



In Harmony

Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
Number 61 Season One January -July 2018

PATRON:

His Excellency
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC
Governor of South Australia

VICE PATRONS:

Peter Goers OAM
Jeffrey Kong

PRESIDENT:

John Wilksch

VICE PRESIDENT:

David Turner

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw OAM

ACCOMPANISTS:

Edward Kriek
Alex Burney (Assistant)

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR:

Colin Campbell

SECRETARY:

George Willcox (0407 724 584)

TREASURER:

David Burney

COMMITTEE:

John Arnold
Geoff Syme
Stephen Wilson (Publicity)

CONCERT MANAGER:

Selwyn Lipscombe

ALMONER:

Colin Styles (0418 663 495)

LIBRARIAN:

Terry Helbig

WEBMASTER:

Peter Schulze
Peter@pkschulze.com

LIFE MEMBERS:

Myfanwy James
Edward Kriek
Margaret Lambert
William Shaw OAM
Genty Stevens
Colin Styles
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

A recent newspaper article about an American survey of older people suggested that having plenty to do may be a key to good health. "Staying busy," the article said, "helps us live longer, keeps us strong, fosters sparky brains and could even keep dementia at bay." If that is so, then our Choir activities should set us in good stead to spark well in the coming year.

Looking back at Season 2 (July to December 2017)**Concerts**

Our concert program included:

- One Tree Hill Uniting Church for their 150th anniversary
- Langdon Park Retirement Village
- Colonel Light Gardens RSL Club
- Benefit concert for the Australian Craniofacial Unit, with compere Peter Goers and soloists Deborah Caddy and Andrew Turner. The concert raised approximately \$1600 for the Unit. As well as being a most enjoyable programme and a sparkling performance, our wives/partners once again excelled at providing a sumptuous afternoon tea. We owe them a big thank you!
- Concerts at Victor Harbor and North Adelaide with Illumina Voices, as their guest artists. Each choir sang some numbers separately and performed several combined numbers. Judging by the size of the audiences and their reactions, it was clearly a successful collaboration. We will return the invitation in 2018.
- Concert at Glynde Lutheran Homes
- Carols Night at Hope Valley Lutheran Homes
- Performance at the Mary Potter Foundation's annual Christmas Carols night, together with a brass quintet from the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. An enjoyable and uplifting experience.

Social events

- Our mid-year social event with fami-

ly and friends this year took the form of a Nursery Rhyme Night. Most people dressed as their favourite nursery rhyme character, and our childhood memories were taxed as we participated in themed quizzes and competitions.

- The other highlight on our social calendar was our Christmas Dinner. Andrew Turner delighted us with several solos, and there were raffle prizes a-plenty, thanks to the generosity of members who donated so many prizes.

Constitution

At a Special General Meeting in November, we adopted a revised Constitution and By-Laws. This was the culmination of many hours of work by Choir members John Dick, Jim Wilson and Ian Thomas. I extend my sincere thanks to them for their efforts.

In Memoriam

We were saddened by the death of two of our members: Neville Roach from the Baritone Section, and Kevin Fisher from the First Tenor Section. We extend our sympathies to their families. Both men and their families had made a substantial contribution to the Choir over many years.

Coming Events

By the time you read these words, rehearsals for 2018 will have begun, working towards three Fringe concerts of Gilbert and Sullivan songs in March.

We are planning a busy schedule of concerts and social events for the year, so check *In Harmony* or our web site or contact Choir members about our exciting 2018 program, as details are finalised.

I would like to thank all members of the Committee and all members of the Choir for their support and diligent efforts throughout the year, which have contributed to the smooth functioning of the Choir. Their work has made my first year as President much easier.

A musical partnership

As our readers know, page 2 of *In Harmony* usually introduces one of the Choir members. This issue, however, features two men who were not members of the Choir : William Schwenck Gilbert (1836–1911) and Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900). Had they been in Adelaide at the time the Choir was founded (1884), they would undoubtedly have been delighted to join! Instead, they were busy around that time introducing London audiences to a host of new comic operas, to great popular acclaim.

The Choir's three Adelaide Fringe concerts this year (see page 3) feature the delightful songs of Gilbert and Sullivan, whose partnership could probably be considered one of the most successful musical collaborations of all time. It would be nice to think that librettist Gilbert and composer Sullivan were great friends, but in fact their relationship was often stormy. Their personalities and priorities were very different.

Sullivan was very much in the social swim of Victorian upper-class society. He enjoyed the high life and would often dash off to Paris or Monte Carlo after having conducted the first two or three performances of a new comic opera. He longed to be revered as a composer of serious music, but almost in spite of himself, he couldn't help composing catchy tunes!

Gilbert, on the other hand, viewed society with a rather jaundiced eye. Ever alert to the foibles of society, he was merciless in ridiculing pomposity and pretentiousness whenever he saw them. No one was safe from his keen eye and biting wit: the complacent First Lord of the Admiralty, who achieved his high appointment, though he "had never been to sea"; the Duke of Plaza Toro, who "led his regiment from behind, he found it less exciting"; the affected posturing of the would-be poet Bunthorne; the readily-bribeable public servant Pooh Bah. Gilbert's eye didn't miss female foibles either. His young ladies are usually delectable (Yum Yum in *The Mikado*) but feather-brained and sometimes quite callous, while those of mature years are usually terrifying (Katisha, the Mikado's "daughter-in-law-elect") or visibly suffering the ravages of time ("there are the remains of a fine woman about Ruth", the piratical maid-of-all-work in *The Pirates of Penzance*).

Despite his sharply satirical view of life, Gilbert's quick wit and ability to see humour in the most unlikely situations, combined with his inspired use of words and audacious rhymes, enabled him to create comic masterpieces with instant appeal. Sullivan was equally brilliant in composing catchy tunes and lyrical melodies which perfectly captured each situation. The results of their collaboration were wildly popular with the British public, from aristocrats at the Royal court to errand boys in the street, and their fame spread rapidly further afield, to countries like America and Australia.



W.S.Gilbert

The Choir's Adelaide Fringe concerts will include songs from *HMS Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Patience*, *The Gondoliers* and *The Mikado*. The story-lines of these comic operas are very convoluted and deal with improbable scenarios. However, the themes and social issues they handle with such a light and humorous touch remain relevant to this day. We know you'll enjoy hearing the songs, which are very familiar to many of you, and we guarantee you'll leave the concert humming a tune!

William Shaw
Director of Music



Arthur Sullivan

“Another G&S for you, Sir and Madam!” - At the Adelaide Fringe

Another sparkling serve from the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire of comic operas, presented by the Adelaide Male Voice Choir with guest baritone Andrew Turner.

The witty lyrics, effervescent melodies and lively social commentary are as fresh and relevant today as ever.

The 2017 concerts were sold out, so book early for this delightful treat.

WHEN and WHERE: Saturday 3 March and Friday 9 March 2018 at 6.00 pm
 St Stephen’s Lutheran Church Hall, 152 Wakefield Street, Adelaide

 Sunday 11 March 2018 at 3.00 pm
 Unley Town Hall, 181 Unley Road, Unley

TICKETS: \$25; Children \$10
 Available from FringeTIX Box Offices, or phone 1300 621 255,
 or adelaidefringe.com.au

The concert lasts about 1 hour, so there is time afterwards to go out to dinner or other shows.

Music from Heaven

An enjoyable afternoon of divinely beautiful music

PRESENTED BY: The Adelaide Male Voice Choir, with guest artists Illumina Voices
WHEN: Sunday 3 June 2018 at 2.00 pm
WHERE: Burnside City Uniting Church, 384 Portrush Road, Burnside
TICKETS: \$25 / Concession \$20 / Children \$10. Available from George (0407 724 584) or email:
 secretary @amvc.org.au; or through the AMVC website (amvc.org.au) and follow the
 prompts for online booking; or from Choir members; or at the door
AFTERNOON TEA: Our famous afternoon tea will be available at interval

“Awesome” support!

As I mentioned in the ‘Conductor’s Remarks’ at our 2017 Christmas Dinner, the word “awesome” is in such common usage nowadays that its effect has been rather diluted. When a hamburger with chips can be described as “awesome”, what word is left to describe the Niagara Falls? When you perform the ordinary task of signing for a parcel and the delivery man says “Awesome”, what is left in his vocabulary for an extraordinary achievement like a flight to the moon?

However, what I find truly “awesome” is the level of support and enthusiasm which the Choir receives from its members and friends, who give so generously of their time and expertise in helping the Choir to flourish.

In addition to musical skills and knowledge, the range of backgrounds and talents is amazing. It includes organising, accounting, computing and sound recording, photography, hospitality, medical and legal advice, crafts, carpentry, writing and editing, languages, public relations and recruiting, plus a good dose of practicality and common sense.

The Choir also receives support from the wider community. In this regard, we would like to acknowledge particularly two sponsors: Constructwell and Inspiration Paints Parafield. Their donations covered the performing fees for the two soloists at the Choir’s 2017 benefit concert, which was held in aid of the Australian Craniofacial Unit based at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital. We thank them for their much-appreciated contribution to our fund-raising effort.

The Choir has been singing non-stop for the past 133 years, engaging with the community, creating friendly links and raising spirits in good times and bad, through peace and war. Now, that’s “awesome”!

*William Shaw
Director of Music*

Dates for Your Diary

SEASON ONE

January

Monday 29	7.30 pm	Rehearsals begin	Immanuel Lutheran Church 139 Archer St, North Adelaide
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March

Saturday 3	6.00 pm	Fringe performance 1 "Another G&S for you, Sir and Madam!"	St Stephen's Lutheran Church 152 Wakefield St Adelaide
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Friday 9	6.00 pm	Fringe performance 2 "Another G&S for you, Sir and Madam!"	St Stephen's Lutheran Church 152 Wakefield St Adelaide
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Sunday 11	3.00 pm	Fringe performance 3 "Another G&S for you, Sir and Madam!"	Unley Town Hall 181 Unley Road, Unley
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[Bookings for these Fringe performances are available from FringeTIX, phone 1300 621 255, adelaidefringe.com.au or visit a FringeTIX Box Office.]

April

Friday 20	12 noon	Lunchtime Concert	Royal Adelaide Hospital North Tce, Adelaide
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Wednesday 25	11.00 am	Anzac Service	Cross of Sacrifice North Adelaide
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June

Sunday 3	2.00 pm	Concert Music from Heaven	Burnside City Uniting Church 384 Portrush Rd, Burnside
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Monday 25	7.30 pm	Last rehearsal Season One	
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SEASON TWO

August

Monday 6	7.30 pm	Rehearsals resume Season Two	
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September

Friday 14	7.30 pm	Concert with Victorian Welsh Choir	Burnside City Uniting Church 384 Portrush Rd, Burnside
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October

Tuesday 9	1.00 pm	Lunchtime Concert	Flinders St Baptist Church Flinders St, Adelaide
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November

Thursday 29	7.00 pm	Concert	Glynde Lutheran Homes Avenue Rd, Glynde
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December

Wednesday 5	7.30 pm	Christmas carols	Mary Potter Hospice Calvary Hospital North Adelaide
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Tuesday 11	7.00 pm	Christmas carols	Hope Valley Lutheran Homes Grand Junction Rd, Hope Valley
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These details are accurate at the time of printing, but sometimes dates and venues have to be changed because of unavoidable circumstances. Further concerts and events will be announced as arrangements are confirmed. Please go to our website (amvc.org.au) or ask a member of the Choir.