

Peter Schulze



# In Harmony

Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir  
Number 53 Summer 2015

**PATRON:**  
His Excellency  
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO  
Governor of South Australia

**VICE PATRONS:**  
Peter Goers OAM  
Jeffrey Kong

**PRESIDENT:**  
Colin Styles

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
David Evans (8288 0808)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:**  
William Shaw OAM

**ACCOMPANIST:**  
Edward Kriek

**ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR:**  
Harrison Lambert

**SECRETARIAT:**  
George Willcox (*Secretary*)  
(0407 724 584)  
Ian Milbank (*Minutes Secretary*)

**TREASURER:**  
Denis Harper

**LIBRARIAN:**  
Terry Helbig

**COMMITTEE:**  
John Dick (*Asst Librarian*)  
Neville Roach  
David Turner  
John Wear

**CONCERT MANAGER:**  
Neville Roach (8332 1895)

**ALMONER:**  
Bruce Risby (8298 8828)

**LIFE MEMBERS:**  
Kevin Fisher OAM  
Myfanwy James  
Margaret Lambert  
Robert McLeay  
Genty Stevens  
Len Turner  
Denis West

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](http://amvc.org.au)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2015—our 131st year. What a very successful year 2014 was, as we celebrated our 130th anniversary!

Below are a few events that have taken place since our last edition of *In Harmony*:

### Life Membership

At our Christmas Dinner we were delighted to bestow Life Membership of the AMVC upon Kevin Fisher in recognition of his outstanding contributions to our Choir over many years. Please see the separate item on page 4.

### 20-year Acknowledgement

One of our traditions is to present cufflinks, inscribed with the AMVC logo, to members in acknowledgement of 20 years service to the Choir. I was delighted to present Ian Milbank with his at the Christmas dinner. I personally thank Ian for the work he has done on our Committee over many years.

### Wedding Celebration

During the Christmas break, our Assistant Conductor Harrison Lambert married Natalie Tate, who has been a soloist at several of our Christmas concerts. We congratulate them and wish them many years of happiness and success as they pursue their lives together and also their musical careers both as individuals and as a couple.

### Exciting start to 2015—celebrating another milestone in AMVC history

2015 is indeed a significant year for the Choir and for our Conductor/ Music Director, William Shaw, as he celebrates 30 years as our musical leader. What a great achievement this is! However, I do not believe that Bill would have been able to achieve all he has with the group without the loyal, unfailing and continued support and encouragement of his wife Daina and of course the members of their family. I know you join with me in congratulat-

ing him on this wonderful achievement and for the oh so valued contribution he has made not only to the lives of the members of the AMVC but also to the cultural life of South Australia and beyond. We thank him for his inspiration, support and encouragement to us all.

### Fringe Program

We have always been, since 1884, involved with the musical life of the people of Adelaide, and indeed the State. 2015 is promising to be no exception as we join with other artists by being part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival during February and March. Please see page 3 for further details.

### Membership

During the past year, we welcomed some new members to our “happy band of brothers”, and I am very pleased to say that each in his own way has become a valued member of his section. As is always the case, we look forward to new members joining us, and we remind you to be our talent scouts as you encourage those men in your circle of friends who enjoy singing. As you would be aware, several of our members have suffered from some serious health issues in recent months. We hope they enjoy better health this year, and we look forward to their company again.

### Thanks

We are extremely fortunate in having a band of loyal and supportive wives and partners, who give tirelessly of their time and energy to ensure that all goes well with our concerts and social events. Thank you, ladies, we really do see and appreciate all you do for us. Thank you also to our good Friends of the Choir for your continued interest and support. We look forward to seeing you throughout 2015.

*Colin Styles*

INTRODUCING JOSEPH COLLINSON, a member of the Second Tenor Section of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Joseph was born in Bootle, a suburb of Liverpool, on 22 September 1938. He was the youngest of four children (with two sisters and one brother). Here he reflects on his eventful life.

"Unfortunately, both our parents died while we were all very young, so hence it was a very rough start in life for all of us. We were all separated. My eldest sister Jean, being fifteen, was allowed to start working, while my older brother and younger sister were placed in an Orphanage. I was placed into a Children's Home for very young children. It was very tough going for all of us! At the age of five I was moved to the Orphanage to join my brother and sister. Together, I thought -- but no, still separated.

After a very tough and rugged six years in the Orphanage, it came time to close it down, to everyone's delight. This excited me, because I thought it was the chance for that better life somewhere, I had always been thinking of.

For the next few years, I lived in different foster homes, until the age of fifteen. Then I moved to Wolverhampton and found what I thought to be the right family, because they loved me like one of their own. Things just got so much better from here.

I began work as an Apprentice Fitter and Turner at the Midland Metal Spinning Company. After two years into the apprenticeship, I was called for National Service, where I joined the Regiment of the Signals. After six months of training, I was sent over to Cyprus, Famagusta Radio Station Camp, for eighteen months.

On my return, my relationship with my girlfriend June developed. June was the younger daughter of the family who fostered me. We were married in April 1961, bought our first home together and sold it three years later, to immigrate to Australia, where we settled in Adelaide, South Australia. It was the best thing June and I did together, because we never looked back from here. We bought a block of land and built our home, where we lived for 45 years in Morphett Vale. We had two children, our daughter Judith and son Michael, known as 'Mike the muso'. We have had a wonderful family life here in South Australia.

I had a range of jobs when I arrived in Adelaide. The first job was at Flinders University as a landscaper, preparing the grounds for the grand opening in March 1966. The next project was involvement in the establishment of Flagstaff Hill Golf Course and rubbing shoulders with Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and so forth! Then I went to Chrysler for a year or two before Mitsubishi took over, while at Mitsubishi I

took up an adult Apprenticeship for Fitter and Turner. Toolmaking and took a Certificate Course for Mechanical Engineering. Then I moved to SOLA Optical in 1984 on staff at Research and Development. I retired in 2003.

While at Mitsubishi, I joined the Noarlunga City Choir, of which I was a member of the bass line for 23 years, mainly singing baritone.

2008 was a stressful year for us. My wife June went into hospital for a big operation and while she was there caught a virus which developed into pneumonia. June passed away on 9 July 2008. The family and friends helped me through this difficult time.

I have been a member of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir for eight months now and I am so thrilled on joining such a wonderful Choir. I wish the Choir many more good and prosperous years ahead, so keep up the good work fellows! Thanks to all members for making me feel so welcome. Remember, boys, we have the best Musical Director and the best Musical Accompanist, so let's all do our best for them!"



#### **What a great bargain!**

Inserted in this issue of *In Harmony* is an AMVC Friends membership form, and we encourage you to become a Financial Friend by paying an annual subscription of \$10. This covers yourself and your spouse or partner, and entitles you to pay only \$15 per ticket at our AMVC Winter and Spring Concerts on presentation of your Financial Friend Membership Card (ie \$5 discount on the concession price and \$10 discount on the regular price). So you can very quickly recoup your membership fee -- a real bargain! In addition, of course, you receive your quarterly copy of *In Harmony*, with news about concerts and social events to fill your diary.

As you would appreciate, running a choir is not cost-neutral, and we need to budget for regular expenses such as insurance, venue hire, printing etc, so every little helps to keep us going!

## **Catch us at the Adelaide Fringe!!**

**We are singing at the Adelaide Fringe in 2015 for the first time. The Choir will be presenting a “Nostalgia” concert including music from the 1920s and 30s, and featuring well-known jazz vocalist Luke Thompson as our soloist. Composers represented in the programme will include Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Jerome Kern.**

**WHEN: Friday 27 February 2015 at 6.00 pm  
and  
Saturday 7 March 2015 at 6.00 pm**

**WHERE: St Stephen’s Lutheran Church Hall  
152 Wakefield St, Adelaide**

**TICKETS: Available from the Fringe Booking website ([adelaidefringe.com.au](http://adelaidefringe.com.au))  
or by phoning Adelaide Fringe (1300 621 255) or take a chance with tickets at the door.  
See your Adelaide Fringe Guide for more details.  
Tickets : \$20**

**Please note: In keeping with the shorter duration of most Fringe events, this concert lasts approximately one hour, so there is time afterwards to go out to dinner or other shows**

### **NOSTALGIA IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

Well, of course, we all know that! It’s very enjoyable to think back fondly on the things that gave us pleasure in the past — holidays, family and friends, films, food, books, music, a simpler way of life.

What’s more, there now seems to be a body of research undertaken in the past few decades which gives academic support to our instinctive understanding about the benefits of nostalgia. According to an article by Tim Adams in *The Advertiser’s SA Weekend Magazine* of January 31-February 1 2015 (based on material from the *Guardian News & Media Ltd 2014*), nostalgia can be seen as a “powerful stimulant to feel optimistic about the future”. It can create links with other people and promote meaningfulness and a sense of continuity.

This is where music has a particularly important role to play. For the Adelaide Male Voice Choir and our community of Friends, our shared love of music is a continuing source of enjoyment and a strong bond between all of us. Of the many objects of nostalgia, music is one of the few that can last through time and in fact can help us remember some of the other areas of our lives which have now faded into history.

At our “Nostalgia” Concerts for the Adelaide Fringe Festival, the Choir will be singing songs (some romantic, some stirring, some fun-filled), which are sure to evoke happy memories for you and may even introduce the younger members of the audience to some great new tunes, which can become the basis of their own nostalgic moments in future years.

The Choir will be joined on stage by well-known jazz vocalist Luke Thompson, already very popular with our audiences. Luke lectures in Jazz Voice at the Conservatorium at the University of Adelaide, and has a wealth of experience in cabaret and jazz performance.

Please let your friends know about our “Nostalgia” Concerts and make up a party. They’ll thank you for giving them the opportunity to relive some happy memories. We can guarantee that you’ll leave the concert with your feet tapping and a song in your heart!

We look forward to catching up with you at the Fringe.

### Dates for Your Diary

#### 2015 Season One

##### February

Monday 2            7.45 pm            Rehearsals resume            Immanuel Lutheran Church  
139 Archer St, Nth Adelaide

Friday 27           6.00 pm            “Nostalgia” Concert            St Stephen’s Lutheran Church  
Adelaide Fringe Festival           152 Wakefield St, Adelaide

##### March

Saturday 7           6.00 pm            “Nostalgia” Concert            St Stephen’s Lutheran Church  
Adelaide Fringe Festival           152 Wakefield St, Adelaide

##### April

Saturday 18           3.00 pm            Investiture of Grand Master            Entertainment Centre  
Freemasons of SA            Hindmarsh

Saturday 25           10.30am            Anzac Day Service            Cross of Sacrifice  
King William Rd, Nth Adelaide

##### June

Sunday 7            2.00 pm            AMVC Winter Concert:            Burnside City Uniting Church  
Operetta and Musicals            384 Portrush Rd, Tusmore

Sunday 28           2.00 pm            Pleasant Sunday Afternoon            Masonic Homes  
Concert            Diagonal Rd, Somerton Park

### Mid-year break in rehearsals

#### 2015 Season Two

##### August

Monday 3            7.45 pm            Rehearsals resume            Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

### Life Membership: Kevin Fisher OAM

As mentioned in the President’s notes on page 1, the Adelaide Male Voice Choir has bestowed Life Membership upon Kevin Fisher, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Choir over many years. The presentation, which took place at our Christmas Dinner last December, had been kept a closely guarded secret until the very last moment, so Kevin was taken completely by surprise. It was one of the few occasions in his life that he was lost for words!

Kevin has been an outstanding and long-serving member of the Choir, and has participated as a chorister, soloist, office bearer and enthusiastic supporter of all the Choir’s social activities. In all his endeavours he has been staunchly supported by his close-knit and musical family, who are very much a part of the Choir community. We pay special tribute to Kevin’s late wife Ivy, whose warm and vivacious presence has been greatly missed since she passed away in December 2013.

Kevin grew up in a large family, where singing around the piano was part of family life, and he has continued singing throughout an exciting and busy life. He has always thrown himself enthusiastically into everything he undertakes, whether as a rear-gunner in the Air Force during WWII, or throughout his professional life, or as a member of various service associations. His musical career has encompassed many solo roles in musicals and operas with a wide variety of groups. The AMVC appreciates his leadership in the first tenor section, and our audiences are always delighted by his solo performances.

Kevin is now ninety years old, his sense of adventure is undiminished, and his tenor voice is as pure and true as always. We congratulate him on his Life Membership of the Choir and wish him many more years of happy singing.

*William Shaw*