



In Harmony

Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
Number 43

Winter 2012

PATRON:

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

VICE PATRON:

Peter Goers

PRESIDENT:

Colin Styles

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw OAM

ACCOMPANIST:

Edward Kriek

JOINT SECRETARIES:

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

TREASURER:

Denis Harper

COMMITTEE:

John Agnew
John Dick (*Librarian*)
Neville Roach
George Willcox
John Wear

CONCERT MANAGER:

Neville Roach
Phone: 8332 1895

ALMONER:

Bruce Risby
Phone: 8298 8828

LIFE MEMBERS:

Myfanwy James
Margaret Lambert
John Lawson
Robert McLeay
Genty Stevens
Len Turner

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

Since my report in the last *In Harmony*, we have put our time together to good use in preparing for and presenting a number of concerts, as well as enjoying one another's company.

A lunchtime concert in the foyer of the Royal Adelaide Hospital has become a traditional start to our year. Feedback from the Hospital indicates that we have brightened the day of many patients and their visitors, as our music floats upwards into the wards.

On 22 April we performed our very popular concert featuring selections from Gilbert and Sullivan and *Les Miserables*. We were delighted to see so many of our loyal longstanding Friends at this concert and also to see a number of new faces. It was encouraging to see the smiles as different songs brought back memories. Thank you to our partners for the willing assistance they give us on these occasions, by providing and serving afternoon tea and taking on front-of-house responsibilities.

Our participation in the Anzac Day service at the Cross of Sacrifice is a very special tradition for us, and particularly for those of our number who have been involved in the armed services.

On 27 May we were pleased to present *Music from the Stage*, as a benefit concert to help raise funds towards the redevelopment project at St Stephen's Lutheran Church. The audience was treated to some of our favourite opera choruses and to selections from Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. It was our way of showing our gratitude for the wonderful hospitality and co-operation we have received from St Stephen's during the years we have held our rehearsals in their hall. The extensive rebuilding will commence shortly, so we are now looking for a temporary rehearsal venue in a central location.

On 3 June we were invited by the or-

ganisation DonateLife to perform at a Service of Remembrance "to remember the special people who have donated organs and tissue for transplantation and to acknowledge the generosity of the families who have given others a chance at life". This was indeed a moving experience for us all and we feel honoured to have been a part of this service.

On 24 June we had a *Pleasant Sunday Afternoon* concert at St Philip's Anglican Church in North Brighton. It was a very rainy day, but we had a warm welcome from the people at St Philip's. Many thanks to all those involved in organising the event and providing the wonderful afternoon tea.

Future Happenings

We have a busy schedule planned, so please put the Diary Dates (page 4) into your diary now, so you do not miss out. On **Saturday 28 July** we are holding a Cabaret with a 1940s-50s theme. We invite you to make up a table and have a relaxing time with us. Details page 3. On **Friday 10 August** we have been invited to be part of the Opening Ceremony of COTA's Expo for SA Member Clubs. Details on page 4.

On **Wednesday 15 August** we are looking forward to joining students from the Brighton Secondary School Special Music Centre in their concert in the Elder Hall. Details on page 4.

On **Sunday 16 September** we are holding our third Choir Concert for the year, entitled *Nostalgia! Music from the 1920s and 30s*, featuring the popular jazz vocalist Luke Thompson. This is a concert not to be missed! Details pg 3.

I thank Bill, Eddie and the Choir members for their continued support in helping to provide a real and vital part of the cultural life of our State. Many thanks to you, our Friends, for your loyal support. (It's not too late to renew your membership, if you haven't done so already.)

Colin Styles

VICE PATRON: PETER GOERS

As announced in Edition Number 42 (Autumn 2012) of *In Harmony*, Mr Peter Goers has been elected to the position of Vice Patron of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, under the Choir's revised Constitution.

Peter is well known in the South Australian community for his involvement in and support for the arts, and for his energetic promotion of a wide range of community endeavours. His career has spanned over 35 years in the entertainment industry, and his talents have been put to good use in a variety of media, including television, theatre, radio, and print. He currently hosts the radio program *The Evening Show* on 891 ABC Adelaide and is a columnist for the *Sunday Mail* newspaper.

As a schoolboy, Peter showed a talent for acting, and while at Findon High School he appeared as the Artful Dodger in *Oliver!* at the Woodville Town Hall. In later years, he worked in the theatre in Adelaide as an actor, director, designer, and playwright. In a recent email to AMVC Conductor Bill Shaw, Peter wrote about his love of community arts performed in a variety of part-time halls. "Halls are very important. So is art. I'm still the Artful Dodger. I love the theatre, as the song says 'and never come late'. I've toiled in it my whole life".

Peter has expressed his pleasure in taking on the role of Vice Patron of the Choir: "I look forward to working with your wonderful Choir and acknowledging its great work for and with so many for such a long time". We are delighted to welcome him to the Choir family.



This Wikipedia photo of Peter Goers conducting a live public radio broadcast shows the urbane and friendly style which has made him such a well-known and popular South Australian identity.

BRAVO TO OUR SOLOISTS!

The Choir has long maintained a tradition of inviting talented young vocal soloists to participate in its concerts, singing items with the Choir and also solos and duets. Many of them sing with State Opera, in oratorio, musicals and on the concert stage. We have built up warm bonds with them, sometimes over a decade or more, and we greatly value their vocal skills, enthusiasm and energy.

At our concerts held so far this year, we have been delighted to renew our acquaintance with Deborah Caddy, Joanna McWaters, Adam Goodburn and Andrew Turner, who have each added their individual touches and sparkle to our performances.

A new voice for us will be that of Luke Thompson at the *Nostalgia: Music of the 1920s and 30s* concert on Sunday 16 September. Luke is Director of *The Adelaide Connection Jazz Choir*, and a very polished and popular jazz vocal soloist in his own right. Our audiences are sure to enjoy Luke's smooth style, and we welcome him to the AMVC community.

Another source of good singers is, of course, the Choir itself, and over the years we have enjoyed hearing members from the Choir performing also as soloists at some of our concerts.

We acknowledge all our soloists and thank them for the contribution they make to our musical presentations.

Did you hear the one about....?

The AMVC takes no responsibility for the following two items, and in fact cannot see their relevance at all:

Q: What is the difference between God and a conductor?

A: God knows He's not a conductor.

A community orchestra was plagued by attendance problems. Several musicians were absent at each rehearsal. As a matter of fact, every player in the orchestra had missed several rehearsals, except for one very faithful oboe player.

Finally, as the dress rehearsal drew to a close, the conductor took a moment to thank the oboist for her faithful attendance. She, of course, humbly responded: "It's the least I could do, since I won't be at the performance".

An Adelaide Male Voice Choir Social Event

Come to the Cabaret!

**Join us for a fun-filled evening of cabaret-style entertainment
featuring music of the 1940s and 50s
Jazz Band
Salsa Dancers
Popular Instrumentalists
Prizes**

WHEN: 7.30pm on Saturday 28 July

WHERE: St Joseph's School Hall, 1 Birkenshaw Avenue, Tranmere

**Tickets are \$15 each and are strictly limited. Bookings are essential:
Phone Neville 8332 1895**

**Make up a table of eight or we can place you with a convivial group of people.
(Dress in party mood, with a touch of 1940s or 50s if you wish!)**

BYO nibbles and drinks. Tea and coffee will be available.

An Adelaide Male Voice Choir Performance

**Nostalgia Concert
Music of the 1920s and 30s**

**A concert celebrating the music of the glorious Charleston era of the 1920s
and the white-tie-and-tails sophistication of the 1930s**

**Co-compered by Peter Goers (AMVC Vice Patron) and
William Shaw OAM (AMVC Conductor)**

With soloist Luke Thompson, an acclaimed jazz vocal performer

Sunday 16 September at 2.00 pm

**Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School,
South Terrace, Adelaide**

Tickets \$20; Concession \$18; Financial Friends \$15

Tickets from Choir members, or phone Neville on 8332 1895 from August 10

Dates for Your Diary

July			
Saturday 28	7.30 pm	Cabaret Evening (Bookings essential) Details page 3	St Joseph's School Hall 1 Birkenshaw Ave, Tranmere
August			
Friday 10	9.30 am	Opening of the COTA Expo	COTA, Hutt St Adelaide
Wednesday 15	7.30 pm	Concert with Brighton Secondary School Special Music Centre (Tickets: \$10.00 Phone Bill 8332 0449)	Elder Hall, University of Adelaide
September			
Sunday 16	2.00 pm	<i>Nostalgia Concert: Music of 1920s and 30s</i> Details page 3	Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School, South Tee Adelaide
November			
Monday 5	7.30 pm	Concert for Adelaide Music Club	Tropeano Function Centre 443 Tapley's Hill Rd, Fulham Gardens

These details are accurate at the time of printing, but sometimes dates or venues have to be changed because of unavoidable circumstances. Please check with future editions of *In Harmony*, go to our website (amvc.org.au) or ask a member of the Choir. Further concerts and events through the year will be announced as arrangements are confirmed.

The Music of the 1920s and 30s - "Jazz and all that"

By 1925 recording of popular music was in full swing, especially since the invention and commercialisation of electronic recording and re-playing of popular artists. Never before had it been possible for so many ordinary citizens to hear the great performers, singers and instrumentalists. Composers and artists churned out song after song from Tin Pan Alley, and the world danced as never before.

The 1920s songs still hold their charm and energy, reflecting as they did a frenetic gaiety which probably hid the poverty and uncertainty of the post-War period. Several successful composers were writing music for public use, whether as straight songs for singing and playing at home, for film or for the musical stage shows—George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter.

The Charleston was, of course the most popular dance of this period, even though it had apparently first made its appearance in the early years of the century. It featured in the all-negro Broadway musical *Liza* in 1922 and in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1923.

The sleek sophistication of the art deco period of the 1930s was an opportunity for performers like Fred Astaire and his dance partner Ginger Rogers, Al Jolson, Al Bowlly, and Noel Coward to bring a new, more restrained and polished presentation to their songs. Band leaders like Paul Whiteman worked with larger groups and added more complicated harmonies to give a greater variety to their music.

It was during this period also that improved recording techniques meant that clearer and more accurate performances were possible on discs, and film producers demanded that the improved techniques should be available for films. Many of the songs written for use in films became popular pieces for the general public, and performers like Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby and Jack Buchanan sang songs in films which became hits during the 1930s.

We'll be presenting a number of the very popular songs from this era of music with the help of our soloist Luke Thompson at our concert on Sunday, September 16 (see page 3 for details). It is a concert not to be missed!