



In Harmony

Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
Number 65 Season One January to June 2020

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

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR:

Nikolai Leske

ACCOMPANISTS:

Edward Kriek
Alex Burney (Assistant)

SECRETARY:

George Willcox (0407 724 584)

TREASURER:

David Burney

COMMITTEE:

John Arnold
Geoff Syme

CONCERT MANAGER:

Selwyn Lipscombe

PUBLICITY:

Ian Moody

ALMONER:

Colin Styles (0418 663 495)

LIBRARIAN:

Terry Helbig

WEBMASTER:

Peter Schulze
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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 7.30pm to 9.45pm
at Immanuel Lutheran Church,
139 Archer St, North Adelaide

WEB ADDRESS:

amvc.org.au

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to a new year and a new decade! At times like this we like to look back and reflect on the year that has been, and we look forward to what the future might bring for us.

A considerable number of you can look back even more than a decade of being part of the AMVC community. I can say with confidence that for the Choir it has been a time of enjoyable and challenging music making with great camaraderie along the way, under the expert direction of our conductor, Bill Shaw, and accompanist, Ed Kriek. Having an enthusiastic and hard-working committee has also contributed to the smooth and successful running of the Choir. We have all done our best to provide happy music experiences for our loyal audiences.

For the Choir, Season Two of 2019 began with the rehearsal focus on preparation for our major concert on 27 October at St David's Anglican Church in Burnside. The concert celebrated some of the great hit songs from the 1910s to the 1960s, and we sang a repertoire ranging from music by Irving Berlin and George Gershwin to the Beatles and Seekers. We were pleased to have jazz vocalist Luke Thompson as our guest soloist. Once again, our partners provided and served a sumptuous afternoon tea. Thank you, ladies.

Our busy Christmas music season started on 24 November, when we presented a concert at the Glynde Lutheran Homes, and then on 10 December we sang at the Village Carols Evening at Hope Valley Lutheran Homes. The Octet (give or take one or two) from the Choir sang several numbers at each concert. At Hope Valley the programme also included piano duets by Ed Kriek and Hope Valley resident Norman Schulz, and an organ solo by yours truly. Members of the Octet also sang at a BREIF Club lunch at the Arkaba Hotel on 19 December.

In recent years we have developed warm ties with the Mary Potter Hospice. Once again, we sang several items at their Loving Tree Christmas Carols night on 4 December, and led the community carol singing, with the accompaniment of a brass ensemble from the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. This year for the first time we were also asked to sing on 7 November at a Service of Remembrance for those who had died at the Hospice in the past year. This was a moving experience and appreciated by the several hundred people who attended. And then, in the days before Christmas, a small group from the Choir sang Christmas carols in some of the rooms at the Hospice.

The AMVC Christmas Dinner on 7 December at the Junction Restaurant in Camden Park, to which we invited friends, was again a highlight of our social calendar. Peter Goers, one of our Vice Patrons, proposed the toast to the Choir. In recognition of 20 years of service to the Choir, John Wear was presented with a set of AMVC-logo cuff-links. Other presentations of thanks were given to Bill Shaw (Conductor), Ed Kriek (Accompanist), Alex Burney (Assistant Accompanist and, on occasion, Assistant Conductor), Christian Pollnitz (supplier of supper at rehearsals), Terry Helbig (Librarian), Daina Shaw (Editor of *In Harmony* Newsletter), Peter Schulze (Webmaster, photography and technological support) and to Sylvia Hunt, in absentia (attendance recorder and other help at rehearsals). The Choir also congratulated Alex Burney on his forthcoming marriage and presented him with a gift.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, we will have begun rehearsals for our three Gilbert and Sullivan concerts for the Adelaide Fringe. The other highlight of Season One 2020 will be a combined concert with the Band of the SA Police on Sunday 31 May. This will be a benefit concert in support of bushfire recovery projects. (Details on pages 3 and 4)

May you all have a happy and healthy 2020, as we start a new decade of celebrating choral excellence.

John Wilksch

BILL SHAW has been the Conductor of the AMVC for 35 years now, which is more than a quarter of the Choir's total history! In the Conductor's Address at the Choir's 2019 Christmas Dinner, Bill reflected on the core elements of the AMVC. His talk struck a chord with many people, and it was decided that it should be recorded in print as part of the Choir's history. Here is an amended version:

Ladies and gentlemen, I have a puzzle for you: What's the connecting link between these words?

AMITY, MUSICIANSHIP, VARIETY, COMMUNITY

Yes, you've guessed it! The initial letters AMVC = Adelaide Male Voice Choir!

AMITY

This is a good word for the friendly fellowship we all feel as members of the Choir and the extended Choir family. I've reflected before on the enjoyment of belonging to the Choir, and the warm and supportive environment in which we work. I had particular reason to appreciate this when I had some surgery about 9 weeks ago. The specialist was a busy man and the hospital staff were run off their feet, so I was given very little information about my condition. However, not to worry! The Choir members could tell me all I needed to know (possibly more!) and their combined experience and advice was very reassuring! I will never forget the kindly interest and the practical offers of help I received.

MUSICIANSHIP

We are a group of singing men. It's the love of music that brings us together, and we're motivated by the desire to provide the best possible standard of performance of quality music. In fact, to live up to our motto of "Celebrating choral excellence". Some of the men read music, some do not, but whatever level we start at, we're always improving. Some sing with great enthusiasm, but somewhat less accuracy! Never mind, we can fix that! Some are tentative to begin with, but gain confidence with practice and encouragement.

We all work together and concentrate not only on gaining technical mastery of the music, but also on understanding and interpreting the intention and the mood and emotion of the composer, so that we can provide a fully rounded performance for your enjoyment.

VARIETY

I'd like to refer to two areas of the Choir where the word VARIETY is relevant:

Firstly, Membership: The men of the Choir come from a variety of backgrounds, and we can draw upon really remarkable talents, including organising, accounting, technology, computing and sound recording, photography, hospitality and catering, medical and legal advice, crafts, carpentry, writing and editing, languages, librarianship, public relations, plus a good dose of practicality and common sense! We have philosophers, theologians and instrumentalists, too, plus the talents, skills and knowledge of our extended Choir family.

Secondly, Repertoire: The Choir performs a wide range of repertoire, including opera and operetta, songs from musicals, sacred music, folk songs, spirituals and arrangements of modern popular pieces. I regularly scour publishers' catalogues of music and every now and then I'll come across a terrific piece, but it's arranged only for solo voice, or female voice, or mixed voice choir. I don't see why the AMVC should miss out, so I get to work with piano and computer program and write an arrangement specifically for us to use! We have quite a collection of these "bespoke" arrangements on our music shelves.

COMMUNITY

Modern life presents many challenges. One of the most worrying trends currently identified by social researchers is the fragmentation of society and the crumbling of communities. Former stalwarts such as churches, tennis clubs and service clubs have declined in numbers, and people feel alienated by the divisiveness of a rapidly changing world. They yearn for a sense of belonging, of place and community.

These trends have not gone un-noticed by social planners, and terms like "a vision of communitism" have cropped up recently (not communism, but communitism), the aim being to minimise the divisiveness that is developing in societies throughout the world and to encourage the bonds that bring people together in harmony.

Well, the Adelaide Male Voice Choir is well ahead of them in this regard! For 135 years, it has been doing its best, through its performances, to bring people together in a happy inclusive community of music and good fellowship. As you know, the Choir was established in 1884. My research into the Choir's archives, held in the Mortlock Library, reveals that right from its earliest days it has had a central role in the Adelaide community, and that commitment has continued right throughout its history to this day. Through its concerts, it has raised funds in support of a wide range of charities, as well as providing financial assistance at times of crisis in the local community and beyond.

Apart from fund-raising, the Choir also sings at community occasions which commemorate special events and special people, such as the Anzac Day Commemoration Service at the Cross of Sacrifice, which has been on our schedule for nearly 20 years. Over the past few years, we have established a strong link with the Mary Potter Hospice Foundation and have participated in the Loving Tree Christmas Carols evenings as well as other special occasions.

In addition to our public concerts, through which we have developed a loyal group of Choir friends, we also sing regularly at various retirement villages, and value the friendly links which have been established over the years. In fact, the 2019 concert was our 30th year at the Glynde Lutheran Homes, and we all, residents and singers alike, enjoy the conviviality and warm friendship of each occasion. There's no doubt that music lifts the spirits and creates a happy sense of community.

On the topic of community, I'd particularly like to pay tribute to our special guest here tonight: Peter Goers OAM, Vice Patron and good friend of the Choir. Peter does a remarkable job of community building and giving people that important sense of belonging. Through his radio programs and newspaper articles and guest appearances he promotes so many of the good things that happen in the community, and he's always ready to travel to country towns and tiny outposts to open fetes and speak at country shows and festivals. He truly is a South Australian Treasure!

So there you have it! AMITY, MUSICIANSHIP, VARIETY and COMMUNITY - The ADELAIDE MALE VOICE CHOIR! I'm very proud of the Choir and its achievements, and I'm very grateful for the loyalty and commitment of all those who support it throughout the year. Thank you.

A New Gilbert and Sullivan Concert At the Adelaide Fringe

This concert features a new selection for 2020 of songs from the very popular Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas. The witty lyrics, sparkling melodies and lively social commentary are as fresh today as ever, so sit back and enjoy this delightful performance.

The G & S concerts have been extremely popular with audiences in previous years, so book early to make sure you don't miss out. Performances will take place in three venues, to give more people the opportunity to attend. The venues are all air-conditioned, and there is wheelchair access and plenty of parking.

PERFORMED BY: The Adelaide Male Voice Choir and
Guest soloists Joanna McWaters (soprano) and Andrew Turner (baritone)

WHEN AND WHERE: Saturday 29 February 2020 at 2.00 pm
Unley Town Hall, 181 Unley Road, Unley

Friday 6 March 2020 at 6.00 pm
Walkerville Town Hall, 66 Walkerville Tce, Gilberton

Sunday 8 March 2020 at 2.00 pm
Salisbury Community Hub: John Harvey Community Hall
34 Church Street, Salisbury

TICKETS: \$28; Concession \$25; Child \$10; Group \$25
Available from Fringe TIX 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 for a meal or to other shows.

Bushfire Recovery Gala Benefit Concert

“Together”

Music has the power to exhilarate, to inspire, to touch the heart and to provide comfort

“Together we can achieve miracles”

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir and the Band of the SA Police were both established in 1884. Over the years, they have helped in raising funds for many community charity projects, including at times of crisis and special need.

They are getting together now, along with concert pianists Jeffrey Kong and Edward Kriek, for a Gala Benefit Concert in support of the bushfire recovery effort.

The concert will feature a kaleidoscope of splendid band, choral and piano music and will pay a special tribute to Beethoven on the 250th anniversary of his birth

PERFORMED BY: The Adelaide Male Voice Choir
The Band of the SA Police
Concert pianists Jeffrey Kong and Edward Kriek

GUEST COMPERE: SA icon Peter Goers OAM

WHEN and WHERE: Sunday 31 May 2020 at 2.00 pm
ANZAC Hall, Prince Alfred College
Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town

TICKETS: \$25; Concession \$20; Child \$10
Tickets will be available for purchase from 6 April 2020
Phone George (0407 724 584) or email: secretary@amvc.org.au
or from Choir members; or at the door (if not sold out beforehand)

AFTERNOON TEA: Available at interval

Dates for Your Diary

SEASON ONE 2020

January

Monday 27 7.30 pm Rehearsals Resume Immanuel Lutheran Church
139 Archer St, Nth Adelaide

February

Saturday 29 2.00 pm Fringe Concert 1
Gilbert and Sullivan Unley Town Hall
181 Unley Rd, Unley

March

Friday 6 6.00 pm Fringe Concert 2
Gilbert and Sullivan Walkerville Town Hall
66 Walkerville Tce, Gilberton

Sunday 8 2.00 pm Fringe Concert 3
Gilbert and Sullivan John Harvey Community Hall
34 Church St, Salisbury

April

Saturday 25 11.00 am ANZAC Service Cross of Sacrifice
North Adelaide

May

Sunday 31 2.00 pm Bushfire Recovery
Gala Benefit Concert ANZAC Hall, PAC
Dequetteville Terrace
Kent Town

June

Monday 22 7.30 pm Last rehearsal Season One

Special Event in June: The AMVC Mid-year Dinner at the Graduates Restaurant at the Regency Park TAFE has been an especially enjoyable social and musical event over the past few years, so we are planning to hold the function there again this year. Keep an eye out for further details as they are confirmed, so you don't miss out on this popular evening.

SEASON TWO 2020

August

Monday 3 7.30 pm Rehearsals resume Immanuel Lutheran Church
139 Archer St, Nth Adelaide

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.

Gilbert and Sullivan at the Fringe

W.S.Gilbert, the dramatist/librettist of the pair, was born in 1836, and Arthur Sullivan, the composer, was born in 1842. Their collaboration resulted in 14 operettas. The plots (which were often a source of friction between the pair) usually involve a "topsy-turvy" world which provides the opportunity for humorous situations which are resolved in a highly unlikely manner.

The AMVC's G & S concerts at the 2020 Adelaide Fringe will draw from the following operettas:

The Mikado: An irreverent look at British bureaucracy

HMS Pinafore: A satirical look at politics, the Royal navy and the English class system

The Pirates of Penzance: Ridicules inflated notions of duty, patriotism and sentimental love

Patience: Pokes fun at artistic affectation and poetic pretension

Trial by Jury: A jaundiced look at the British legal system

For concert dates and booking information: see page 3