

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 Kriek

JOINT SECRETARIES:

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

TREASURER:

John Wear

COMMITTEE:

John Agnew
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:

www.amvc.org.au

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first edition of *In Harmony* for 2010. On behalf of all the members of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir I welcome you to another year of fine choral music.

Renewal Time

It's that time again! Time to renew your subscription as a Friend of the AMVC. **You will find a Membership Form inserted in this Newsletter.**

Thank you to our continuing supporters for your loyalty during 2009. We look forward to catching up with you again during 2010.

Welcome to new 'Friends' this year.

We look forward to meeting you.

You will be pleased to know that we have kept the Annual Membership Subscription to \$10 per family. This, I think you will agree, is a very modest charge, as membership entitles you, on presentation of your red card, to discounted entry charges for our celebration concerts and early notification of dates of concerts and social gatherings as well as the quarterly editions of *In Harmony*.

Once your membership fees have been processed you will receive your Friends card for 2010.

Web page

Thanks to Peter Schulze and Keith Gooley, who have maintained an up-to-the-minute web site showing concerts and event dates. You do not have to wait for the next edition of *In Harmony* to find out what is going on. Simply log on to our site www.amvc.org.au and go to the area in which you are interested.

Back to Rehearsals

Our 125th year was certainly a busy one and so after the well deserved end of

year break we are refreshed and excitedly preparing new programmes for your enjoyment. We are very fortunate in being able to continue to rehearse at St Stephen's. It is a central venue for us all and we have enjoyed the facilities which are so willingly provided for us. Since the beginning of the year we have been very pleased to welcome a couple of new members to our group. This is good to see, **but we would dearly love to have more men join us.** As you would be aware, a number of our members are at that stage in their lives when the lure of that overseas or interstate trip cannot be denied and this affects the number of choristers available for some of our concerts.

The AMVC aims to provide excellent choral music to the people of South Australia for many years to come. A strong membership will support this aim, so please see what you can do to encourage your musical mates to come to a rehearsal and enjoy the chance to sing with men who have fun singing and socialising.

Recognition and Congratulations

At the annual Christmas Dinner the following members were recognised for their contribution to the Choir over the last 25 years:

William Shaw, Bill Gough and John Beare.

What a wonderful achievement this is. We would like to thank their wives for the support they have continued to give their husbands and the Choir over this period.

Diary Dates

You will be aware that the majority of our concerts support community and /or charity groups and that very few concerts or events add financially to the AMVC's funds.

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From the President (cont'd)

Two fund-raising events for the Choir are:

- **First Celebration Concert on 30 May** at 2.00pm at the Concordia College Chapel
- **Opera Dinner on Friday 22 October.**

After a number of years this gala event is expected to return to the Regency Park Campus. Those of you who have attended in the past will know what a wonderful evening this is, while those who have not been able to join us should make every effort to be with us! It is indeed a memorable evening of fine music and food.

Do put these dates in your Diary now and plan to join us and keep your eye on the web page as more concert dates are confirmed.

We look forward to seeing you again this year.

Colin Styles

CELEBRATION CONCERT 2010

“Around the World in Song”

presented by
The Adelaide Male Voice Choir

A delicious musical journey around the world's singing nations with Choir and Soloist. Hear the magnificent singers of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir perform a selection of interesting and popular songs drawn from many countries.

Sunday 30 May 2010 at 2.00 pm
Concordia College Chapel
45 Cheltenham St
Highgate

Tickets will be available from Choir members from 6 April, or phone Neville Roach on 8332 1895. Full price \$20, Concession and groups \$18, Supporting Friends \$15. Ticket includes afternoon tea.



George Fort is a member of the Baritone Section of the Choir and is our Almoner. Here in his own words is his story, which he has entitled:

“The Raving Memories of an expat Geordie”

Born, apparently with all the correct appendages, [my mum having had a baby of the female persuasion some 9 years earlier] in the right place but at the wrong time. Having been expected the previous day my mother had finally had enough of the laborious ordeal and delivered me in the early hours of April 1 1933. Who was the bigger fool, myself or my mother, was never determined throughout our lives but I have many school reports in which the word fool appears.

My first 7 years were spent developing strong character and dialect in the place of my birth, Blackhall Colliery, a small coastal coal mining village in Co. Durham. Many incidents come to mind from that time but perhaps the mention of just three is enough.

One early Saturday evening "me da" sent me down for a 6 penny bag of Cadbury's Chocolate Drops. Skipping out of the shop and crossing the road, I was knocked down by a car! As everything was delivered by horse and cart in those days this made me famous throughout the realm. No serious injury.

Whilst walking the next door neighbour's dog on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, the colliery "buzzer" sounded. Disaster at the mine? Paddy, the dog, and I ran all the way home, him just beating me. War had been declared and everyone was listening to the "wireless" - 3 September 1939.

Every year the Durham Miners Gala was held in a meadow in the beautiful city of Durham. The venue was overlooked by both Durham Castle and Cathedral, on the bend of the River Wear. All collieries had a brass band and these paraded through the city together with their large Miners Union banners and as many of the villagers who could follow. A service was held in the Cathedral and a glorious day was enjoyed by all.

The following 2 years were the most confusing in my life. My father was suffering from a chest complaint, possibly a form of silicosis, and had to get out of the mine. He was directed to Coventry to work in a factory and we joined him shortly after, I think sharing a house with a friend of a friend. But fate was against us, as air-raid attacks damaged the house in which we lived, so we moved to Nuneaton. From there we watched Coventry blaze during the blitz, also receiving many raids ourselves. My school was turned into a refugee area and we had compulsory holidays for what seemed months.

My father's firm, among many others, moved its factory from the city into the little village of Lutterworth in the beautiful countryside of Leicestershire. Something like two hundred families were moved into this village in an area of asbestos, portable housing. The schools initially couldn't cope, so a spell off school extended our holidays. The war seemed a million miles away here, but allied troops passing through and

a major bomber base nearby kept the youth interested. I enjoyed many years in Lutterworth, wandering the countryside with small groups of friends at every opportunity revelling in the freedom of space. I attended Lutterworth Grammar School where one of the houses was Wycliffe, named after John Wycliffe, and one of our governors was Lord Cromwell, a descendent of Oliver Cromwell.

Having matriculated, I left school and moved to Loughborough at the age of 17 to take up Mechanical Engineering as a profession, since they paid you in that profession but you had to pay to train with a Chartered Architect. Eventually I finished my training and worked in a design office on materials-handling devices, cranes, hoists, lifts, conveyors etc. I met Sheila at a firm's dance, rescuing her from a pest of an apprentice supervisor. We were married almost a year later and had our first child, Carol, in May 1954.

I left Loughborough in 1957 to work near Saint Albans. But Carol missed me at home so I moved back to Loughborough, working as a design engineer in two of the local firms. I applied for part time teaching in the local Tech College and they offered me a full time job in 1959. Our first son, Nigel, was born in 1959 and Carol started school, so it seemed a convenient time to change direction.

I enjoyed 9 years teaching in England, having thought that I had found my niche in life. The family had enjoyed further additions of second son, Andrew, in March 1961 and second daughter, Alison, in October 1964. We were a happy family but I was about to change all of that. Sheila's parents and family had been in Australia since 1952 and her father had died here in 1956. I had itchy feet and wished to emigrate to Canada or Australia. No one else really wanted to move, but Sheila worked on the children and convinced them.

So we emigrated leaving Southampton, in snow, by ship on 23 December 1968, Sheila's birthday, and arriving in Melbourne on Australia Day weekend 1969. Transported to Adelaide by Overland and greeted in Adelaide by family in 90 degree heat. We spent the first two weeks in a church house in Medindie, experiencing the usual records for hottest February night 85F for 80+ years and the wettest February weekend, over 5 inches of rain!

We moved to Salisbury and have remained in the area. Sheila, although she was offered a job of draughtsperson at one of WRE's contractors, was unable to take it up due to child commitments and no support system. It took me nearly 3 months to get a job, as although I had been promised work with local TAFE they were not ready for me. Eventually I worked as a contract design draftsman at Treggonins and ICI, I did design work on APPM in Burnie, Tasmania and lime kiln and salt harvester at Osborne.

Having won a position of lecturer in 1970, I spent 23 years with the Mech Eng Department in TAFE, both at Kintore Ave in the city and Regency Park Campus.

We took over the course of Mechanical Technician Certificate in 1970 which eventually became the Associate Diploma. Initially we and the Department had problems, as most of the new intake of lecturers had been in positions of responsibility and decision making in industry and caused problem for heads etc. That was sorted over the next 2 or 3 years and I settled in to enjoy my life in TAFE. I managed to reach Principal Lecturer position and was responsible for Mechanical Engineering Design when I retired in 1994.

Our children by that time were spread around a bit. Carol was completing her PhD at Adelaide Uni, Nigel was in Rome as a Military Attache with the RAAF, Andrew was a mental health nurse and Alison was in London as a Graphic Designer. All were married and by that time we had 5 grand children.

We both enjoyed our retirement travelling, volunteering and general hobbies. I'd always been interested in music and singing, and it was after a concert at Elizabeth in 2004 that I saw Sheila talking to David Evans & Ian Milbank and I found she'd "dobbed me in". I came to the practice on the following Monday, Bill Shaw suggested Baritone and the rest, as they say, is history. Unfortunately, Sheila died having seen me perform in only one concert but I am glad she spoke with David and Ian. I have thoroughly enjoyed the companionship of the fellows in the Choir and hope to have many more years of enjoyment. How can I keep from singing?



Anyone for a jazz number?

Help!! Have you any space?

The Choir has a large library of music, which is constantly being used and updated. At present it is stored at the house of one of our Friends, who has kindly provided space for us for a number of years. It is possible that this arrangement will not be available to us if this person moves to other premises, and so we are requesting help from Friends who may have secure storage space available, preferably close to the city, where we could store the library. If you do, and can help us in this way, please contact either Bill Brooker (8297 6724) or Denis West (8353 6359).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

***** Please Note—the concert scheduled for Sunday March 21 at Malvern Uniting Church has been cancelled and postponed to a later date, yet to be finalised. *****

April

Sunday 18	2.00 pm	Concert	Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church
Sunday 25	11.00 am	Anzac Service	Cross of Sacrifice, Adelaide

May

Sunday 30	2.00 pm	Celebration Concert	Concordia College Chapel 45 Cheltenham St, Kingswood
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July

Friday 2	7.00 pm	Concert	National Trust, Ayer’s House North Tce, Adelaide
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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 go to the AMVC website at www.amvc.org.au. Other concert dates will be added through the course of the year.

Music Donation

The Choir has been fortunate in receiving a donation of music from Max Kent and his brothers John and David. This considerable store of music scores belonged to their mother, Mrs Olive Esther Kent, who recently retired from an active music life in Port Pirie. Mrs Kent (nee Kilmier) attended Teachers College in Adelaide (she was in the same class as Colin Thiele and Keith Michell), before beginning primary school teaching in Kimba and Nairne, and then moving with her husband to Port Pirie.

She taught singing to many young people and was the musical director of the Pirie Elizabethan Society, which was active in producing Gilbert and Sullivan, light opera and musicals over a long period. The music given to the AMVC includes many of the scores used by her for these productions. Several of Mrs Kent’s singing students were successful in gaining entry to the Elder Conservatorium to pursue further study. For many years she was also the choir mistress for Ridsden Park Methodist Church.

Over her teaching life of 60 or so years Mrs Kent gathered a wide collection of music, which her sons have now sorted through and given to the AMVC.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Kent family for this generous gift and look forward to some of the songs being used by Choir members as solos, or to be arranged and included in the Choir’s repertoire.

Seeing that our next **Celebration Concert** has an international theme, we thought you might enjoy this story:

An Irishman walked into a shop and asked “Can I have some Irish sausages please?”

The assistant looked at him and asked “Are you Irish?”

“If I had asked you for Italian sausage, would you ask me if I was Italian?” demanded the Irishman indignantly. “Or if I asked for German bratwurst, would you ask me if I was German?”

The assistant answered defensively “Well, no.”

Encouraged by the success of his logic, the Irishman stepped it up a gear. “If I asked you for a taco, would you ask me if I was Mexican? Or if I asked you for frogs’ legs, would you ask me if I was French? What about Danish bacon, would you ask me if I was Danish? Would you? Would you?”

“Well no, I probably wouldn’t”, conceded the assistant.

Burning with righteous indignation, the Irishman demanded “Well, all right then, why did you ask me if I’m Irish, just because I asked for Irish sausages?”

The assistant replied “Because you’re in Mitre 10”.