



In Harmony

Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
Number 48
Spring 2013

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AC, CSC, RANR
Governor of South Australia

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Choir practices are held every
Monday from 7.30 pm to 9.45 pm
at Immanuel Lutheran Church,
139 Archer St, North Adelaide

WEB ADDRESS:

amvc.org.au

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Spring edition of *In Harmony*.

From the outset I thank you for your continued interest, encouragement and support. We really do appreciate it.

Recent Events

Leopold Stokowski, a famous British orchestral conductor, is credited with saying that "a painter paints pictures on canvas, but musicians paint pictures on silence". I realise just how true that statement is, when I look back on our *Sing into Spring* Concert, where we were joined by two of the choirs from the Young Adelaide Voices. The programmes presented by both groups transported us all, choristers and audience members, to many different realms of time and place. The pictures which were created were so many and varied; some took us to countries far and near, some took us back in time, whilst others brought us right up to the present day. Still others created sketches of pure sound and colour. What a memorable afternoon that was!

I know that both groups looked forward with a great deal of anticipation and sense of excitement, as we prepared our individual programmes for the concert. Particularly exciting for us was the prospect of joining with the young people in an African revolutionary hymn *Siyahamba*, and then the glorious 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's *Messiah*. From reports I have received our audience really enjoyed the sound created by the freshness of the young people's voices combined with the depth of our more mature voices.

Other outcomes of this afternoon were that, not only were we both given the opportunity to introduce ourselves and our music to new audiences, but also to show that wonderful music can be produced and enjoyed for many, many years by people of all ages.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without mentioning the dedicated and sterling work our partners give for events

such as this. The cheerful way they perform front-of-house duties, and prepare and serve the afternoon tea allows us the opportunity to concentrate on our part of the afternoon's concert.

Marion Winnall (wife of baritone John Winnall) kindly agreed to make a DVD of the *Sing into Spring* concert. She has done an excellent job of this and copies are available for purchase at a cost of \$8 (or \$10 if posted). Please place your order through a Choir member or through me c/- AMVC, c/- Immanuel Lutheran Church, 139 Archer Street, North Adelaide, SA, 5006.

COTA Opening of Seniors Month

As many of you would be aware, October is a month that is set aside to celebrate and acknowledge the part seniors play in the life of their communities. We were privileged to be asked to perform at COTA's official Opening Ceremony. This event, which launched a month of special state-wide events, gave us a chance to see and meet a number of individuals and groups of seniors who were being recognised for such contributions as well as providing a practical example of how we can be a real part of the life of the City of Adelaide and beyond.

Aldgate Evening

In mid October we travelled to Aldgate where we were part of the **Hills Musical Extravaganza** in aid of the Masonic Foundation Program for Men's Health, the Summerhill Community Care Service Uraidla and the Heathfield High School Band Instrument Fund. The hills were certainly alive with the sounds of music that evening! Those in attendance were treated to the sounds and rhythms of bag pipes, Dixieland Jazz, swing band as well as our choir.

What 's Next

Concerts at the Glynde and Hope Valley Lutheran homes round off our formal programme for the this year. But, this does not mean we can relax and rest on our laurels, Bill Shaw has us busily en-

jazz, swing band as well as our Choir.

What's Next

Concerts at the Glynde and Hope Valley Lutheran Homes (see *Dates for Your Diary* on page 4 for details) will include some Christmas music, and we invite you to come along to enjoy the mood of the coming Festive Season.

These two concerts will round off our formal program for this busy year, but this does not mean we can relax and rest on our laurels. Our Conductor Bill Shaw already has us busily engaged in rehearsal for our first major concert in May 2014!

Christmas Dinner

In recent years some of our Friends have taken the opportunity to join us for our end of the year celebration. If you would like to join us this year you will need to book through the Treasurer by the end of November. The cost of the dinner is \$50/head and the event is being held at the Glenelg Golf Club.

A Timely Reminder

2014 celebrates our 130th year of providing music to the people of SA and beyond, so keep a look-out and join us for the special events for this very special year.

Colin Styles

Music to celebrate our 130th anniversary year (Background notes from Bill Shaw)

Throughout our 130th anniversary year we will be performing music from the Choir's historic repertoire, some of it from the early years of its existence in the 19th century and some of it from more recent years.

Our first major concert in 2014 will be the Sacred Music Concert on Sunday 18 May. It will feature pieces from the sacred music repertoire of the great composers, including the two modern composers John Rutter and David Fanshawe. I have included some background notes about these two composers, to whet your appetite for the concert.

John Rutter was born in London in 1945, and studied music at Clare College, Cambridge, especially as a chorister. Later he became the conductor of the Clare College Choir and led them to an international reputation for fine choral singing.



In 1981 Rutter formed his own choral ensemble, the Cambridge Singers, and has performed and recorded a great

deal of choral music with them, including a number of his own works. Rutter has had a very successful relationship over many years with America, including the first performance of his Requiem in 1985.

You will be interested to know that he wrote the anthem "This is the day which the Lord hath made" for the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011.

John Rutter has gained a reputation for writing music which is carefully crafted, and which is very singable and satisfying to hear. His works use a sweet melodic style which has found favour with audiences around the world.

David Fanshawe was born in 1942 in Peignton, Devon, and grew up with a passion for travel and adventure. He also found a strong desire to study music as a child and young man. He spent much of his holiday time in travelling to exotic destinations in Europe and the Middle East. He developed skills in recording the traditional music he heard on these trips and brought many hours of recordings back to England. In due course he used selected parts of this material in his *African Sanctus*, which was quite an unusual work for its time because of the inclusion of ethnic music within its score.

Much of Fanshawe's musical life was devoted to writing and performing music for film and television productions. He composed the score for *When the Boat Comes In* and *Softly, Softly* among other popular TV series. Many of his recordings of ethnic music have been featured in documentaries and feature films.

It is interesting to note that he spent a considerable amount of time in the Pacific Ocean area, collecting several thousand hours of indigenous music and many photographs, forming a valuable resource for future reference and use by others. Some of this music was to be used in his last work, *Pacific Song*, which remained unfinished at his death from a stroke in 2010.

David Fanshawe was awarded many musical accolades during his life including an honorary degree of Doctor of Music, a Churchill Fellowship and a nomination for an Ivor Novello Award.



John Wilksch

John is the Leader of the Baritone Section of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir and is also an accomplished organist. Below are some reminiscences from John about some of the highlights in his life.

I would like to think that my birth brought much joy into the world. I was born on a day of rejoicing - VE Day when victory was declared in Europe marking the end of World War II, on 7th May 1945. I was born the youngest of seven children the day after my mother turned 45 and a fortnight overdue. I think therefore that my birth would have been a relief and a joy to my mother.

My schooling was conventional and uneventful, at Moculta and Angaston primary schools, followed by four years at Nuriootpa High School and one year at Immanuel College. I must have been about 10 or 11 when I decided that I wanted to become a pastor. Consequently my path in life was already mapped out from an early age. From secondary school I went directly to Immanuel Seminary, North Adelaide, graduating from what in the meantime had become Lutheran Seminary at the end of 1968. In January the following year I was married to Carol and several weeks later began my ministry at Coonalpyn. Later Carol and I moved to Bethany (near Tanunda), then to Walla Walla, NSW, then to the parish of Moorabbin-Dandenong in Melbourne, and finally to Lutheran Homes at Hope Valley. Along the way we had three sons and a daughter, and we now have 11 grandchildren.

My musical training was somewhat chequered. I had two years of lessons on a harmonium while in Grade 5 and 6 at primary school, by the end of which I was playing simple hymns in Sunday School, hoping one day to be able to play the small Lemke pipe organ in my home church of Gruenberg. Later when at Seminary I was co-opted to play for chapel. There were other organists there who were more accomplished than me and so as not to be disgraced I worked hard to improve my skills. I would have loved to take up music as a career, and as my mind sometimes wandered during chapel I would fantasize about being a cathedral organist. However, the call to ministry was always stronger. Besides, it would have been financially impossible for me to study music full time. I scraped together some money to take organ lessons for a year to learn to use the pedals, and by the end of my time at Seminary was playing at about Grade 5/6 standard.

Years later while at Bethany I was able to do a Certifi-

cate of Church Music at what was then the Flinders Street School of Music, with organ lessons from Christa Rumsey. During my time in Melbourne I applied and was granted admission on the basis of audition to a Bachelor of Music course at the Australian Catholic University. I completed the three year degree part time over five years, with the organ as my major practical study.

When retirement approached last year I figured I would have a little more time to follow personal interests and thought it would be good to join a male choir. I had sung in a number of mixed choirs over the years, singing tenor as most choirs lack tenors. But as I have gotten older I haven't been able to reach those high Fs and Gs. Hence I thought second tenor or first bass in a male choir would be more suitable. I saw some publicity for an Adelaide Male Voice Choir concert at St Stephen's last May. I attended the concert, liked what I heard, and emailed Colin Styles about joining. And so here I am in the Choir, having been welcomed by a bunch of friendly guys. After years of singing music by Handel, Bach, Vivaldi and others with their regular rhythms, it's been an interesting and enjoyable challenge to cope with the offbeat rhythms of Irving Berlin and George Gershwin.

Now in retirement, as well as the Choir, I can devote more time to organ playing, and playing in church on



a regular basis. I still conduct church services about once a month and drive a local council community bus once a week. There is also some babysitting of a

Dates for Your Diary

November			
Thursday 28	7.30 pm	Concert for Glynde Lutheran Homes	Glynde Lutheran Homes Avenue Rd, Glynde
December			
Friday 13	6.00 for 6.30 pm	Choir Christmas Dinner	Glenelg Golf Club James Melrose Rd, Glenelg
	Bookings essential—please contact Denis (8278 8922)		
Tuesday 17	7.30 pm	Concert for Hope Valley Lutheran Homes	Hope Valley Lutheran Homes, 1217 Grand Junction Rd, Hope Valley
2014			
February			
Monday 10	7.30 pm	Rehearsals resume	Immanuel Lutheran Church 139 Archer St, Nth Adelaide
March			
Sunday 30	2.00 pm	Concert	St Joseph's Church 484 Magill Rd, Tranmere
May			
Sunday 18	2.00 pm	AMVC Concert 1	Venue to be confirmed

These details are accurate at the time of printing, but sometimes dates or venues have to be changed because of unavoidable circumstances. Please check 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.

Music for Christmas

At our final two concerts for this year, at the Glynde Lutheran Homes on Thursday 28 November, and the Hope Valley Lutheran Homes on Tuesday 17 December, the Choir will be joined for some of the Christmas music by soprano soloist Natalie Tate (who is, by the way, the fiancée of our Assistant Conductor Harry Lambert).

Natalie will join with the Choir to sing the ever-popular *White Christmas*, *O Holy Night* and *Silent Night*, as well as singing a bracket of songs as a soloist.

The audience will be the featured soloist in *O Come All Ye Faithful*, so do come along and join in!

There will be some other musical treats as well at each concert, so we anticipate two wonderful evenings of good music and warm fellowship as we approach the Festive Season.

We will be taking a holiday break during January, but you can keep up-to-date with our activities by visiting our website (amvc.org.au).

Birdsong

Let's finish the music year on a cheerful warbling note!

We have heard from Marion and John Winnall about their latest adopted pet Jackie. Jackie is a baby lorikeet, which they rescued after it fell from a tall cocos palm in their garden. A bird specialist estimated that the baby lorikeet was about three weeks old and recommended a diet of special lorikeet baby food. For the past two weeks, Marion has been feeding Jackie with this magic mixture four times a day, using a syringe. The baby is thriving!



Jackie is quite a chatter-box and loves to squawk on the phone. We believe that lorikeets are good mimics, so we fully expect that Jackie will join with John in his singing practice for the Choir and will be a musical prodigy in no time!