



In Harmony

Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
Number 56
Spring 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)

WEBMASTER:

Peter Schulze
peter@pkschulze.com

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I hear Christmas music spilling out onto the pavements of Rundle Mall and other shopping centres dressed in their Christmas finery I cannot help but wonder where so much of 2015 has gone. So I took a deep breath and took a quick review of the year.

Some highlights of 2015

We took up Bill's challenge and performed at the 2015 Adelaide Fringe. What a new experience that was, and what a lot of fun we and our packed audiences had! The occasion even gave us the opportunity to launch our new long tie.

We have been very happy to welcome several new singers to our midst.

We discovered the Burnside City Uniting Church as a new and pleasant performance venue.

We took a midyear break for the first time, which gave us the chance to get over the usual winter coughs and colds, undertake some travel, and recharge our batteries ready to face a full performance program in the second half of the year.

Our country trip was a great success and we sincerely thank the planning groups both here and in Meningie and Hamilton. Trips such as this are a lot of fun, allow us to be heard by different audiences, and give us and our partners a real opportunity to get to know one another so much better.

We performed two "thank you concerts" for the communities of the Immanuel Lutheran Church and St Joseph's Church Tranmere in appreciation for their support of us for our rehearsals and social activities.

Our major spring concert was performed jointly with students from the Special Interest Music Centre at the Brighton Secondary School, as well as associated artists. The Head of Music at Brighton is Jeffrey Kong, one of our Vice Patrons, and the funds raised from the concert will support the upcoming music student tour to Europe.

We performed for the Adelaide Music Club at one of their dinner gatherings. Concerts at the Hampstead Rehab Hos-

pital, the Glynde Lutheran Home and the Hope Valley Lutheran Home will take us through to the end of 2015.

Sad news

We were saddened this year by the deaths of Max Nickson (retired from the Choir, but a faithful audience member at our concerts), David Conti (a long time member of the Bass Section), and Darrell Daulby (also from the Bass Section). We have been privileged to know these men and they will be greatly missed. Their families have also been valued members of our Choir community, and we would warmly welcome a continuing relationship with them.

Thank you

As 2015 races towards an end I wish to express my personal thanks to a number of people.

Patron and Vice Patrons: Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Bill, Ed and Harrison: Thank you for the positive way you have encouraged us to give of our best, and for setting us attainable musical goals.

Fellow Choir members: Thank you for the willing support you have given me and all those involved with the day-to-day running of the Choir.

Partners: To that band of helpers who so readily take on those extra functions such as preparing afternoon-tea at our concerts, as well as acting as concert front-of-house personnel—Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Committee members: Many heartfelt thanks for your willingness to take on the necessary behind-the-scenes tasks.

Financial Friends: Thank you for your enthusiastic support at our concerts and social events.

Several people in the Choir community have suffered ill-health during 2015, and I wish them a quick and sound recovery and full health and strength in 2016.

On behalf of all the members of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, I wish you a happy Christmas and a memorable 2016.

Colin Styles

INTRODUCING JOHN ARNOLD, a member of the Baritone Section of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

John is a person who tackles life with great enthusiasm. He has excelled at sport throughout his life, and we are delighted that he is now applying the same wholehearted enthusiasm and energy to singing in the Choir.

Here in his own words are some of John's reflections on his life and interests:

"I was born on 25 March 1955 in the English town of Rochdale, which is situated just north of Manchester. My Dad was in the Royal Air Force so, after spending the first few months living with his parents, we set off on a journey around England, staying at various places that he was posted to.

One of my earliest memories is when I was about two or three years old and we were living in Norfolk near Kings Lynn. A single-decker bus used to pull up outside our house, steam coming from the chimney, lights ablaze. I can still picture the silhouettes behind the steam-covered windows and all the families queuing for their fish and chips. Wonderful!

From there we moved to Lytham St Annes, just a few miles down the coast from Blackpool. Another strong memory was walking on my own to catch the school bus. I can't remember just what age I was when I did that. I was only four when I started school in 1959, but surely I was nearer to six when I caught the bus on my own!

In April 1961 my sister was born and shortly afterward Dad was posted overseas to Cyprus, where we lived for nearly three years. I had many a great weekend on the beach, although on one occasion Mum and I were paddling away on my inflatable bed having a great time until we turned around to find that we had drifted a fair way out. Mum couldn't swim and I just about could. We waved frantically for help, only to see my Dad waving back (God bless him!). We were rescued by a friend and no harm done.

When I was nine we went back to England, and to seven years of schooling. Not being academic at all, sport was my main reason for going to school. I had great days playing football, rugby, cricket and athletics. My best achievement was being school sprint champion two years in a row, when I was aged thirteen and fourteen. I didn't stay too long at senior school and in 1971 left to become an apprentice painter and decorator. I

think that's where I discovered my voice, singing at the top of my lungs to all the tunes of the day blasting out on radio. At this time I also started playing football and rugby union on the weekends. I've enjoyed playing those games for over forty years, both in England and in Australia. I still play now on the odd occasion.

In 1978 I married Christine and we had two boys David and Thomas, now thirty-four and twenty-three. We arrived in Australia in November 1993 and I soon found work at John Martins on the maintenance staff. That was a great job, but unfortunately the store closed and I then worked under the David Jones banner. This was nowhere near as good, so I started my own business in 2000. In 2002 Christine and I separated and later divorced. I am now married to Caroline and we will celebrate our seventh anniversary in January 2016. We have four grandchildren, two to my son David and two to Caroline's daughter Felicity.

Having discovered my singing voice at sixteen, it wasn't until thirty years later before I really used it, singing in the Paradise Church choir. When that choir was disbanded, I really did miss singing. On his third attempt, George Willcox finally got me to try out with you guys, and I should have done it sooner. I love it! Better late than never, as they say, and although I've only been a member since March 2015, I have to say it's one of the best things I have ever done. I look forward to many years of great enjoyment ahead - not only with the singing, but in further developing the friendships that I have started to build with the other members. Roll on the next concert!"



AMVC Christmas Entertainment and Dinner

Don't miss out on a fabulous occasion!
Only a few days left before bookings close
Last day for bookings is Monday 30 November 2015

Our Christmas Dinner is a very popular function and a great way to celebrate the festive season
Make up a table of eight, or we can place you with a friendly group

- WHEN:** 7.00 for 7.15pm on Friday 11 December 2015
- WHERE:** Legends Room, The Junction, 470 Anzac Highway, Camden Park
(Plenty of parking; easy access)
- COST:** \$60 per person (3-course dinner, plus tea/coffee and chocolates; beverages can be purchased from the bar in our private function room)
- ENTERTAINMENT:** Christmas music from the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
Guest jazz vocalists
Special "sneak preview" of items from the 2016 Fringe concert program
- BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:** Phone Peter Schulze on 8373 0737
or email peter@pkschulze.com

You are warmly invited to join us for a festive and enjoyable evening of good food and quality entertainment in a friendly environment. (Our raffle prizes are legendary!)

Are you having any fun?

The answer is "Yes", if you come to our Adelaide Fringe Concerts!
So, enjoy life and have some fun with the Adelaide Male Voice Choir!

The concerts will feature popular music of the 1920s and 30s
A touch of glamour! A touch of bravado! A touch of nostalgia!

- PRESENTED BY:** The Adelaide Male Voice Choir with
Well-known jazz vocalist Luke Thompson
- WHEN:** Friday 26 February 2016 at 6.00pm
Saturday 5 March 2016 at 6.00pm
- WHERE:** St Stephen's Lutheran Church Hall
152 Wakefield Street, Adelaide
- TICKETS:** Available from the Fringe Booking website
(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

Dates for Your Diary

November			
Sunday 22	2.00 pm	Concert	Hampstead Rehab Hospital 207 Hampstead Rd, Northfield
Thursday 26	7.00 pm [Note revised time]	Concert	Glynde Lutheran Homes Avenue Rd, Glynde
December			
Friday 11	7/7.15 pm	Christmas Entertainment And Dinner (Bookings essential—see advertisement page 3)	Legends Room, The Junction 470 Anzac Hwy, Camden Park
Tuesday 15	7.00 pm	Concert	Hope Valley Lutheran Homes 1217 Grand Junction Rd, Hope Valley
2016			
February			
Friday 26	6.00 pm	Fringe Concert	St Stephen's Lutheran Church Hall 152 Wakefield St, Adelaide
March			
Saturday 5	6.00 pm	Fringe Concert	St Stephen's Lutheran Church Hall 152 Wakefield St, Adelaide
April			
Sunday 10	2.00 pm	Celebration Concert [with Metropolitan Male Choir]	Elder Hall, University of Adelaide North Tce, Adelaide
May			
Tuesday 10	1.00 pm	Lunchtime Concert	Flinders St Baptist Church 65 Flinders St, Adelaide

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 will be announced as arrangements are confirmed.

In Harmony—The AMVC Newsletter

We have been publishing our Newsletter *In Harmony* for 14 years, with an issue regularly every quarter. The Newsletter keeps our Friends and other interested people up to date with the activities undertaken by the Choir, and maintains valuable links with other music groups in Adelaide. For the past 10 years the editor of *In Harmony* has been Daina Shaw. We would like to thank her for her devoted work with this endeavour, and to congratulate her on completing 10 years as editor.

Some thoughts to keep you smiling

We know that music keeps us young, so we have all benefitted, as singers and as audience, from the feast of music which the Adelaide Male Voice Choir has presented throughout the year. With a song in our hearts and a spring in our steps, we can afford to face with a smile some of the challenges of ageing. Here are a few thoughts:

- Lord, grant me the strength to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and friends to post my bail when I finally snap!
- I don't have grey hair. I have "wisdom highlights".
- If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.
- The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than "please". I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes".

And finally, never forget that "stressed" spelled backwards is "desserts". The message couldn't be clearer, so enjoy all those Christmas goodies with a clear conscience, knowing that you're helping to keep stress at bay! Happy festive season to you all!