

President's Report of the Activities of the  
Adelaide Male Voice Choir

For the year 2016

Presented to the members at its Annual General Meeting held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church on  
March 20<sup>th</sup> 2017

Gentlemen. It is with much pleasure that I present a report of the activities of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir for the calendar year 2016.

The year 2016 proved to be a busy and rewarding one. The Fringe Concerts, the combined concert with the Metropolitan Male Voice Choir and the trip to join the Orange Male Voice Choir to celebrate its 90th Anniversary were amongst the highlights of the year.

I thank you for the support you have given our Music Director, Assistant Conductor, committee and me in your attendance at rehearsals, concerts and social activities organised throughout the year.

I wish to acknowledge the staff and congregation of the Immanuel Lutheran Church for the manner in which they have accommodated us.

**Engagements**

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|--------------|---|
| February 26  | FRINGE St Stephens Wakefield St Adelaide; Soloist Luke Thompson.  |
| March 5      | FRINGE St Stephens Wakefield St Adelaide; Soloist Luke Thompson.  |
| April 10     | ELDER HALL North Terrace Adelaide Concert with the MMVC; Soloist Joanna McWaters<br>Compere; Peter Goers.   |
| April 25     | CROSS OF SACRIFICE. ANZAC DAY SERVICE.  |
| May 11       | Flinders Street Baptist Church. Lunchtime concert   |
| August 28    | Colonel Light Gardens RSL<br>St Phillips Somerton Park PSA  |
| October 2    | Burnside City Uniting Church Highlights from Opera<br>Soloists; Joanna Mc Waters, Michelle Grieg, Andrew Turner, Adam Goodburn<br>Accompanist; Jeffrey Kong         |
| November 4-6 | Orange Trip   |
| November 20  | Immanuel Lutheran Church Thank you concert  |
| November 24  | Glynde Lutheran Homes Annual Christmas concert  |
| December 13  | Hope Valley Lutheran Homes Annual Christmas celebration Soloist; Michelle Grieg,<br>Piano Duet Edward Kriek and Norman Schulz and Organ Recital Pastor John Wilksch |

December 16 The Stables, The Junction, Christmas Dinner Guest Soloists; Joanna Mc Waters, Andrew .Turner.

Soloists at a number of the minor concerts were choir members; Kevin Fisher, Alex Burney and David Hokin.

### **Highlights of the Year**

There have been a number of highlights of the year.

Our second foray into the Fringe proved to be a lot of fun for us all. We enjoyed being part of this lively festival and our exposure to a different audience.

The most successful combined concert with the Metropolitan Male Voice Choir was another pleasurable learning experience for both groups as we were, led by two very different conductors. Those of us who were involved with the planning appreciated a sense of comradeship as we worked with one common cause..... the presentation of an afternoon of vocal musical excellence to our audience. Peter Goers, our first Vice Patron, was our compere for the event and Joanna McWaters our soloist.

The excursion to Orange gave those who were fortunate enough to take part in their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration was unforgettable experience. We are all very grateful to David Turner, Bill Shaw and Bev Glover (accompanist of the Orange Male Voice Choir) for the countless hours spent in seeing all aspects were covered, and all participants kept informed of arrangements.

An innovation initiated during the latter part of the year was the introduction of the Members Page on our web site. This has included sound bites of current music and has allowed members to prepare themselves between rehearsals. This innovation has been appreciated by the members. Our thanks go to Peter Schulze and Geoff Syme for putting this idea into a reality.

### **Rehearsal Venue**

We have been very fortunate and happy with our current venue, having access to the hall, kitchen and sanctuary whenever needed. Second Tenor, our Librarian, Terry Helbig is our liaison person with the administration and congregation of Immanuel and I thank him for the manner in which he has carried out this role. He has been an excellent ambassador for us.

### **Patron**

Our current Governor, **Hieu Van Le**, is our Patron and he has agreed to continue in this capacity during his term on office. During the year, two Committee members and their wives represented us at the Garden Party which was held to acknowledge the groups for whom the Governor is Patron.

## **Vice Patrons**

Jeffrey Kong was pleased to accept our invitation to be our Second Vice President for the years 2016/2017.

He was pleased to be our pianist at the Opera Concert at the Burnside City Uniting Church.

Peter Goers is our current First Vice Patron. 2015/2016

## **Social Events**

Thanks go to Christian Pollnitz, Sylvia Hunt, and Pearl Gough for taking on the tasks involved with the tea and coffee break each week. The members really do appreciate this time for socializing. This year a number of members shared special events with choir members by providing all with special suppers. Thanks go to them and their families for the extra special treats for all to enjoy.

This year there were two major social events; the 1920s night and the annual end of year Christmas Dinner.

The 1920's evening was indeed a memorable one, not only because of the way those in attendance got into the spirit of the evening with appropriate costumes but also for the way in which they coped with the total blackout which threatened to spoil the evening.

I thank the sub-committee of members and their wives who so readily gave assistance with the various organizational matters associated with this event. I thank the administration of the St Joseph's School, Tranmere for the use of the venue. Once again this year we repaid this generosity with a concert for their congregation.

The very successful End of Year, Christmas dinner was held at The Junction, Camden Park.. We were very appreciative of the manner in which the staff carried out their duties so pleasantly and unobtrusively. We were delighted to have a number of our Financial Friends join us for the event.

Joanna Mc Waters and Andrew Turner were our special guest and delighted us with their items.

At this year's celebration Robert Smith was presented with his 20 year cufflinks. We congratulate him on his loyalty over this period. He joins the select band of members who have celebrated this significant milestone.

My thanks go to two people who made the evening all the more special: Judy Styles for the time and effort she put into the preparation of table decorations and raffle prizes. Both added greatly to the ambiance of the evening.... and Peter Schulze who added yet another dimension to the evening with his montage of significant events and people who have made an impact on the AMVC over the years.

I wish to emphasize the importance of these social events. Not only do they allow members and their partners to get to know one another, but they also add a significant buffer to our finances. The financial success of these events allows the committee to keep fees at a level which, hopefully, do not restrict men from joining or continuing enjoying the benefits ...social and healthwise which have been attributed to singing and belonging to a choir.

## **Partners.**

I wish to acknowledge the cheerful, ready and valued contributions our partners have made again in 2016. Their help with roll keeping, assistance at our concerts by filling front of house duties and all the tasks associated with the afternoon tea. I thank most sincerely that small band of loyal partners who have assisted in these roles at all of our concerts. The team headed by Stephanie Roach has an eye for detail and makes sure every aspect of the afternoon tea is covered from the setting up to the final clearing up. We have been very fortunate in having this support.

I thank Lois Wear for the sterling work she has done as our First Aid person over the last several years... particularly when we have been on tour. Lois feels she can no longer fulfil this role, particularly as she does not attend our rehearsals.

Daina Shaw has continued to act as our editor of our In Harmony and coordinator of our Financial Friends Group. Both these roles she has carried out with enthusiasm and dedication.

## **Committee and Members**

I have mentioned before that groups such as the AMVC need a band of members who are willing to give up many hours beyond rehearsal times to see that the group functions as efficiently and profitably as possible. We have been very fortunate over the last several years that we have had such a group.

The Committee meets monthly to address administrative matters which affect all members of the choir. I thank them for their diligence in attending these meetings and willingness to fulfill tasks asked of them.

Our thanks go to Andrew Shaw for making his office facilities available for Committee meetings again this year.

I thank

George Willcox, our Secretary for the manner in which he has carried out his duties most diligently ...particularly considering the health issues he has faced. He has most actively pursued the interests of the choir and kept all members of the committee up to date with the progress of proposed activities.

Denis Harper , our Treasurer, for the faithful way he has carried out the onerous duties associated with the role. It is indeed a very time consuming task as it involves time every week dealing with money issues and the preparation of monthly financial statements for the Committee. Thanks also go to David Burney for taking on the role of Interim Treasurer and acting as our Treasurer during the times of Denis' absence on leave.

David Turner is to be congratulated on the meticulous manner in which he approached the organization of the details for our Orange Trip. The result of this was that our trip went so smoothly. Thanks go to John Arnold for acting as David's backup person for this trip.

John Wear, our concert manager has ensured that our presentation at concerts and other public occasions as professionally as possible and for the contributions he has made at committee meetings.

Neville Roach has insured that our members have access to correct uniform for all occasions. He coordinated the purchase of our new on tour/practice tops. It has been pleasing to see the way in which the members have accepted this additional part of our uniform. It has indeed added a new sense of comradeship and unity.

Geoff Syme has, with Peter Schulze, spent many hours in preparing computerized music bites for each section of the current music score required for concerts. Geoff is also the voice of our Librarian on the Committee.

David Evans has been our Vice President and I have really appreciated his ready and active support and encouragement during the year.

Our Music Director Bill Shaw has been a very active member of the Committee ensuring that we have a varied program to present to our audiences and that we keep within the legal responsibilities of copyright issues. We also thank him and Daina for making their home available for a special get to know you meeting at the commencement of the new committee year.

My gratitude also goes to these choir members have spent much time on behalf of us all. To

Peter Schulze, our web master, for keeping our web site current and being the IT consultant for many members.

Terry Helbig, our Librarian, for the excellent job he has done in ensuring that all members have all the required scores. In addition he has performed many unseen behind the scene activities for special events and every Monday evening rehearsals.

John Wilksch has been our Almoner this year and has used his many pastoral skills as he has cared for our members.

Bruce Risby has been ever ready to assist with ticketing for social events.

John Dick has spent countless hours working on the updating of our Constitution and an Asset list. Both these tasks are time consuming but necessary.

Ian Thomas, our Public Officer, has readily given his advice on the occasions when called upon.

Section leaders. Each section of the choir has its leader and these men are the first point of reference for the members of that section. It is an important role for they can ensure that should there be an issue which affects their section that the staff are made aware of concerns.

Thank you gentlemen for carrying out these duties so conscientiously. You have made my task the more satisfying knowing that I have had your ready support.

I wish to acknowledge with our grateful thanks Colin Bennet. Colin, who is a Friend of the Choir, has been our Auditor for a number of years.

### **Music Director, Assistant Conductor and Accompanists**

Much of the success of 2016 is due to the continued dedication and enthusiasm of our Music Director Bill Shaw and our very talented Accompanist Edward Kriek. We are indeed fortunate that they have such a close working relationship. This year Colin Campbell joined us as Assistant Conductor. I feel sure that he has enjoyed the opportunity of being mentored by our Music Director and by working with a group such as ours.

All continue to show much patience and encouragement as we master the various musical challenges brought to us. Thank you for the faith you have in us

This year we have been very pleased to appoint Alex Burney, a member of the Second Tenors, as our Assistant Accompanist. This was a most fortuitous appointment as Edward Kriek was unable to go with us on our tour to Orange. I am sure Alex has been delighted to have this chance to add this new role to his resume.

### **Membership**

We have had the pleasure of welcoming some new members again this year. Each has become involved with our activities in concerts and social events. I encourage each member of the choir to be constantly on the lookout for new members. If we do not then we all know what that will mean for the future of the choir.

### **Conclusion**

I thank you, the members of the AMVC for the support you have given to your committee and me during 2016. I can assure you that we have all worked for your benefit.

I am confident that 2017 will another year when we can make an impact on the cultural life of Adelaide and beyond.

Colin Styles

President 2016.