

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
Neville Rouch
John Wenz
Denis West (*Librarian*)

CONCERT MANAGER:
Neville Rouch
Phone: 8332 1895

VICE PATRONS:
Myfanwy James
Margaret Lambert
Ginty 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.

From the President

Welcome to 2007 with the AMVC. On behalf of all the members of the Choir I wish all our Friends a happy, prosperous and successful 2007. I thank you for your support in the past and hope that it will continue this year.

Rehearsal Venue

It seems hard to believe that at this time last year a group of us were frantically searching for a new rehearsal venue (our home for many years at the Grote Street Church was no longer available due to work being commenced for the new Adelaide Bus Terminal). Eventually we were offered practice facilities at St Stephen's, Wakefield Street Adelaide where we have been welcomed most graciously. Nothing has been too much trouble for them and we really feel at home. We hope that this association will continue for many years to come. With our move from Grote Street came other problems. Where was the Committee to meet that was in a central location? Andrew Shaw came to our rescue and made his offices available to us. We really appreciate his generosity. And where could we store our extensive and very valuable Music Library?

One of our most loyal Friends came to our aid and that difficulty was overcome.

Many thanks go to these two benefactors.

What's On in 2007?

2007 has already got off to a busy start with two recording sessions being held in January. We anticipate that we will release a new CD during the year. Watch out for the release date.

The *Out of the Square* concerts in March will be a completely new venture for us and we are looking

forward with much excitement to these events in venues from Port Noarlunga to Elizabeth.

Concordia College has become the home for our major concerts. We really do appreciate the College's support and enjoy its wonderful atmosphere. I would suggest that you mark in your diaries the dates of our scheduled concerts and bring your friends to afternoons of wonderful music (dates are published elsewhere in this newsletter.)

I would like to thank those wives and Friends of the Choir who have worked so tirelessly as front of house people and Afternoon Tea providers. These are two ways in which our Friends have helped the smooth running of our concerts. Plans are already in place for our Opera Banquet and as places are limited by the size of the venue I urge you to pencil in the date in your year planner and make your bookings as soon as they are opened.

Membership of the AMVC

I would urge any of you who have male acquaintances who are interested in singing to contact one of the Choir members who will be happy to introduce them to our Director of Music. As many of our members also do quite a bit of travelling during the year we would like to increase our membership in each section of the Choir. Membership fees are not exorbitant and the fun and fellowship we have together is worth at least twice as much.

Thanks

I would like to thank all the members of the Choir for their support in 2006 and in particular the members of the Committee for their sustained encouragement and work on behalf of the AMVC and we look forward to another year of enjoyment and musical excellence.

Colin Styles, President

WEB ADDRESS: amvc.org.au

MY LIFE AND TIMES – By Ian Hunt.

Ian Hunt is a valued member of the Baritone section of the AMVC. He is a tireless worker for the Choir, and his computer skills are very useful in transforming Bill Shaw's hand-written scores into readable music. Here is Ian's description of his life and times:

"I was born very young, in Adelaide S.A. nearly 74 years ago. My parents were full-time Salvation Army Officers. As a result of their work we moved around quite a bit, living at Victor Harbor, Millicent, Peterborough and Moonta Mines.

I was only about 5 years old when we moved to W.A. and I lived in that lovely state right through my primary school years. We moved from Northam to Midland Junction from where Dad was called to serve as a Red Shield Officer with the military.

Very memorable was our move to Narrogin, Mum, my brother and I, to live with my maternal grandparents (who had had 9 boys and 4 girls). They had a large property on the edge of the town and quite a collection of animals—a horse, cow, dogs, chickens etc., as well as an orchard, bees and fresh honey. It was fun to run down to the cow-shed, with our mugs in our hands, when Grandma was milking the cow. We really did know where milk came from, unlike some of the younger present day children. Grandad had built a room for himself onto the side of the house, and it was a great privilege to be asked inside. It was like nothing that you would see anywhere else and was completely lined - walls, floor, ceiling and the inside of the door - with kangaroo skins. Shotguns and a rifle hung on the walls.

At Narrogin I first saw the World War 1 memorial that carried the name of Grandma's eldest brother David, who had died whilst serving in France.

A later move to Merredin saw us in yet another enjoyable country town. Then came the cessation of WW2 and the return home of Dad. His next appointment was to Melbourne, Victoria with various moves within that city. My secondary education was at Wesley College.

At just under 18 years of age I signed for a 6 year term in the Army, rather than doing Compulsory National Service. I enjoyed my time as a member of the Royal Australian Signal Corps, with several interesting postings, including 18 months of training at the Army School of Signals, Balcombe, Victoria. Following my Army service I continued "Defence" work as a civilian, working at Head office of Dept. of Defence Production Planning Branch, Melbourne, and later with DSTO Salisbury, 7 years at Woomera, initially with NASA and then the Missile Range, followed by return to Adelaide.

Thoughts of this work recall some quite exciting incidents, such as involvement with some of the early NASA satellite launches (circa 1962), chasing kangaroos across a desert landing strip, whilst low flying in an RAAF Winjeel trainer aircraft, and my first ride on

an RAN Patrol Boat, "HMAS Aware", dashing through fairly high seas to the rescue of a downed RAN helicopter off the east coast. (This did not deter me from later flights in helicopters.)

Whilst in the Army, and after discharge, living in Melbourne, I played Aussie Rules football. I did have one "VFL" match. (To be truthful, it was actually a practice match with Fitzroy and I didn't make the grade.) I then played with Northcote in the "VFA".

So, now to matters musical. My early connection with the "Salvos" certainly brought me to grips with plenty of opportunity for such activity. I had studied piano for some time, played various brass instruments in one of the best bands in Melbourne and sang in the local "Songster Brigade" as well as performing vocal solos. My mum had a beautiful singing voice and sang almost incessantly. She was a very accomplished musician, playing piano, organ, piano-accordion and cornet.

I had been a solo singer for some time with a jazz band in Melbourne, performing mainly for weddings, birthday parties and similar events. This was great fun. In the intervening years, until retirement at sixty, I had not forgotten my love of music but had experienced little personal activity along such lines. I decided to take up singing again. One of my treasured memories was to be one of a 1,000 Voice male Choir singing at a Millennial Male Voice Festival in the Royal Albert Hall, London. I enjoy very much singing in the baritone section of the AMVC and hope to continue for a deal more time until my voice either wears out, or our very patient Musical Director, Bill Shaw, sacks me for my continued interjections!

Might I also add, finally, and with some pride, that my Mother, a very committed Christian and still with a good voice, was eventually admitted to hospital following a severe heart attack. The night before she passed away she went around various wards on her walking frame singing her Gospel Songs to the "sick people".

By the way, I also enjoy telling stories. Have you heard the one about?"

Ian gets ready for his next tall story...



ADELAIDE MALE VOICE CHOIR

KEEP INFORMED!

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir has a full and exciting programme planned for 2007.

To keep up with this programme of events and concerts you need to receive the Newsletter *In Harmony*. As well as giving you information about our activities and members, we let you know of coming performances well in advance so that you can put these dates in your diary.

As you would appreciate, it costs money to produce, print and post the Newsletter, which is in addition to the normal recurring expenses (eg purchase of new music, tuning the piano, rehearsal room rental, insurance etc) involved in running the Choir.

You can help support the Choir in its activities and gain special privileges for yourself by becoming a **Supporting Member of the AMVC Friends**. For an annual donation of \$10 per household, you will receive, in addition to our Newsletter *In Harmony* :

- Ticket discounts for the three major public concerts this year: "Music of Stage and Screen", "Voices from Heaven" and "Highlights of Opera and Operetta"
- The opportunity to see the Choir at work, by attending an open rehearsal
- Invitations to special social events organised by the Choir

Supporting Members will be sent a Membership Card which they are asked to produce for discounts at the above concerts.

Please make payment by cheque or money order made out to the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. You can also give money and the completed form to any of the Choir members to pass on to the Treasurer.

Please note that if you have already kindly made a donation to the Choir for this year, you will automatically be included in the list of Supporting Members of the AMVC Friends. We very much appreciate your support.

(Cut here and send)

ADELAIDE MALE VOICE CHOIR

Registration form for

Supporting Member of the AMVC Friends

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please post with your \$10 donation to: Mr J Winnall
AMVC Treasurer
4 Duggan Ave
Glengowrie SA 5044

Have (electric) Piano, Can Go Everywhere!

We have had some difficulties with transporting our grand piano to some venues, and for some time the Committee has been investigating the possibilities of buying a portable piano that would enable us to have more flexibility in performing in places where there is no good piano available. Our good friends at Winston Music (where we bought the grand piano) gave us an excellent deal on buying a Yamaha electric keyboard. It meets our very exacting requirements for a portable instrument, and we will use it for the first time in public at some of the *Out of the Square* concerts. We hope that this purchase will open up more venues for our performances, and will give us some new and interesting sounds for our accompaniments. At present, Ed Kriek is getting into the swing of using the keyboard, and we're all finding out what it can do. Come to our concerts to check it out yourself.

Assistant Conductor Flies Back In

Our assistant conductor, Edward Ananian-Cooper has returned recently from a performance tour of England singing with the St Peter's Cathedral Choir. We understand that the performances were many and varied, with special highlights being those in York Minster and at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The Choir, comprising about thirty singers, was away for about two and a half weeks. Edward thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and we are proud that he was part of the touring group. Welcome back to the AMVC for 2007, Edward.

The English Language

A few plural peculiarities :

We will begin with box, the plural is boxes
But the plural of ox should be oxen not oxes;
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese
Yet the plural of mouse would never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse, or a whole nest of mice.
But the plural of house is houses, not hices.
If the plural of man is always called men
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
The cow in the plural may be called cows or kine
But a bow if repeated is never called bine.
And the plural of vow is vows, not vine.
If I speak of a foot and you show me two feet
And I give you a boot, would the pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and the whole set are teeth
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?
If the singular's this and plural these
Should the plural of kiss ever be kesse?
Then one may be that and two would be those
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose.
And the plural of cat, cats not cese.
We speak of brother and also of brethren
But though we say mother we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine she, shis and skim.
So English, I think that you will agree,
Is the funniest language that you ever did see!

Thank you to a Benefactor

Sincere thanks to Mrs Alison Coulthard, a special AMVC Friend and benefactor. Mrs Coulthard is a dear friend and former neighbour of our Musical Director Bill Shaw and family and has been a loyal supporter of the AMVC for two decades. She is now in her 90s and has moved to a nursing home, but maintains a keen interest in the activities of the Choir and continues to support it with generous donations. These donations have helped the Choir with the purchase of new music and new concert folders and contributed to the piano fund.

Whose music are we singing?

He was born in New York on September 26, 1898 and died in Hollywood on July 11, 1937. His family were Russian Jewish immigrants, and he was the second of four children.

He began learning the piano at age 12 and had a classical training in piano technique, before beginning to earn his living as a "piano pounder" at the publishing firm of Remick in Tin Pan Alley. Later he recorded dozens of piano rolls for mechanical piano. His first hit song was *Swanee* in 1919.

From 1924 he wrote a series of musical comedies, including such favourites as *Lady Be Good* and *Girl Crazy*.

His first "classical" work, written for piano and orchestra, was performed with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra in New York in 1924. If I tell you that it was *Rhapsody in Blue* you are sure to know who we're talking about!

He lived in Paris for a year and composed *An American in Paris* while there. His most famous stage work was *Porgy and Bess*. Know who we're singing? Of course, it is George Gershwin.

You may be amused by a story about one of Gershwin's favourite songs "Liza" from *Showgirl* (1929). It was sung by Ruby Keeler in the original production, and when the show opened, her husband, then unknown in show business, ran up and down the aisles singing it with her. That was Al Jolson, who later became well-known as the singer of the Gershwin hit *Swanee*.

The Choir has included a Gershwin selection in its repertoire for the first half of this year and we thoroughly enjoy presenting this music to our audiences.

A Must for Your Diary

"Music of Stage and Screen"
Concert by the
Adelaide Male Voice Choir and guest Soloists
2.00 pm Sunday 20 May 2007

Concordia College
45 Cheltenham St
Highgate

Afternoon tea provided

Don't Miss "OUT of the SQUARE" Concerts!

This month the AMVC is performing at a series of daytime concerts at a variety of venues and times designed to allow us to reach a big new audience. Be part of this exciting new series—the dates and times are below. Entry is \$10 per person for a concert lasting a little over an hour, with the opportunity to hear the Choir with our guest soloist Kirsten Johnston.

- Tuesday 13 March at 11 am at the Marion Cultural Centre, Diagonal Rd, Marion
- Tuesday 13 March at 2 pm at the Star Theatre 145 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Hilton
- Wednesday 14 March at 11 am at the Arts Centre, Gawler St, Port Noarlunga
- Thursday 15 March at 2 pm at the Golden Grove Arts Centre, Cnr Tenison Place and The Golden Way, Golden Grove
- Friday 16 March at 11 am at the Parks Arts Centre, Cowan St, Angle Park
- Monday 19 March at 1.30 pm at the Shedley Theatre, Playford Blvd, Elizabeth.

This is an ideal opportunity to hear the AMVC presenting a pleasant concert of choral favourites, and to meet the singers. We will have CDs of our earlier concerts available for sale at each venue. Tickets should be booked in advance at the individual venues. See you there!

**Join Adelaide's Answer to "Il Divo":
The Adelaide Male Voice Choir**

Five tenors? Ten Tenors? We have all of those, plus Baritones and Basses as well!

The Choir is a welcoming, social and happy group and we are always pleased to invite new members. We like to maintain a good strong core of singers, particularly to allow some flexibility to cover for those adventurous members who are away on overseas or interstate trips during the year.

If you think that you would enjoy singing with the Choir, you would be welcome to come as an observer to one of our rehearsals, or if you would like to join in the singing then we could arrange a short audition with our Musical Director, Mr Bill Shaw, to place you in the appropriate section of the Choir.

We will be having "Open House" for new members during April this year. We rehearse from 7.45pm to 9.45pm every Monday evening in Saint Stephen's Lutheran Church Hall, 152 Wakefield St, Adelaide. Please make yourself known to any of the Choir members when you arrive. If you would like to join in the rehearsal, please come at 7.15pm for vocal placing.

If you are not able to join yourself, but know of someone who might be interested, please draw this information to his attention.

We look forward to seeing you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH			
Tuesday 13 to Monday 19		Out of the Square Popular Concerts	Various venues (see above)
APRIL			
Sunday 15	2.00 pm	Concert	Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church
Wednesday 25	11.00 am	Anzac Service	Cross of Sacrifice
MAY			
Sunday 20	2.00 pm	Music of Stage and Screen	Concordia College 45 Cheltenham St Highgate
JUNE			
Sunday 24	2.00 pm	Concert	Clayton Wesley Church The Parade, Norwood
AUGUST			
Sunday 12	2.00 pm	Voices from Heaven	Concordia College 45 Cheltenham St Highgate
OCTOBER			
Friday 26	6.00 for 6.30 pm	Opera Dinner	Martinhas Restaurant TAFE, Light Square Adelaide