

PATRON:
His Excellency
Rear Admiral Kevin Searce
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 (*Librarian*)
Neville Roach
John Winnall

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

As I looked out at some gum trees twisting and turning, straining against a wintry sky and being lashed by the stinging rain, words from Shakespeare's *As You Like It* came to mind:

*Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude.*

I thought how different that sentiment is to the feeling of comradeship that is a real and tangible part of being a member of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. This year, and more particularly this winter, has taken a heavy toll on our members and their partners. Severe health issues have meant that some of our members have not been able to play as active a role in the Choir as they have in the past. I now speak for us all when I say we have missed them very much and hope that when the weather becomes more pleasant they will be strong enough to add their voices and support to all we do.

We have all been very saddened recently by the death of Marie Cooter, wife of Dr Bob Cooter, one of our First Tenors. She was one of our keen and faithful supporters, and we will miss her cheery smile and generous help and support. We offer our most sincere condolences and love to Bob and his family.

Recent concerts

We were joined by tenor soloist Tom Brennen at Concordia College Chapel for a musical Trip Around the World. I would like to thank our spouses and partners for supplying a most delicious afternoon tea and acting as our front-of-house staff. I also thank the College for the opportunity to perform in their lovely Chapel. Other performances have included a free lunch-time concert at the Flinders Street Baptist Church, a very happy evening with the members of the Adelaide Music Club, when the Choir was joined by our delightful soloist Deborah Caddy, and a Pleasant Sun-

day Afternoon at St Peter's Anglican Church in Glenelg, when the talented young baritone Blake Parham was our guest soloist.

Future events

The next couple of months will be exciting ones for us.

We are really looking forward to joining with the glorious voices of Deborah Caddy and Andrew Turner at our **Opera and Operetta Concert at 2.00pm on Sunday 12 September at Concordia College Chapel, 45 Cheltenham Street Highgate**. I do hope that you will take the opportunity to bring some of your friends as you join us for what promises to be an afternoon of inspiring music. Tickets are available from Choir members or by ringing our Concert Manager Neville Roach on 8332 1895. On a much more informal night, we challenge you to match your wits and general knowledge with us at our **Quiz Night at St Joseph's School Hall, cnr Birkenshaw Ave and Magill Road Tranmere, starting at 7.30pm on 17 September**. Why not get your friends and relations together and form a table of 10? Of course, if you can't make up a table just come along and we will match you up with some other friends. The entry charge is \$10 per person, and you are encouraged to bring your brain-enhancing supper and drinks to add to your fun and atmosphere. Bookings are through Neville on 8332 1895.

The Choir's SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR is the **Opera Dinner to be held at 6.00 for 6.30 pm on 22 October in the Leilani Room at the Allan Scott Park Morphettville**. It will be a memorable evening of fine music and food. Don't miss out on this highlight of the year! Please see page 3 for details. Other special concerts are listed in the *Diary of Events* on page 4.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you soon.
Colin Styles

David Egarr is a member of the Second Tenor Section

"What seems only a few years ago I saw an advertisement in an association magazine inviting men who enjoyed music to try out a male choir. I made a call, spoke with a bloke with a Welsh accent and decided to give it a go. David Evans met me and introduced me to a number of the blokes and after a short 'pitch check' I was slotted into the second tenors, the most difficult and technically demanding section by far (or so I think).

I have a fairly esoteric musical appreciation, probably a legacy of my parents who both had strong musical backgrounds. My father loved singing and you could easily hear his distinctive voice at church. He had been a member of the Glenlea Singers and regularly sang in the Glenlea's on a 50's radio programme called Radio Canteen. Dad met my mother at Radio Canteen. She was the panel operator - the first female panel operator in Australia evidently. Mum also loved music and was an accomplished pianist, playing the organ at church for years.

My parents had joined a number of other 'DN' people who used to meet regularly twice a year. When my father died, I took Mum to the reunions, which I think I enjoyed more than she. A number of times I found myself in tears of laughter over a number of stories that were told. I felt like I was in a David Williamson play. Rick Palmer, known to the Choir for his recording and producing prowess, co-arranged the reunions, and when my mother died, kindly played a tribute to her on Radio RPM with an original recording of a Radio Canteen programme. It was the first time I had heard a programme and I suddenly understood my parents' and their friends' humour - it was straight out of Radio Canteen.

I remember that our house seemed to be always full of music, not the least when my brothers and I took piano lessons. Mum had learnt from a lovely gentle Scottish lady, Dorothy M McGregor, and enrolled us to also learn the rudiments of music from her. Miss Mac, as we all called her, not only taught us to play, sing on key and perform, but also politeness and basic life etiquette. All Miss Mac's students at an early stage had to learn to play what was then called the National Anthem (God Save the Queen), for which each took turn to open our joint theory classes. You knew you were getting older when you could finally play a full octave on the bass part.

I had a period where I studied guitar, however that was at a time when I discovered girls, rock concerts, dances (if you call it dancing), surfing, drive-in theatres and mostly girls. My mother set up a girls choir at church and encouraged me to play the guitar with the choir on odd occasions. There wasn't much encour-

agement needed, as the choir was full of er girls. There was little time for study and practice, so I resorted to just listening to music and well er girls. Around that time I discovered jazz, extending my musical appreciation. My brother and I with a friend used trot off to the Pizza Palace, as it was in those days, on Anzac Highway Ashford on Saturday nights where Blair Schwartz, Norman Koch and a bloke on the drums played jazz. We could have a pizza, listen to live music, drink beer and check out the girls.

I always had a love of flying and in my late teens spent a bit of time and money getting an unrestricted pilot's licence. I was at a Cessna Club fly-in at Port Lincoln and saw a bloke called Chris Sperou chucking a little re biplane (Pits Special) around the sky. I was a bit like Toad of Toad Hall and soon after got endorsed for basic aerobatics. Not long after I met a girl who stole my heart. We spent a week in Waikerie learning the fine art of gliding and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, but alas that was before kids. Susan and I were married in 1977 and followed up with four children after an appropriate time, of course. We have four adults now and yes you can guess, three of them are er girls. A bit over a year ago, my son and daughter in-law blessed us with a granddaughter, who has certainly changed our lives.

After my father died, I found myself at a bit of a loss and turned back to a lot of the music of the 50's and earlier for some reason. I have always loved music and had wanted to be reacquainted in musical performance, so joining the AMVC became a great opportunity.

I have found a fantastic camaraderie amongst the members of the Choir and been fortunate enough to join with some of "the rebels" on occasions. The camaraderie, music and ability to be part of musical performances has been much welcomed over recent years, for which I feel fortunate."



David with the girl who stole his heart

Adelaide Male Voice Choir

Opera Concert

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

Deborah Caddy: Soprano
Andrew Turner: Baritone

2.00 pm Sunday 12 September 2010

Concordia College Chapel
45 Cheltenham Street, Highgate

Conductor: William Shaw
Accompanist: Edward Kriek

Tickets \$20; Concession \$18; Friends \$15
Available at the door, or phone
Neville 8332 1895 or John 8260 2814

Adelaide Male Voice Choir

Quiz Night

For a really enjoyable evening of fun with the Choir, family and friends, you can make up your own table of 10, or we can place you at a table with other guests

This is a fundraising night for the Choir and the cost is \$10 per person, so round up your friends, pack a few drinks and nibbles and join us for a great social night

Friday 17 September 2010 at 7.30 pm

Venue: St Joseph's School Hall,
cnr Birkenshaw Avenue and Magill Road
Tranmere (Bus stop 16)

Bookings through Choir members or phone
Colin 8270 2628 or Neville 8332 1895

Adelaide Male Voice Choir

Spring Concert

for the National Trust
at historic Ayers House

An exciting range of songs and featuring our popular guest soprano soloist
Prue Hompas

7.00 pm Friday 1 October 2010

State Dining Room
Ayers House
North Terrace, Adelaide

Tickets:
Full \$29.50; Concession \$28.00;
National Trust Members \$26.50;
AMVC Friends \$26.50;
Children under 16 years \$16.00

Book through Ayers House on 8223 1234

Adelaide Male Voice Choir

Opera Dinner

An irresistible package of superb food 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

Presented with the combined talents of guest operatic soloists and the Adelaide Male Voice Choir singing popular pieces from opera

6.00 for 6.30pm Friday 22 October 2010

Leilani Room at Allan Scott Park
Morphettville

Tickets: \$80 per head (welcoming beverage and canapés, concert, three course dinner, with cash bar facilities). Free parking available.

Bookings essential
Phone Colin 8270 2628 or Neville 8332 1895

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September			
Sunday 12	2.00 pm	Celebration Concert 2 "Operatic Highlights"	Concordia College Chapel 45 Cheltenham St, Highgate
Friday 17	7.30 pm	Quiz Night	St Joseph's School Hall Cnr Birkenshaw Ave and Magill Rd, Tranmere
October			
Friday 1	7.00 pm	Spring Concert	National Trust Ayers House North Terrace, Adelaide
Friday 22	6.00 for 6.30 pm	Opera Dinner	Leilani Room, Allan Scott Park. Bookings essential.
Wednesday 27	1.00 pm	Concert	Minda Homes, 12 King George Ave, Brighton
November			
Thursday 25	7.30 pm	Concert	Glynde Lutheran Homes Avenue Rd, Glynde
December			
Monday 13	7.30 pm	"Free For Friends" Concert	St Stephen's Lutheran Church 152 Wakefield St, Adelaide

These dates are accurate at 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.

Where's David?

Some of you have asked about the whereabouts of our Assistant Conductor, David Lang, at recent events. We are happy to tell you that David won a short-term journalism scholarship with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, which has taken him interstate for a few months. We are very pleased that he has had this opportunity and look forward to hearing of his experiences on his return.

In Harmony readers will be interested to know that David is having some pleasing success as a composer. One of his works "Song without words" for flugelhorn and piano was performed in Adelaide in June this year, and the ensemble piece "How McDougal Topped the Score" in July.

Miriam Hyde—A personal insight

As many of you know, our Director of Music, Bill Shaw, has spent many interesting hours in the State Library researching the past history of the Choir and has included some historical anecdotes in various editions of *In Harmony*. Quite a few readers have mentioned how much they enjoy reading these notes. Following the Winter 2010 edition of *In Harmony*, Bill was very pleased to hear from one of the Choir's friends, Mrs Pamela Gissing, in relation to the note he had included about the Choir having given a special fund-raising concert in 1932 for the purpose of helping send Miriam Hyde, the well-known Australian pianist, to London for further study.

Mrs Gissing sent Bill copies of a warm correspondence she had with Miriam Hyde in 1985, in which the famous pianist wrote in a sincere and friendly way about herself, her interest in language, her philosophy of life and above all, the importance of music.

The following quote from Miriam Hyde's letter is particularly relevant and meaningful: "I am not what you would call a religious person, in any conventional sense; but throughout my life I have had a firm belief that, in this world in which trouble seems to multiply (and is doing so at present in so many countries) MUSIC can be a vehicle for good, to combat in some small way the powers of evil".

We are very grateful to Mrs Gissing for taking the trouble to write and to share this special correspondence with us, and we thank her most sincerely for her good wishes to the Choir.