

The need to change

Constantly changing

It is very hard, especially for a choir that has been existence for as long as the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, to change.

Nineteen years ago when I joined the choir we principally sang to about 14 retirement homes and did one major concert per year.

I think we used to charge about \$50 to sing at a retirement home. Now we charge \$200. This just goes to show just how much it costs to run what is basically a volunteer group of people who enjoy singing.

Music costs (we cannot keep singing the same pieces each year), insurance costs, printing costs all add up to a sizeable amount of money that the choir has to find to maintain its standards. If we want to exceed those standards then there will be increased costs.

About four years ago we decided to start up a Friends of the Choir to help with the promotion and sustainability of the choir. We have been heartened by the many people who have become a member of the "Friends" - over 200 of them. But now we need to go a step further.

What the choir needs is for all the members of the choir and the Friends of the Choir to really get behind it, for each and every one of them to promote the choir so that everytime we hold a major concert all tickets have been sold.

Why is it that we are not filling the venues when we do a major concert? We receive many compliments on the

quality of our singing and our programmes. We have some wonderful soloists at these concerts and yet we are lucky if we only half-fill the hall. Are there too many functions on at the one time? Do we not promote the choir enough? Do we need a person or persons who would be willing to promote the choir full-time?

We are open to suggestion and look forward to hearing from as many of you that feel they can contribute. Maybe by just giving advice.

— John Lawson, Editor

IMPORTANT - CHANGE OF VENUE

The Spring Concert that was advertised to be held in Elder Hall in the last issue of the newsletter will now be held in CONCORDIA AUDITORIUM, 45 Cheltenham Street, Highgate.

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Accompanist:
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Mr Ian Hunt
Mr David Duffner

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Vice Patrons:
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Mrs Myfanwy James
Mrs Margaret Lambert
Mrs Genty Stevens
Mr Len Turner

Life Members:
Mr Ray Brown
Mr Robert McLeay

Practices are held every Monday
at 7.45pm to 9.45 pm in the
Hall at the rear of the Church of
Christ, 100 Grote St., Adelaide

WEB ADDRESS: amvc.org.au

David Conti: *Singer and Musician*



One of the strengths of the AMVC is the musical and social interaction of people from different countries and backgrounds, and David and his wife Rini have certainly made a fine contribution in that regard, adding a lively Italian flavour to our functions.

When David was seven years old, he and his family left Turin in Italy and set off for a new life in Australia. They landed in Brisbane, then travelled a further 1000 miles north to Babinda, the wettest town in Queensland. During World War II, David's father was interned at a camp in Loveday, near Berri in South Australia. He was released in 1943, after the surrender of Italy, and was allowed to come to

Adelaide, where his family was able to join him.

Even as a young child, David was involved in music making, when he sang Italian folk songs with his parents at family gatherings in Italy. Both his mother and father were good singers and often sang duets. His father also sang in falsetto, which

delighted his listeners. We haven't yet heard David sing in falsetto – in fact he has a beautiful deep bass voice - but he has clearly inherited the family flair for entertainment.

As can be seen from the photograph of young David, he is an instrumental player as well as vocalist. He learnt mandolin at the Adelaide College of Music in Victoria Square, and was successful in winning a competition which led to several years of playing on radio 5DN with the Adelaide Banjo Club. He taught several classes of banjo mandolin players there, and also participated in "On Parade" concerts at the Tivoli Theatre in Grote Street. He then formed a trio (mandolin, guitar and piano accordion) and played at many concerts for the elderly with Gladys Bailey's "Carina Singers".

Along with their music related activities, David and Rini have a strong commitment to family life, and make frequent trips interstate to see their children and grandchildren. A lullaby sung by grandfather David would certainly be a great treat for a small person!

David has the distinction of being one of the longest serving current members of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. He joined the Choir in 1988, when it was known as the Adelaide Glee Club, and has been an active and much appreciated member since that time. He also sings with Adelaide Light, a specialist ensemble within the AMVC.

17th Century Nun's Prayer

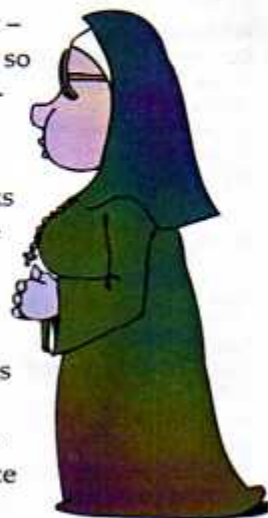
Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out somebody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to

get to the point. Seal my lips upon my aches and pains. They are increasing, and the love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory but for a growing humility and not a lessing cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not

want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so.



Heavenly Music



Sunday 19th June this year was a rather chilly winter's day, but the audience at the AMVC's "Music from Heaven" concert was soon feeling warmed and uplifted by the splendid singing.

The programme of sacred music ranged from Haydn to contemporary items, with several of the pieces arranged by Conductor Bill Shaw. The Choir sang with conviction and demonstrated a sensitive empathy in interpreting the styles of different pieces.

We were fortunate to have guest soloists Tasso Bouyessis, Prue Hompas and Anthony Waack appear on the programme, providing several individual solo items as well as being soloists with the Choir in selected pieces.

The final item for the afternoon was an inspiring rendition of Haydn's "Gloria" arranged by Bill for the Choir and the three guest soloists. The fine voices of the soloists blended with the controlled power of the Choir to create a truly thrilling finale to the concert.

Adelaide Light providing part of the entertainment for the "Music from Heaven" concert



Anthony Waack



Prue Hompas



Tasso Bouyessis

Someone's got to do it!

During September, myself and two other stalwart members of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir - Ian Milbank and Neville Roach - were selected for a special project.

We have been sent out into our beautiful (but tempting) Barossa Valley to try out and select a good quality Tawny Port blend for our choir and friends of the choir.

This project is hoped will raise a few extra funds to cover the ever-increasing expenses of running this historic institution.

We hope to be able to get it at a competitive price and identify the bottle with an AMVC label.

After a number of visits to great outlets we were secretly informed that a lot of the locals get their port from a little winery up Stengarten Road, off Rowland Flat, called Liebich.

After a quality tasting we performed the back-breaking job of filling and corking a hundred bottles, dealing effectually with all the overflows.

We now have the product ready for the choir and Friends of the Choir.

If this first liquid fund raiser meets to your satisfaction, then another brave team will hit the road again with hopes to bring home the bacon.

- David Evans



New Fuel Gauge



