

delalide
male voice choir inc.
ESTABLISHED 1884

In Harmony

Newsletter of the
Adelaide Male Voice Choir

No. 18 SUMMER 2005

Thank you

It seems as if I have to go out with a whimper and not a bang.

I will not be standing for nomination as President of the Choir for next year, and gave my reasons as the distance I now live from Adelaide and the increasing costs of travelling to and from choir and concerts. Unfortunately another reason has materialised since in that I have had a mild stroke. It has certainly curtailed a lot of my activity, especially as I cannot drive my car for at least a month. This means that I won't be attending any more functions of the choir before Christmas and so will miss the choir's Christmas Dinner.

Because I won't be at the Christmas Dinner I would like to say a big thank-you to all who have supported me during my presidency and hope that you will continue that support with your new President and committee.

This thank-you also includes all the wives and partners of choir members and the many registered friends the choir now has who so faithfully support the choir.

I have been in the choir now for 19 years, three of those years being on the committee and a total of eight as president and have seen many changes since 1986. The main change has been the way our concert programme has changed. We used to perform to at least 14 retirement villages or nursing homes and one main concert a year.

Now the choir performs at so many different venues and also with other choirs.

The choir's main concerts feature some wonderful, young artists, who provide added impetus to the choir with their enthusiastic singing, encouraging members to try even harder.

Look at my brother



Daniel, son of our accompanist, Eddie Kriek, and his wife Anna, looking very pleased after the arrival of a brand new brother on Monday, 5th December. Congratulations to them all

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Patron:
Her Excellency
Marjorie Jackson-Nelson
AC, CVO, MBE,
Governor of South
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Mr John Lawson

Vice-President:
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Treasurer:
Mr John Winnall

Committee:
Denis West (librarian)
Ian Milbank, David
Evans, Jean-Pierre Rival,
Neville Roach

Director of Music:
Mr William Shaw

Accompanist:
Mr Edward Kriek

**Promotions and
Concert Bookings
Committee:**

Mr David Evans
Mr William Shaw
Mr Ian Hunt
Mr David Duffner

Concert Manager:
Mr Neville Roach
Tel.: (08) 8332 1895

Vice Patrons:
Mr Ray Brown
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

Ian Milbank: Singer and Linguist

Ian Milbank is the Leader of the Bass section of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. He adds a richly resonant tone to the Choir, and his musicality and accuracy are greatly valued.

Ian has had a long interest in all aspects of music and more recently in choral music. One of his earliest recollections of singing is as a boy soprano, helping with the washing-up at home with his mother, Bessie Milbank (a trained coloratura soprano), singing the harmony part to force him to keep in tune. He feels it worked, as he can usually hold his part against opposition from other sections. While he was a boy soprano, he sang in the combined choirs which used to perform annually in the Adelaide Town Hall.

Once his voice had broken, Ian did very little singing until he was at University, where he was part of the Adelaide Teachers College choir, and later, a member of the French Madrigal Group, organised by the French Club of the University of Adelaide and directed by Dr Jack Peters.

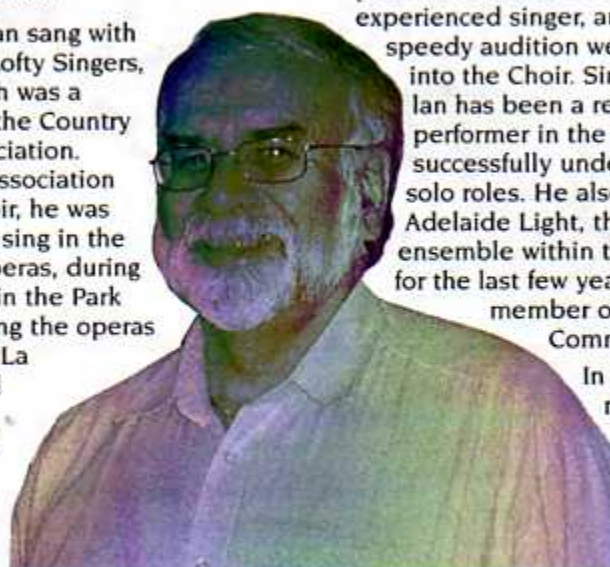
After his University days there was

an excursion into Gilbert and Sullivan, singing in Enfield High School productions of *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Patience*, *HMS Pinafore* and *The Mikado*.

For a time Ian sang with the Mount Lofty Singers, a choir which was a member of the Country Choral Association. During his association with the choir, he was also able to sing in the chorus of operas, during the Operas in the Park series. Among the operas were *Tosca*, *La Traviata* and *Beatrice et Benedict* all under the baton of visiting overseas conductors.

Once the funding ran out for these, Ian sang in the Fiesta Chorus, accompanied by the Youth Orchestra, in a production of *The Creation*.

It was during a second stint at



Woodville High School that Ian met AMVC Conductor Bill Shaw and asked him in early 1995 if he could use a Bass singer. Bill was only too pleased to recruit such an experienced singer, and after a speedy audition welcomed him into the Choir. Since that time Ian has been a regular performer in the Choir, and has successfully undertaken several solo roles. He also sings with Adelaide Light, the specialist ensemble within the AMVC, and for the last few years has been a member of the Choir Committee.

In addition to his musical talents, Ian is also a gifted linguist, with specific proficiency in the French and Italian

languages. He has visited France several times, including a period in 1969/70 when he worked in France as an Assistant, teaching English conversation. He currently holds the position of English and Languages Coordinator at Mt Barker High School.

Jacques Offenbach

Bill Shaw

AMVC members have frequently asked Conductor Bill Shaw for background stories about the composers of the music they sing, so



here is some information from Bill about Jacques Offenbach, who wrote such singable music, as we all heard at the recent Opera Dinner.

The most popular composer of

Second Empire France, Offenbach dominated the Parisian musical theatre between 1855 and 1875. He was a composer with a gift for writing catchy, tuneful melodies, with a witty and somewhat cynical view of the world, who composed dozens of operettas which were hits of the time in Paris, Berlin and London. The International Exposition of 1855 held in Paris made that city the toast of sophisticated Europe, and Offenbach's music was quickly adopted by every band in a city which was mad about dancing.

Offenbach was born in Cologne in 1819 (he was later known to his friends as "O de Cologne"!) and learnt the cello as a child. He was accepted into the Paris Conservatoire at an early age, but only lasted a year - he wanted to compose theatre music, not to study harmony. He played cello in the orchestra of the Opera Comique and later became conductor at the Theatre Français. He gradually won a reputation as a prolific composer of

light and humorous operettas, including "Orpheus in the Underworld", "La Belle Helene" and "La Vie Parisienne".

Despite the popularity of his operettas (he produced between three and seven per year!), he often lived beyond his means and was constantly on the run from his creditors. Only in his later years did he achieve some financial security, even though his popularity waned in Paris from 1871, the year of the Prussian invasion of France. He often travelled to London to perform his works and was immensely popular there. It was the presence of numerous Offenbach theatre pieces on the stages of London which galvanised Gilbert and Sullivan into starting their careers as men of the musical theatre.

"I have one horrible, invincible vice, that of working all the time. I regret it for the sake of those people who do not like my music, for I shall certainly die with a melody at the end of my pen." - Jacques Offenbach



Serenade to Spring

The AMVC, conducted by Bill Shaw and accompanied by Edward Kriek, welcomed springtime in fine style at the "Voices of Spring" concert on Sunday 18 September in the beautiful setting of the Concordia College Auditorium.

The Choir's program was based on songs related to spring and the passing of winter. Not surprisingly, the theme of love predominated, in traditional airs such as "My Luve is Like a Red Red Rose" as well as classical songs like Dowland's "Come Again Sweet Love" and contemporary pieces such as Milton Ager's "Ain't She Sweet". The diversity of songs gave the Choir the opportunity to demonstrate its interpretative ability across a range of styles, its technical skill and its sheer joy in singing.

Adelaide Light, the specialist ensemble within the AMVC, gave a polished performance of two classical pieces "April is in my Mistress' Face" by Thomas Morley and "Bon Jour Mon Coeur" by the

French composer Orlando di Lasso.

Guest artist at the concert was accomplished soprano and harpist Emma Horwood. Emma's purity of vocal tone blended beautifully with her delicate harp accompaniment in a delightful performance of various pieces ranging from Caccini's "Ave Maria" to the traditional "How Can I Keep from Singing".

The concert concluded with the AMVC singing a Lennon/McCartney medley, arranged for the Choir by Bill Shaw. The haunting and wistful melodies were a charming finale to an afternoon of lovely music.



Emma Horwood

Quiz night

Good fun was had by all at the annual Quiz Night, held in the RAAF Association Bowls clubrooms on Friday, 18th November.

The prizes for the raffle, beautifully wrapped by Rose-Ann Lawson and Judy Styles, were much appreciated by the participants (and particularly

the winners).

Colin Styles and John Lawson as quizmasters, kept the evening going and Judy and Rose-Ann kept the score.

Funds raised for the choir totalled just under \$500.



One of the teams on the quiz night.



Paul and Lyn Busuttill, winners of the first prize in the raffle - a basket of fresh, organic fruit.



