPECIAL EVENT

OPERA BANQUET

An irresistible entertainment package featuring

Superb food

Classic South Australian wines and

Wonderful music

A unique opportunity to relax with clients, colleagues and friends

and enjoy an evening of musical and culinary delights

Make up a table or we can place you with other guests

The Opera Banquet is presented with the combined talents of:

Opera soloists Jillian Chatterton (soprano) and

David Perry (baritone)

and the Adelaide Male Voice Choir

singing well known songs from opera and operetta

WHEN: FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2007 AT 6.30 PM

**WHERE: MARTINHAS RESTAURANT
ADELAIDE TAFE
LIGHT SQUARE ADELAIDE**

**COST: \$75 per head
(Bookings through the Choir)**

ENQUIRIES: 8332 0449 or 8332 1895

Bach and Handel at Concordia Concert

Our *Voices from Heaven* concert on 12 August will include some music by Handel and by Bach, so here are some brief notes about these two great composers of choral music:

In 1732 the Bishop of London, who strenuously guarded public morality, refused to allow the staging of operas. Handel's opera company was already facing some financial difficulty, so he changed the format of his opera *Esther* and put it on as a concert piece. It was a success, he was rescued from a temporary embarrassing cash flow problem, and proceeded to write a number of other sacred concert pieces, to be known as oratorios. One of them, *Messiah*, provides us with a number of arias for the *Voices from Heaven* concert, sung by our superb group of soloists. In addition, the Choir will join tenor soloist Robert Macfarlane to perform the gorgeous *Forever Blessed* from *Jephtha*.

"Performing music is really quite easy. All you need to do is to play the right notes at the right time!"

Across the Channel in the north of Germany Johann Sebastian Bach was engaged in a weekly tussle with time, to prepare music for the lengthy Lutheran service every week. He had to write the music, rehearse the singers and instrumentalists, and present the finished product week after week in order to fulfil the terms of his contract with the Church authorities. Back-breaking work! With characteristic modesty, Bach said "I was obliged to work hard. Whoever is equally industrious will succeed just as well." We are the beneficiaries of his hard work and genius, since he left behind a huge body of glorious music for every Sunday in the church year.

One of the characteristic features of this large number of cantatas was the settings of the Lutheran hymns, "chorales", which he prepared for his cantatas, and for his settings of the Passion. These chorales were sung by the whole congregation and were stately and heartfelt in their sentiment. One of the most delightful of these is the setting from Cantata 147, *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, where the choir sings the harmonised chorale tune while the accompaniment weaves a flowing melody around these segments of choral sound. The Choir will be presenting this chorale at the *Voices from Heaven* concert.

AMVC to perform at Marion Cultural Centre

Have you noticed that the *Highlights of Opera and Operetta* concert on **November 11** is at the **Marion Cultural Centre**? We performed at this venue at the first of our *Out of the Square* concerts in March, and found it to be an excellent place for our Choir and audience. The theatre is sloped, giving everyone an excellent view of the stage and the acoustics are first rate. The theatre is small enough to give a sense of closeness to the performers, and seats approximately 220 people. In March the concert was sold out, and we would like the *Highlights of Opera and Operetta* concert to also have the "House Full" sign up. Our soloists and Choir invite you to attend the concert and afternoon tea with us at Marion.

Brisbane Invitation to the inaugural Pemulwuy Festival

The Choir has received an invitation to sing at concerts in Brisbane in April 2008. The invitation comes from the Queensland choir The Birralees Blokes to take part in a Male Choir Festival to be held over the Anzac Day weekend and featuring new pieces of music for male choirs. We are excited by this invitation, and are working on the arrangements for our participation. Julie Christiansen OAM, the artistic director of the Birralees Blokes, writes that "a limited number of interstate guest ensembles will be an important feature of the festival. They will present solo performances and rehearse the newly commissioned works in a massed ensemble."

This initiative is to be welcomed and it would be an excellent opportunity for us to get to know and join with other male voice choirs across Australia. The Committee is currently working on plans for the Choir to attend the weekend and to take part in this exciting venture. There'll be more news as it comes to hand!

Supporting Members of the AMVC Friends

In our previous Newsletter we enclosed a leaflet inviting people to become Supporting Members of the AMVC Friends for an annual donation of \$10 per household. This donation helps with the running expenses of the Choir, including the printing and distribution of the Newsletter. Supporting Members receive ticket discounts for the three major public concerts of the year, as well as opportunities to socialise with the Choir and to see it at work.

To date, 36 households have taken out Supporting Membership, and we are very grateful to you.

If you haven't yet taken out Supporting Membership and would like to do so, please send your \$10 donation (cheque or money order made out to the Adelaide Male Voice Choir) together with details of your name and address to:

Mr John Winnall (AMVC Treasurer)
4 Duggan Avenue
Glengowrie SA 5044

We will then send you a Membership Card which will entitle you to a discount at the major concerts.

Congratulations Kevin Fisher OAM!

We are delighted to congratulate Kevin (from the first tenor section) on being awarded the OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours list this year. The award is for service to veterans through the SA Division of the RAAF Association, and to youth development.