

**PATRON:**

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

**PRESIDENT:**

Colin Styles

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:**

William Shaw

**ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR:**

David Lang

**ACCOMPANIST:**

Edward Krick

**JOINT SECRETARIES:**

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

**TREASURER:**

John Wear

**COMMITTEE:**

John Dick  
Neville Roach  
John Winnall  
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](http://amvc.org.au)

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Welcome to the Winter edition of *In Harmony*.

**Assistant Conductor**

This year we welcome **David Lang** as our Assistant Conductor. We are very happy to have him join us and we look forward to having a long association with him. David is an accomplished all-round musician, and is currently completing his Bachelor of Music degree, majoring in Composition. Several of his compositions have been performed in Adelaide. David has fitted well into his role with the Choir and his contribution is much appreciated.

**March and April Highlights**

In March we took up yet another new challenge when we performed a lunch time concert for the Music Matters Program in the foyer of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. What a different experience that was for us in that we did not have a set, seated audience. It was extremely pleasing to see so many people stop and listen for a while as they went about their daily work or when they visited friends in hospital. It was fun too to have some of the passers by sing along for a bar or two (including a fellow with his leg in plaster, who joined in *Oh What a Beautiful Morning* as his wheelchair passed through the foyer—it was great to see how positively he was handling his current health issue). We heard that our music travelled upwards though the building and so those unable to come to the foyer could still enjoy our offering. We would like to congratulate the organisers of these lunch time concerts. What a great idea for patients, visitors, staff and performers.

In April we had one very busy weekend when we had the honour of singing at the Installation of the Grand Master,

Freemasons of SA and NT at the Entertainment Centre on the Saturday and then to perform for our friends at Elizabeth Grove the next day.

We also had the privilege of joining the Salvation Army brass group in leading the singing at the Cross of Sacrifice on ANZAC Day. We heard from many people afterwards that they had found the song *In Flanders Fields* very moving.

**Coming Events**

We return to the Concordia College Chapel for our **Music from Heaven** concert on 14 June. I urge you to bring your friends to this concert and enjoy an afternoon of heavenly music.

Later in June and early July we are venturing once again to **Ayers House** for a series of two **Winter Concerts**. You are sure to be delighted by the music and the historic setting.

We are all looking forward to our **Celebration Concert** with the **SA Police Band** in Elder Hall on **27 September** (Please note the change of date for this concert.) Don't miss out on the chance to enjoy a great afternoon as we both celebrate 125 years of providing music continuously to the people of South Australia. The Concert will be in support of the Freemasons Foundation Centre for Men's Health. The Grand Lodge is also in its 125th year.

**Supporting Friends**

Thank you to the Supporting Friends who have already renewed your membership of this group. It is great to know that we have your continued encouragement.

*Colin Styles*



**INTRODUCING EDDY WAGNER**, a member of the second tenor section of the Choir.

I was born on 9 November 1931, the youngest of nine in the North London borough of Stoke Newington. My schooling was limited owing to the Blitz and evacuations.

I started work at the age of 15 in the Art and Printing department of a large menswear firm (Meakers Ltd), then became disillusioned when the only artwork was printing SALE posters. I made a complete change of direction and became a laboratory assistant in the Physics Department of Queen Mary College.

At the age of 18, I reported for National Service, where I was trained as a Signaller in the Field Artillery. After extensive training, I was posted to a Regiment that was embarking for Cyprus, in readiness to go to Persia (Iran) at the request of the Shah. But before we could go we received a report of terrorists attacking installations along the Suez Canal. I was sent with an advance party to prepare a camp for the rest of the Regiment. After three months of observing the Egyptian army in the Sinai desert, I was demobbed and then had to start three and a half years in Territorials (Hon. Art. Comp.) and had to get used to being addressed as "Gentlemen"!

I decided to go back into the Art field again and found employment with two manufacturers of offset litho machines (Addressograph Ltd for 12 years and Gestetner Ltd for 3 years). During this time I met and married my wife Doreen, and we had a son, Robert. Because the schools were full we decided to answer Australia's advertisements and were accepted. We sold our little terrace house in Tottenham and sailed for Australia!

We learnt of two set-backs on the voyage. One was that we were to be separated—my wife with other women and a baby along with my son, and I with five other men; and secondly that we would have to sail around the west coast of Africa as the Canal had been closed. This meant only two stops, Cape Town and Fremantle, and five weeks at sea. We finally arrived in Adelaide after an all-night journey by bus from Melbourne (there was a rail strike). My wife chose a new RDC house in Para Hills the very next day; imagine my alarm not even knowing where we were, and no job yet! I was told that I would have to go to Sydney, but not wanting to exchange one big city for another, I asked RDC if they knew of any jobs in another trade, and was told that the State Library required bookbinders. When I applied they said that I would learn on the job and then be assessed as to whether I was to remain or not. Well, I remained for 23 years until I retired in 1991. The last ten years I worked as a conservator binder for the Mortlock Collection.

Unfortunately, my wife died in 1986 after 8 years of kidney failure, so I have been a widower ever since. My son works for the West Australian Government as an Artist Designer.

I heard about the Choir from David Evans on the radio in 2003 and turned up the same night as Keith Gooley, who had heard the same broadcast.



*Eddy, you can't take that on stage!*

#### **MORE NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ARCHIVES**

As I research the history of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir in the archives held at the State Library, I am fascinated by the way that the Choir documents reflect the events and issues of the times. Two examples are included below:

The Choir kept meticulous records of attendance at rehearsals. Absences were marked in red ink, and a row of absences resulted in a "please explain" letter. If no satisfactory explanation was received, the member was struck from the rolls. I noted however that an exception to this strict rule was made in 1915 for prisoners of war, who were allowed to stay on the books for the duration of the war, without having to send a written apology!

During the Depression years of the early 1930s, it became evident to the Choir that some of the members were going through particularly hard times. A decision was made to waive the membership fee for anyone who had lost his job or whose business was struggling. Members whose fees had been waived were still considered full members with all rights and privileges, including voting rights.

What comes strongly through all the documentation over the years is the spirit of friendship and supportive fellowship among the Choir members.

**Bill Shaw (Director of Music, AMVC)**



# Voices from Heaven

presented by  
The Adelaide Male Voice Choir

## A concert of favourite sacred music



Concordia College Chapel

45 Cheltenham St, Highgate

**2.00 pm, Sunday, June 14, 2009**

Conductor: William Shaw

Accompanist: Edward Kriek

Deputy Conductor: David Lang

Soloists:

Emma Horwood (Soprano)

Robert Macfarlane: (Tenor)

David Perry: (Baritone)

Tickets \$20, Concession \$18  
Friends/Group \$15  
available at door or  
through Concert Manager  
Neville Roach (8332 1895)  
Afternoon tea provided



## Heavenly!

The next performance by the Choir is the well-known and loved "Voices from Heaven" concert of favourite sacred music. This event will feature three fine soloists who have sung with us before—soprano Emma Horwood, tenor Robert Macfarlane and baritone David Perry.

The Choir and soloists will present many well known favourites ranging from Parry's *Jerusalem* to several choruses from Haydn and Vivaldi, specially arranged for the Choir by Music Director and Conductor, William Shaw.

Edward Kriek is our accomplished accompanist, and you will have a chance to meet our new Deputy Conductor, David Lang, who will be directing the Choir through several pieces in the programme.

This is the first major concert for the Choir in our Celebration year, having provided the citizens of South Australia with 125 years of quality music. We trust that you will be able to join us for this concert and to bring some friends as well.

Afternoon tea is provided!

## Winter Warmth at Ayers House

Following our very successful Ayers House concert series last year, we have been invited to present two concerts there during the winter season this year. These are events not to be missed!

For the first concert we are joined by soprano Joanna McWaters, who is well known to our audiences for her glorious voice and sparkling stage presence. Together, Joanna and the Choir will present a programme of favourite pieces from musicals and operetta, including well-known songs of Gershwin right up to Lloyd - Webber's *Memory*.

The second concert will feature some interesting aspects of the long history of the Choir, including some snippets of local interest, some of the gossip of the time, and songs drawn from the whole 125 year period. We have had a good deal of enjoyment finding and learning some of the music which the Choir (known in earlier days as The Adelaide Glee Club) sang at different times, and re-living what it must have been like at some of those rehearsals and performances. Ayers House is the ideal place to immerse yourself in the history of the Choir and to enjoy the music.

And there's supper and wine to keep you warm!



NATIONAL TRUST  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

presents

## The Adelaide Male Voice Choir

at Historic AYERS HOUSE



### Favourites of Stage & Screen

7pm Friday 26 June

From Gershwin to Lloyd Webber, featuring soprano soloist Joanna McWaters.

### 125 Years

7pm Friday 10 July

Celebrate the Choir's 125th Anniversary with a performance of popular pieces from the Choir's long history.

#### Tickets (including wine and supper)

Full	\$29.50
Concession	\$28.00
National Trust Members	\$26.50
Children under 16 years	\$16.00

#### 2 Concert Package

\$100 for two people for both concerts

*Great savings in return for your support!*

Bookings essential - please phone Ayers House on 8223 1234



## Dates for Your Diary 2009

### June

Sunday 14	2.00 pm	Voices from Heaven Concert	Concordia College Chapel 45 Cheltenham St, Highgate
Friday 26	7.00 pm	Winter Concert 1	Ayers House North Terrace Adelaide

### July

Friday 10	7.00 pm	Winter Concert 2	Ayers House North Terrace Adelaide
Sunday 26	2.00 pm	Concert	Great Hall Elizabeth Civic Centre

### August

Sunday 2	2.00 pm	Concert	Glenelg Uniting Church Jetty Rd Glenelg
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### September

Sunday 27 [Please Note change of date]	2.00 pm	Celebration Concert	Elder Hall University of Adelaide
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### October

Friday 9 to Sunday 11		Various Concerts	Proposed tour to Sydney
Friday 23	6.00 pm	Opera Dinner	Martinhas Restaurant TAFE, Light Square

### November

Sunday 1	2.00 pm	Concert	Goolwa Institute Goolwa
Friday 13 to Sunday 15		Proposed visit by the Buderim Male Choir (Queensland) Concerts to be notified	
Thursday 26	7.30 pm	Concert	Glynde Lutheran Homes Avenue Rd Glynde

### December

Monday 7	7.30 pm	Free for Friends Concert	St Stephen's Lutheran Church 152 Wakefield St Adelaide
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## 2010

### March

Sunday 21	2.00 pm	Concert	Malvern Uniting Church
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These dates are accurate at the time of printing, but sometimes concert dates have to be changed because of unavoidable circumstances. Please check with future editions of *In Harmony*, or ask a member of the Choir. Other concert dates may be added from time to time.

*In Harmony* (the Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir) is published 4 times per year, in March, June, September and December.

From a programme for the Choir in 1932:

"Doctors say that cheerful people resist disease better than glum people. In other words—it's the surly bird who catches the germ!"