



In Harmony

Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
No 28 Spring 2008

PATRON:
His Excellency
Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce
AC, CSC, RANR
Governor of South Australia

PRESIDENT:
Colin Styles

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:
William Shaw

ACCOMPANIST:
Edward Kriek

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

TREASURER:
John Winnall

COMMITTEE:
Bruce Risby
Neville Roach
John Wear
Denis West (*Librarian*)

CONCERT MANAGER:
Neville Roach
Phone: 8332 1895

ALMONER:
George Fort
8258 4867

VICE PATRONS:
Myfanwy James
Margaret Lambert
Genty Stevens
Len Turner

LIFE MEMBERS:
John Lawson
Robert McLeay

Choir practices are held every
Monday from 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

Time flies when you are having fun.
That maxim can certainly be applied to the members of the AMVC this year. It has really been a busy, challenging and exciting one for us. So far this year the Choir has enjoyed the Queensland trip and concerts for the HOG Foundation, the National Trust series at Ayers House and other community groups.

The series of concerts held at Ayers House was a great experience. The historic venue gave us a chance to take a step into the past and to glimpse what life might have been like for the top echelon of our state in its early days. These boutique concerts were a new and exciting experience for us and our guest soloists. We and our audiences were treated right royally and all enjoyed a feast of good music and delicious suppers.

There is more to come. Firstly we have our **Spring Concert at Concordia College Chapel on 14 September at 200pm**. The Choir really enjoys working with and introducing to our audiences a number of different soloists during the year. At this concert you will have the chance to hear two young and exciting Adelaide singers Kate Wyatt and Robert MacFarlane. We would love you to join us for that event – and to bring some of your friends to what will be a most enjoyable afternoon.

In early October we are off to **Naracorte and Horsham** for a series of concerts, which will be fundraisers for projects in the local communities. I would like to thank those dedicated Choir members and partners who have spent much time in working on the logistics for this trip. Many thanks also to the hard-working community representatives in the host towns. These events would not happen without you.

We are also rehearsing new repertoire for our annual **Opera Banquet on 24 October**. This not-to-be-missed event is a highlight of the year and a night of good food, wine, friendship and music. We have a great deal of pleasure in inviting you to arrange for a group of your friends to make up a table and join us for the evening. Please refer to page 4 of this Newsletter for details about the function.

Our year's program comes to a close with concerts at Goolwa and Glynde and then our celebratory Christmas Dinner. So as you can see we have been busy and have not *let the grass grow under our feet in 2008*.

We have been delighted to have a couple of new members this year, and are always pleased to welcome new singers.

The year has not gone without a hitch however. A number of our members have not enjoyed a very good year as far as their health is concerned. Some have had some very serious illnesses and many others have suffered the ills that beset us each winter. It has been great to hear that they are well on the road to recovery, and it has been inspiring to see the way they have kept such positive attitudes and joined us at rehearsals as often as they could. A number of them have said that coming along and joining the fellows and having a good sing has kept their minds off their troubles even if it is for a short while. It is amazing what music and fellowship can do for one's state of physical and mental well being.

I thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at a number of our coming events - concert or social.

Colin Styles

"How I Joined the Choir" by Keith Hanks

Keith is a valued member of the Second Tenor section of the AMVC, and joined the Choir in 2001. He tells his story below.

I was first told about the AMVC by Bill Brooker (from the Bass section of the Choir), who mentioned that the Choir needed tenors. Although I did not have much choral experience, except when I was young singing in Chapel, I thought "nothing ventured nothing gained", so I went along to a practice night in October 2001. I was pleasantly surprised when after a short audition with the Choir Conductor Bill Shaw I was accepted as a Second Tenor. Fortunately I was able to read music, as I had been a bandsman in the Royal Hussars in the UK and played the French Horn.

Looking back over my life, it's strange how one thing led to another and how music ended up playing an important role in my life.

When I first left the Technical College, I felt like a square peg in a round hole. I tried a couple of jobs, one as a shoe salesman followed by window dresser but found it boring. I then attended an interview with the armed forces, and they asked me what I wanted to do. Because I loved music and had received piano lessons, it was suggested I might be able to join a military band.

It wasn't quite as easy as I thought to become a bandsman. Many of the others had joined much earlier as cadets, but I had to do military training first. For a while I thought they had forgotten about me, but I later found that the long delay (4 months) was because the Regiment I was posted to was currently in Germany but was due to be transferred to the Far East.

Finally I got six weeks leave and was given many inoculations (yellow fever etc). I received my posting to Malaysia. I then met up with the band and after trying a couple of instruments I finally settled on the French Horn. It was a bit difficult at first, but I persevered and got by as 4th player and ended up as 1st, which meant playing solo parts.

It was a good life abroad, if you could take to the high temperatures and the monsoons. Every six weeks we had to travel to Singapore to play for the Governor-General's many functions, but following our concerts we had a week off to go swimming and enjoy the high life of Singapore.

Those were the days, but had to end when your time came up and you either had to sign up for 7 years for training at Knellor Hall or return to the UK. I guess I missed my home comforts too much, so with some regrets I left for home. My two jobs in the UK were as a Chief Storekeeper and then as a civil servant.

Upon retirement, my wife Audrey and I decided to retire to Australia in 2000. Now I am enjoying life with the Choir and would recommend anyone with a love of singing to try it.



Young Keith and Audrey ready to dance the night away

GOOD LUCK, EDWARD!

The Choir is sad to be saying farewell to our Assistant Conductor Edward Ananian-Cooper. Edward is leaving SA to study choral conducting in Helsinki, Finland. We have really enjoyed working with him, and we have all learnt from one another. The experiences he has had with us will no doubt stand him in good stead as he furthers his career.

We wish him every success in the future and we look forward with a great deal of anticipation to hearing of his travels, adventures and musical experiences in Europe. It is gratifying for us to know that we have been a part of what promises to be an exciting life and career for him.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Our loyal supporters will be delighted to hear that the AMVC charity concert on Sunday 29 June raised the sum of \$1,774 in aid of the HOG (Helping Others Grow) Heaven Charity Foundation.

This donation will cover the costs of the life-transforming cleft lip and palate operation for at least five children in Nepal. The Foundation will give us a progress report on the children at a future time.

Many thanks to the Choir, guest soloists, and singers from Africa for an exhilarating concert, to St Stephen's Lutheran Church for waiving the venue hire fee, and to our wonderfully supportive audience.

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir - Some Interesting History

In 2008 the Choir sang at a number of new venues to many new audience members, many of whom asked about the history of the Choir and were interested in its foundation. Here is a summary of the history of the Choir, drawn from information in the Choir's records:

Prior to the foundation of the choir in 1884 the only musical societies for male singing in Adelaide were German Societies, the principal one being the Adelaide Liedertafel—which of course sang in the German language.

In 1884, following newspaper reports and correspondence deploring the fact that Glee Clubs based on English Societies were not formed, several gentlemen met in the rooms of Mr G Niesche, Photographer, of Rundle Street (at premises near the current Regent Arcade) and decided to form a Men's Society to sing in the English language. To stress this point they formed and named the "Adelaide English Glee Society", the conductor being Mr H Evans, a master at Prince Alfred College. The name was changed to the Adelaide Glee Club after a few years, and then to the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, as the term 'glee' was not well understood.

Programmes of the Club date back to the days of the English Glee Society. The first performance was to commemorate the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and for it members travelled by bullock dray to Clermandel Valley and sang there in a picnic setting. Later, the Choir helped raise funds for the Bushmen's Corps in the Boer War, for the Red Cross and other charities in World War I and "for any patriotic organisation" in World War 2.

Prior to the start of broadcasting in South Australia in 1924, the Choir gave 3 concerts a year in the Adelaide Town Hall. It has appeared for many years at the Cross of Sacrifice service on Anzac Day, and has supported many charities and community projects in Adelaide and the suburbs, and in country South Australia. In past years it took an active part in the performances of the Festival Choral Society, and has competed successfully in the Adelaide and Ballarat Eisteddfod Competitions.

Good fellowship, the mutual desire to enjoy male singing at a high level of performance skill, and the desire to give pleasure to audiences, have long been the aims of the Choir. To these may be added that of encouraging and supporting young performers to gain recognition on the concert stage. These aims have contributed to the long and continuous existence of the Choir and will no doubt enable it to continue its proud tradition through its second century of existence.

New Repertoire in 2008

The Choir has learnt a number of new pieces of music during 2008, including several from opera and operetta. If you were at our National Trust concerts or the Hog Heaven Charity concert, then you will be acquainted with some of these items. Our Conductor, Bill Shaw, says that there is so much music available in other formats that it is a pity not to arrange it for male choir and present it to our audiences, often with the help of our special guest soloists. He arranged a number of pieces for the Choir to use this year and here is some background to the operatic ones.

The Song of the Regiment (from *The Daughter of the Regiment* by Donizetti, originally for male chorus and solos).

Donizetti is well known for operas such as *Lucio di Lammermoor*, (in a production of which Joan Sutherland got her big break), but he also wrote several lighter works with charming melodies and much playful humour. *The Daughter of the Regiment* was written during a two-year stay in Paris beginning in 1838. Donizetti set the French libretto with as much ease as his native Italian, and composed a rich variety of musical pieces, delighting audiences with his lightness of musical touch. This piece brings together the heroine, Marie, and the men of the regiment, who take a sternly paternal role during her quest for love.

Finale Act 2 (from *Così fan Tutte* by Mozart, originally for mixed chorus and duet).

Così was performed for the first time in January 1790 in Vienna. It had a fairly successful first year, with presentations in Frankfurt, Prague, Leipzig and Dresden. Later however, many critics found the flippant attitude towards love to be unacceptable, and many attempts were made to "improve" it—even to the extent of using a completely different libretto in a performance in Copenhagen in 1826. Fortunately, we are now able to recognise the opera as a light-hearted romp, with occasional touches of irony.

The finale begins with this duet from Don Alfonso and Despina with a small segment for the chorus, which Bill has arranged to be sung by male chorus.

ART

A thief in Paris planned to steal some paintings from the Louvre. After careful planning he got past security, stole the paintings and made it safely back to his van. Only two blocks away, however, he was captured when his van ran out of gas.

When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and make such an obvious error, he replied:

"Monsieur, that is the reason I stole the paintings. I had no Monet...
to buy Degas...
to make the van Gogh...
I thought I had nothing Toulouse...!"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2008

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 14 2.00 pm Spring Concert Concordia College
45 Cheltenham St Highgate

OCTOBER

Saturday 4 7.30 pm Concert Town Hall, Naracoorte

Sunday 6 2.00 pm Concert Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Horsham, Victoria

Friday 24 6 for 6.30 pm Opera Banquet Martinhas Restaurant, TAFE
Light Square Adelaide

NOVEMBER

Sunday 16 2.00 pm Concert St John's Auxiliary
Centenary Hall, Goolwa

Thursday 27 7.30 pm Concert Glynde Lutheran Homes
Avenue Rd, Glynde

DECEMBER

Monday 1 7.30 pm Free for Friends St Stephen's Church,
152 Wakefield St Adelaide

2009

APRIL

Saturday 18 TBA Installation of Grand Entertainment Centre, Adelaide
Master, Masonic Lodge

Sunday 19 2.00 pm Concert Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir

**Spring
Concert**

Concordia College Chapel
45 Cheltenham Street, Highgate

2.00pm Sunday 14th September

with special Guest Artists: *Kate Wyatt* *Soprano*
Robert Macfarlane *Tenor*



'a pot-pourri of joyful singing at its best'

Tickets \$90 (Concession \$45; Supporting Friends \$15)
Available at the door or ph. 8332 1895 or 8332 1895

Tickets include

Concert Program and Afternoon Tea

OPERA BANQUET

An irresistible entertainment package of
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

Joanna McWaters and Andrew Turner
and the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
singing well known songs from opera and
operetta

WHEN: FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER 2008
AT 6.00 for 6.30 PM

WHERE: MARTINHAS RESTAURANT,
Adelaide TAFE, Light Square

COST: \$78 per head (includes canapés,
dinner, drinks and concert)

BOOKINGS: 8332 0449 or 8332 1895