

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

CONCERT MANAGER:
Neville Roach
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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

Much has happened since our last *In Harmony*.

Our Music Director, on being asked recently what it is like working with a Community Choir such as ours, said that there is never a dull moment, for things are always in a state of change— new repertoire, new performance venues, new members.

Membership

Numbers of our group have been travelling extensively within our beautiful country and overseas recently. They have now all returned safely, rested and refreshed ready to enjoy the music and company of the AMVC. It is great to have them back safe and sound and we look forward to their contributions to the rest of the year's programme.

We have welcomed some new members to our group and we have really enjoyed getting to know them. *On this point may I urge any of our Friends who may know of a male who enjoys singing to encourage them to make contact with any of the Choir members and talk with them about joining us.*

Events

Opera Banquet

What a great night that was!!! All who attended were treated right royally from the moment we arrived till the last of us left for home. The TAFE Trainees performed their tasks most cheerfully, courteously and unobtrusively. They were a credit to their supervisors.

Our soloists Deborah Caddy and Tasso Bouyessis delighted our guests and set the tone for a wonderful evening of music, food and drink.

An event such as this does not just happen and I would like to express my, and the Choir's, gratitude to Bill and Daina Shaw for their care and attention to all the details which are necessary for the success of such a venture.

This year's event was sold out within a few days so if you were one of those who missed out do not delay too long in making your booking for the 2007 event once it is advertised.

Concerts

The choir still has a busy time between now and the end of the year with a local concert at Glynde on November 23rd and then our next public concert at Concordia College Chapel at **2.00pm on November 26th 2006**. I urge you to make every effort to attend this our last major concert for the year.

2007

Planning is well under way for 2007. Please refer to the dates published elsewhere in this issue of *In Harmony* – we will keep you informed of any changes to concerts and social events.

* We are all looking forward to our new experiences with the Out of the Square Group and for the chance it has given us to widen our audience base.

* The release of a new CD.

* Plans are well advanced in performing with the Wellington Male Voice Choir in the latter part of the year. This New Zealand Choir is planning a trip to Victoria and South Australia and have sought to perform with us.

* A Quiz Night and film afternoon are being organised and we hope as many of you as possible will join with us for these social events.

Thank you

As 2006 draws rapidly to a close I would like, once again, to pay a tribute to our Music Director William Shaw, our Accompanist Edward Kriek, our Committee and Choir members (and their partners) for their support and encouragement during the year.

I would also like to thank the personnel of Concordia College for their generous assistance and co-operation and also the people of St Stephen's for the most gracious way they have accepted us as part of their community.

I thank you, Friends of the AMVC, for your consistent support and look forward to it continuing throughout 2007, and on behalf of the members of the AMVC I wish you the compliments of the Season.

Colin Styles
November 2006

MARK TUCKWELL: AMVC JAZZ VOCALIST

Mark Tuckwell is a member of the second tenor section of the Choir. He is a smooth jazz vocalist, and has delighted our audiences at solo nights and concerts.

Mark was born in Adelaide in 1961 and spent his early years in Victor Harbor, Murray Bridge and Goolwa. Below is a brief summary by Mark of some of the major events in his life.

"My first recollection of any musical involvement was attending singing rehearsals with my mother at the Murray Bridge CWA. She was, on occasion, involved with amateur theatre.

During my earlier years one of my main interests was simply riding my bike, a Malvern Star 5 speed Dragster. I collected empty beer bottles and saved enough (\$68) to buy the bike. In fact, I still have it today. I refurbished it just last year and now, when Di and I are out riding, she nearly always receives looks and comments.

In 1974 I started learning the piano, and in my final High School year I took up the Bongos, which I enjoyed immensely.

In November 1979 I joined the RAAF and was posted to Edinburgh, then Melbourne, where I was promoted to Corporal, and subsequently to No 1 Aircraft Depot in Laverton, where I was promoted to Sergeant.

Even though I would have very much liked to have continued my interest in percussion, living in small rooms on Base wasn't conducive to this. However, I did join a theatre group, which commenced whilst I was at Laverton, and quite enjoyed my part as a villain in a melodrama. It was during this production that I gained confidence in my vocal abilities. I'd never taken singing lessons, but had sung myself to sleep as a child and would nearly always have a song in my head.

I left the RAAF in late 1989 and undertook some radio announcing work, but realised after a while that radio wasn't for me. I enjoyed

Cranky Music Definitions

Applause: Noise made by the audience (often at the wrong time) to express a desire to end the performance and go home.

Encore: A nasty method by which performers get back at the audience for its feigned appreciation in the form of applause. Audiences would be well advised not to applaud at all, so that everyone can get home that much sooner.

voicing commercials, and there were some businesses that expressly requested my voice to be used, but straight on-air "dribble" was really, really boring!

The period 1992 to early 1993 was one of those 'soul-searching' times and even though I wasn't working, there were some positives. I completed several computer courses at the local Skillshare Centre, where I met my good friend, Alan, who's been a great help to me in keeping my old cars going. I also bought a pair of Congas and other hand percussion instruments and began taking regular lessons in Adelaide with Peter Overall.

In 1993, I accepted a position with Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services (OARS SA), a Christian-based welfare organisation which endeavours to assist ex-offenders and their families.

I was involved (acting, singing and playing percussion) in a small OARS theatre production on the theme of what problems are faced by ex-offenders on their release from prison. The play was successful and further Arts funding was obtained in order to stage a larger production in 1994, which coincided with a criminal justice symposium being held in Adelaide. This second production, staged as 'promenade theatre' at the Old Adelaide Gaol, was a sell-out.

I was later involved with long-term unemployed youth in the Morphett Vale, Noarlunga and Hackham areas through the Landcare and Environment Action Program (LEAP), until late 1996.

Whilst with OARS, I started driving

their Cadell Bus on Sundays. This service transports mainly the wives, girlfriends and children of inmates to the Cadell Prison, near Morgan. That was in 1995 and I continue to do this today.

From 1997 to 2005 I took on a position as a Live-In Care Worker with Minda.

Whilst in Adelaide, I took singing lessons from several teachers, the final one being Jacki Cooper, who led me to the AMVC, which I joined in November 2002. Under Jacki's tuition, I was placed Second in the Contemporary Vocal Solo Open Section at the 2002 Balaklava Eisteddfod.

In early 2000 I started doing some temporary work with the ATO and later in the year was successful in securing a permanent position. Winning this position has really changed my life! I met my partner Di there, and then bought a house in Goolwa in 2004. I would hope now to remain with the ATO until retirement.

Life at the moment is fairly full. I work six days a week, plus two nights and I travel to Goolwa each Saturday to spend time with my aging father and aunt. When there's time, Di and I enjoy walking, riding, astronomy and photography. At other times, I might tinker with my cars or continue storing my ephemera collection."



Mark admires the countryside from the bonnet of his vintage Valiant

Another "Musical Moment" from our Conductor:

We have been enjoying quite a lot of opera and operetta in the past months, so I thought you might like a little background on the very popular operetta, *Die Fledermans*, composed by Johann Strauss. The AMVC includes a number of choruses from *Die Fledermans* in its repertoire.

During the nineteenth century the centre of comic opera was Paris, mainly due to the popularity of Jacques Offenbach and his long list of amusing shows, including *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *La Belle Helene*. These operettas were popular not only in France but in Britain, the United States and most European countries, including Austria. French operetta had a defining influence on the taste and musical expectations of the cultured Viennese, and they were wildly enthusiastic about the Offenbach shows produced in Vienna. Soon, Austrian composers began to look at the possibility of writing and producing comic operas of their own. This was the golden age of the Hapsburgs, the most prosperous of the European royal families at the time.

Johann Strauss was the best known Viennese composer at this time, mostly because of his ability to write waltzes and polkas for performance by his popular dance orchestra. This music fed the craze for dance music throughout Europe. He knew Offenbach well and set about writing an operetta in the popular vein with the blessing and encouragement of "O de Cologne" (as Offenbach was cheekily known). The result was the composition of *Die Fledermaus* (The Bat), which was first produced in 1874.

It is the story of a man devising a witty revenge against a friend who had got him drunk one night and left him by the roadside dressed in a bat costume. The perpetrator of that practical joke is tricked into unknowingly flirting with his own wife at a gala masked ball.

Die Fledermaus was not very popular in Vienna to start with, and it was not until it was a hit in Berlin and London that the Viennese changed their minds. It then became a firm favourite and has remained so ever since.

Recording Sessions

Some time ago the Choir was able to record a number of songs in the ABC studios, thanks to the generosity of the management of the ABC. Since then we have mastered a number of new pieces which we would like to record. The Choir has also developed a firm relationship with Concordia College and those of you who have heard us sing there will know that the Chapel is a very pleasing place to sing in. Accordingly, we have scheduled a block of rehearsing and recording time towards the end of January when we will record this repertoire. Our longtime friend and experienced recording engineer, Rick Palma, will be attending to the technical aspects, and will no doubt be covered in earphones for a couple of nights as we tape this music. Then will begin the task of listening, selecting, re-recording and making a final choice of material for a new AMVC CD. Look out for the release of this exciting achievement during 2007.

Garage Sale Success

Our thanks to all the hard workers who contributed to the success of our fund-raiser garage sale on 4 November.

It took a lot of planning beforehand as well as work on the day and of course that exhausting chore of clearing up afterwards.

Special thanks to Mrs Irene Glaros who very kindly provided her front garden as the venue for the garage sale.

The AMVC Treasurer is smiling, so we must have raised enough money to keep the wolf from the door—or at least to buy some new music for the Choir!

Good Health!

Singing is definitely a health-giving activity—it expands the lungs, clears the head and lifts the spirits. Nevertheless, some of our stalwarts have succumbed to illness recently, and we very much miss having them with us. We wish them a steady recovery and look forward to seeing them up and about again as soon as possible.

Christmas Dinner 2006

The AMVC Christmas Dinner will be held at the Glenelg Golf Club on Friday 15 December starting at 6.30 for 7.00pm.

It's always a very enjoyable affair for the Choir and their families and friends, and the opportunity to celebrate together at the end of a very busy year.

The cost of the dinner is \$35 per person, and bookings need to be made by contacting a Choir member (not the Golf Club) by the beginning of December.

We would be delighted to welcome you to the AMVC Christmas Dinner.

Goolwa Concert

In what has now become a happy tradition, the Choir presented a concert at the Centenary Hall in Goolwa on 12 November as a fund-raising event for the St John Goolwa Auxiliary. This is the fourth year we have performed there, and we were delighted to find a warm audience and a sunny afternoon, after the fierce thunder storm which had battered Adelaide the previous night.

The Choir, conducted by Bill Shaw and accompanied by Edward Kriek, entertained the audience with songs ranging from folksongs to spirituals to opera to musicals. Assistant Conductor Edward Ananiam-Cooper conducted several of the pieces, and it was nice to see him back after his overseas travels.

Our guest soloist was Tasoo Bouyessis, who won all hearts with his superb voice and stage presence as he sang songs from operetta and also Gounod's beautiful *Ave Maria*.

New Look

You will have noticed that we have a new design for the front page of *In Harmony*. We thank Choir member Ian Hunt and his son Steve for the work they have done on creating and realising the new design, and Pamela Barry and her staff at KwikKopy Un.ey for the final adjustments and printing help.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

| | | | |
|-------------|--------|---------------|--|
| Thursday 23 | 7.30pm | Concert | Glynde Lutheran Homes 24 Avenue Rd Glynde |
| Sunday 26 | 2.00pm | Opera Concert | Concordia College 45 Cheltenham St Highgate |

DECEMBER

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|-----------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Friday 15 | 6.30 for 7.00pm | Christmas Dinner (Bookings through the Choir) | Glenelg Golf Club |
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FEBRUARY 2007

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|-----------|--------|----------------|----------------|
| Sunday 25 | 2.00pm | Film Afternoon | Glenelg Cinema |
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MARCH

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|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Tuesday 13 to Monday 19 23rd ? | | Out of the Square Popular concerts | Various venues |
| Sunday 18 | | Choir BBQ | |

APRIL

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|--------------|---------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 15 | 2.00pm | Concert | Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church |
| Wednesday 25 | 11.00am | Anzac Service | Cross of Sacrifice |

MAY

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|-----------|---------|------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 20 | 2.00 pm | Music of Stage and Screen | Concordia College 45 Cheltenham St Highgate |
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JUNE

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| Sunday 24 | 2.00 pm | Concert | Tranmere Parish (Venue to be advised) |
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Adelaide Male Voice Choir Inc.

Opera Concert



CONCORDIA COLLEGE CHAPEL
45 Cheltenham Street, Highgate

2.00pm

Sunday 26th November, 2006

A rich blend of favourite arias and choruses,
from opera, operetta and musicals

featuring the superb voices of
Prue Hompas : Soprano
Tasso Bouyessis : Tenor

Conductor : William Shaw
Accompianist : Edward Kriek

'An unforgettable experience to touch your heart and stir your soul'



Tickets, \$18 Friends and concession, \$15
available at the door,
or phone 8332 1895 or 8270 2628