

PATRON:

Mr Rod Bunten

VICE PATRONS:

Peter Goers OAM
Jeffrey Kong

PRESIDENT:

Peter Schulze

VICE PRESIDENT:

Selwyn Lipscombe

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw OAM

ACCOMPANISTS:

Edward Kriek
Alex Burney (Assistant)

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR:

Nikolai Leske

SECRETARY:

Keith Gooley

TREASURER:

David Burney

COMMITTEE:

John Arnold
Gerry King
Alf Martin

PUBLICITY:

Ian Moody

ALMONER:

Colin Styles (0418 663 495)

LIBRARIAN:

Terry Helbig

WEBMASTER:

Peter Schulze
(peter@pkschulze.com)

LIFE MEMBERS:

David Evans
Myfanwy James
Edward Kriek
Margaret Lambert
William Shaw OAM
Genty Stevens
Colin Styles
Len Turner
John Wear
Denis West

Choir practices are held every
Monday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm
at Immanuel Lutheran Church,
139 Archer St, North Adelaide

WEB ADDRESS:

amvc.org.au

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Following a somewhat disjointed 2021 year of Covid-affected ability to perform as we would normally, it has been wonderful to get some normality back for the Choir this year.

We are happy to welcome Mr Rod Bunten (husband of Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of SA) as the new Patron of the AMVC. Bill, Keith and I met with Mr Bunten at Government House on 11 May. It was a convivial meeting of information exchange and a discussion of possible future performance opportunities for the Choir.

Our exciting concert program began with *A Booster Shot of Song* for the Adelaide Fringe in February/March. The Choir, together with guest soloists Joanna McWaters and Andrew Turner, presented sold-out performances of favourite songs from musicals at three venues: Unley Town Hall, Seeds Uniting Church Aberfoyle Park and Walkerville Town Hall.

The AMVC was once again requested by the RSL to be part of the Cross of Sacrifice service following the ANZAC Day march on 25 April. This year was the 100th anniversary of the Women's War Memorial.

In May we had an evening at the SA Maritime Museum—*Tall Ships and Sailor Boys*. It was part of the program for South Australia's History Festival and was a benefit event for the Museum. We had a variety of sea shanties and songs of the sea presented to a sell-out appreciative audience. The Choir sang in groups spread around the deck of the ketch in the centre of the Museum's display area, with the men dressed as sailors in the sailing-ship era, adding a true nautical flavour.

One of our Committee members had been alerted through his friends in the Adelaide Ukrainian community to the plight of several dozen families, mainly women and children, who had sought shelter here after fleeing from Ukraine following the Russian invasion of their homeland. They were being supported here by the Ukrainian community, but more displaced persons were expected to arrive soon and funds were urgently needed. The Committee considered the situation and agreed that the Choir should present a special benefit concert in aid of these displaced persons. This decision resulted in a wonderful evening on 24 June, when the AMVC hosted an exciting variety concert featuring a sparkling display of song, dance and instrumental performance, with both classical repertoire and traditional Ukrainian items. The concert was held in the Concordia College Chapel and was attended by our Patron, Mr Bunten. The audience was close to 500, including many of the displaced persons here in Adelaide. We were able to make a donation of \$10,000 to help the relief effort.

The Choir's next commitment was on 3 July. We had been approached by the Adelaide Sound Connection (a women's a cappella choir) to partner them for a film and entertainment afternoon at the Regal Theatre. There was a short program by the AMVC, followed by the ASC, as a forerunner to a most enjoyable Australian movie *A Stitch in Time*.

On a sadder note, I am sorry to report that three former members of the Choir -Max Meaney, Ian Millbank and John Winnall – have passed away. It was evident to those of us who attended their funerals and heard the eulogies that the Choir had been an important element in the lives of all three men, and that the friendship and support within the Choir had been much appreciated.

I must pay special thanks to those members and their partners who loyally come along to all events and practices, and also to those members who provide invaluable support to me and to the Committee, even though they are finding it difficult at the moment to continue regular Choir activities, for example, the introduction of a computerized accounting package with assistance from Jim Wilson should make our Treasurer's job less complicated.

(Continued on page 4)

Introducing NIKOLAI LESKE, a member of the AMVC's Bass Section and also Assistant Conductor of the Choir. The Choir is delighted to have him in both of these roles and appreciates his lively enthusiasm and friendly, helpful manner. Here are some reflections from Nikolai:

Background in Music

I have grown up my whole life immersed in a plethora of music styles and influences. Both my parents were raised on a great deal of baroque, classical and romantic music. One grandparent's house was regularly filled with the sounds of English choral repertoire and the baby grand regularly played, and the other filled with the sound of opera with the accompanying posters and records on every available wall. I remember the distinct sounds of the ABC Classic FM broadcast every morning before school — just another way music was an everyday part of our lives growing up. Despite his classical upbringing, my dad also listened to all things jazz, and likewise imbued in me this same appreciation for the (very broad) genre.

School Music

I began learning piano in early primary school and quickly fell in love with the instrument and the way it allowed me to express and channel all my unspoken thoughts and emotions into music. In fact I had the very same piano teacher for an entire decade—from Year 2 when I began learning through to Year 12 when I finally concluded lessons—during which I sat several AMEB classical exams up to Grade 7.

Through my school years I entertained various ideas for career prospects—initially set on the idea of becoming a veterinarian (growing up with multiple pets at home, I grew up with a love for all animals), which shifted slightly in high school to aspirations of becoming a doctor or paramedic.

While these careers still interest me to this day, it quickly became apparent that my love for music might just stand on the way of other career aspirations. As such, I finally entertained the possibility—could I make a career out of music? During high school I threw myself into bands, choirs, orchestras left and right, and signed up for as many music subjects as possible, including the study of composition. And while many avenues of music interested me, none did quite so much as composition. In late primary school I realised I quite liked the idea of writing my own music, and as the years drew on, I wrote more and more of my own music, and I finally decided to simply follow this passion and see if I could indeed make a living out of it.

Uni Music

As such, I studied a Bachelor of Music (majoring in Composition) at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, during which I lived and studied in Glasgow, Scotland. During my studies I was twice commissioned to write new works for various orchestras—for the Adelaide Youth Sinfonia (of AdYO), and for the Elder Conservatorium Wind Orchestra (an ensemble I performed in as a bass trombonist in my first year at university). In the final year of my degree I undertook a year-long internship with Adelaide Youth Orchestra (AdYO) - the same organisation for whom I wrote my first uni commission—and this time arranged and composed various works for different orchestras of theirs.

During these years I sang with the Con's jazz choir, Adelaide Connection, and the Elder Con Chorale—a choir I still sing with. I have also sung with the Adelaide Chamber Singers on occasion—a professional chamber choir.

As often happens in life, one can never predict the direction like will take you. And now, despite studying composition in uni and my major instrument being piano, I'm spending most of my music work time performing as a chorister or conducting a certain choir (hello AMVC!) Unexpected, and yet I wouldn't change this journey for anything!





Presentation of the \$10,000 donation raised through the AMVC's Ukrainian Refugee Benefit Concert

Pictured (left to right): Ms Aliona King (representative of the Ukrainian community), Mrs Daina Shaw, Mr William Shaw (AMVC Director of Music), Mr Rod Buntan (AMVC Patron), Mr Peter Schulze (AMVC President), Mrs Kathryn Schulze



An item of traditional Ukrainian singing and music at the Ukrainian Refugee Benefit Concert hosted by the AMVC

The Morialta Uniting Church

presents

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir

A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Concert of Favourite Songs

With guest artists: Cellist Julian Leske, accompanied on piano by Nikolai Leske

WHEN: Sunday 16 October 2022 at 2.00pm

WHERE: Morialta Uniting Church, 26 Chapel Street, Magill

TICKETS: \$20

BOOKING: <https://www.trybooking.com/CCMYN>

A limited number of tickets will be available at the door

Afternoon-tea available

Dates for Your Diary : SEASON TWO 2022

October

Sunday 16	2.00pm	Concert	Morialta Uniting Church 26 Chapel St, Magill
Sunday 30	2.00 pm	Concert	Fullarton Community Centre 411 Fullarton Rd, Fullarton

November

Sunday 13	2.00 pm	Concert	Glynde Lutheran Homes Avenue Rd, Glynde
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December

Wednesday 7	7.30 pm	Church service for Mary Potter Foundation	St Xavier Cathedral Wakefield St, Adelaide
Tuesday 13	7.00 pm	Carols service	Hope Valley Lutheran Homes 1215 Grand Junction Rd, Hope Valley
Thursday 22	12noon	BREIF Club lunch Octet]	Arkaba Hotel—Fullarton Room

A Christmas Dinner is currently being planned. Details will be on the AMVC website in due course.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued from Page 1)

In addition to the Choir's performance commitments, the members also enjoy socializing together, and I would like to mention two special occasions which occurred during the first half of this year. What better reason to socialize than a surprise party to celebrate Bill's 80th birthday? A large birthday cake, alight with candles (though not 80 of them!), miraculously appeared at the coffee-break midway through one of our regular Monday rehearsals in late February, and bottles of wine emerged from the members' music bags. In no time a party was in full swing! [Editor's note: the magnificent Black Forest cake had been baked and decorated by master-chef Kathryn Schulze, and was much appreciated.]

The second occasion was a members and partners dinner in late May. Plans to hold our usual mid-winter dinner for family and friends at the Regency Park Graduates Restaurant were unfortunately cancelled due to staffing difficulties caused by Covid, so the Choir had an 'in-house' dinner in the St John's Lutheran Church Hall instead. It proved to be a terrific opportunity for those present to get to know others a lot better. My thanks to all those who contributed to the success of a most enjoyable event. Below are photographs of some of the entertainment items at the dinner.

Peter Schulze

Left: An Irish comic poem read by Terry Helbig.



Right: Music comedy/satire from *The Barrowtones*.

