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A Few Notes



News about the BRISBANE APOLLO MALE

Message from the President.

Michelle, Margaret, and all choir members,

It is with great pleasure and gratitude I bring you Christmas greetings.

It has been a happy year leading up to the Holy Season and I extend the warmest of wishes to you and your families to celebrate the birth of the *Way-shower* 2000 years ago. "The sign of Christmas is a Star, a light in darkness. See it not outside yourself but shining in the heaven within, and accept it as a sign the time of Christ has come".

Let us enjoy this time and the year to follow with the celebration of our 125 years as a choir.

Ross.



Christmas Lights

Lights everywhere at St. Gerard's Christmas Festival of Lights. Our first visit to this festival, on 10th. Dec. was an interesting experience: not a big audience but we were told that the numbers vary from night to night with no way of knowing what to expect. The Church was awarded first prize in the Church section of the Christmas light competition and it is easy to see why. We visit again on the 16th.



Performing at St. Gerards

"The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to support your weight long enough so you can reach for something higher." –Anonymous

'Twas (the politically correct) Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...
 How to live in a world that's politically correct?
 His workers no longer would answer to "Elves".
 "Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.
 And labour conditions at the north pole
 Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.
 Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety,
 Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.
 And equal employment had made it quite clear
 That Santa had better not use just reindeer.
 So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,
 Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know it looked stupid!
 The runners had been removed from his sleigh;
 The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.
 And people had started to call for the cops
 When they heard sled noises on their roof-tops.
 So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife,
 Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,
 Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz,
 Demanding from now on her title was Ms.

And as for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion
 That making a choice could cause so much commotion.
 Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,
 Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her.
 Nothing that might be construed to pollute.
 Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.
 Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise.
 Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.
 Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.
 Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific.

No candy or sweets... they were bad for the tooth.
 Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.
 And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,
 Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.

For they raised the hackles of those psychological
 Who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

No baseball, no football... someone could get hurt;
 Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.
 Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passé;
 And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed;
 He just could not figure out what to do next.

He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,
 (you've got to be careful with that word today!)

His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;
 Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might
 Give to all without angering the left or the right.

A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,
 Each group of people, every religion;
 Every ethnicity, every hue,
 Everyone, everywhere...yes, even you.

So here is that gift, its price beyond worth...

"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."

Public Concerts

There will be 5 Concerts for the general public in 2009.

A fund raising concert will be held on Sunday, February 22nd, for St. James Church as part of our rental agreement.

Concert for Choices- Fund raiser for breast cancer research. Together with "Friends in Harmony", the former Welsh Ladies' Choir, we will perform on Wednesday, March 18th, at 10.30 am. We will donate our services for this worthy cause.

Saturday, May 16th at Sunnybank Uniting Church at 7.30 pm, and again at Chermiside Community Church on Saturday May 23rd(afternoon). These will both celebrate our 125 years as well as raise funds for the Choir and both churches.

City Hall, Main Auditorium, Tuesday July 7th. Free lunchtime concert to celebrate 125 years. This is very close to the date the very first concert of the choir was held—12th July, 1884 at Brisbane Town Hall.

We would hope that many thousands of people would have heard the Choir by the end of 2009 and that our ranks had swelled with new members as some who heard us decided to join and be part of the next 125 years.

The Australian Carols -Composers

William G. James (Pianist and Composer)

Born...Ballarat 1892 Died 1977

Studied Melbourne University Conservatorium....graduated 1912.

Studied in London and Brussels Returned to Australia 1923.

Became the first Director of Music at the A.B.C. in 1931 - a post he held till 1957.

He composed for voice, choir and piano but his most enduring works are his 6 sets of Australian Christmas Carols in which traditional Christmas themes were given an "outback" setting. They were published in the 1950's.

Most of these were written to words by lyricist, John Wheeler.

John Wheeler (Writer)

Born. Coalac Vic.26 July 1901
 Died 10 September 1984

Professional Writer

Winner of several prizes and scholarships.

Winner of National Jubilee Song Contest for best Lyric *Land of Mine* (Music by Henry Krips)



From the Sunday Mail



The year that was - 2008

A Short history- final chapter

From 2000 on :

February: What -No Hall ? We started the year without a hall. Upon arriving at the Shaftsbury Centre for our AGM, we found new tenants had moved in. Temporary accommodation at Sunnybank Uniting Church was provided for 4 weeks. We lost one of our long serving members, George Barker during February.



For many years the Choir had made do with a variety of old pianos adding to the problems of many accompanists. The year 2001 saw at least one benefit from the introduction of the Pokies into Queensland, for the Government in its wisdom had decreed that some of the profits of the gaming industry would be returned to the general community. The ever alert Ron Birchall became aware of this and enlisted the aid of his local member, Mr Terry Sullivan and with the support of Millards Tyre Centre and Kedron Car Electrics an application was made for enough money to purchase a new piano. Approval was granted, and in time the choir took delivery of a brand new Kwai piano. What bliss!

March. Moved to a new home, St. James Church Hall at Kelvin Grove.



Much more room for music library. Moved piano in.

April. Settled into new home. Invited to sing at Jackie's wedding in May.

Henry not doing well after his operation.
Started "Coffee & Cake " with Laurie organizing the roster.



Rehearsing in new "home".

May. Sang at wedding of Jackie and Denise.

Joined with Serenata Singers in helping them tie the knot.

Visits to St.Martins and Oasis Resort.



June.



Charlie McEwan, Peter Elliston, Malcolm Thorne , and Jim Kitchen awarded with Gold Tie Badges for their service to the choir for over 20 years.

July. Henry passed away.

Choir sang at the funeral at St. Johns Cathedral .

Choir visits to New Farm and Albany Creek.



August.



Michelle held up with a flat battery and nearly didn't make it to Terry Brae at Kenmore .

Malcolm and Sandra visited Betty Mathewson in Toowoomba.

Visit to St. Clements on the Hill (Cec's Church)

September. The piano we assisted in purchasing for Margaret's Church, Chermiside Community Church was delivered. An evening concert at Compton Gardens had the audience swaying to and fro as we sang.

A visit to Brooklands , where Sylvia took the photo we are using for 2009.



Compton Gardens

October. /November. Year closing fast. Preparing for Christmas Lights Concert.

Visit to Cyril Wells at St. Johns, also entertained at Logan Uniting and Sinnamon Village.



St. John Nursing Home



In December 2000, an invitation was received from the Brisbane State and Municipal Choir to participate in their Australia Day Concert the following year. However, the Choir was in recess and there was insufficient time to make the necessary arrangements, so the invitation was declined. It was unfortunate from another point of view , for it would have been a notable occasion being just five months short of the 100th anniversary of the first recorded combined performance of these Choirs.

Henry Howell continued to guide the choir through the 2000's until, in early 2007, due to failing health, he reluctantly retired from his position as Musical Director. After a long battle with illness, he passed away in July, 2008. His contribution to the cultural and religious communities in Brisbane had been considerable , having been involved with choral music for 60 years.

The present day Apollo Choir, after meeting at the Shaftsbury Centre in Spring Hill for many years, moved to St. James Anglican Church Hall, Kelvin Grove at the beginning of 2008. They meet every Tuesday evening from 7.30 pm.

The Musical Director is Michelle Albert . She was accepted into the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and studied music/singing full-time until 1982. Michelle completed a degree in Music at the now University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba , majoring in both performance and teaching.

Michelle is in her second year as Musical Director and enjoys working with a group as accomplished as the Brisbane Apollo Male Choir. She is contributing in a positive way to the fine legacy that has been handed to her . She is ably assisted by Margaret Munro as accompanist, a role Margaret has filled for over 12 years.

As stated earlier in this overview of the heritage of the Apollo Choir, the first public concert was presented on 16th. July, 1885, in the Brisbane Town Hall, then in Queen Street, approximately where the Lennons Hotel was later built.

The 125th. Year of the Choir's existence will be celebrated with a public concert in the Main auditorium of the City hall on July 7th 2009 , as close as could be arranged to the anniversary date of the original concert .

"You don't have to be great to get started, but you have to get started to be great." - Les Brown

From the Committee Meeting on 24th Nov. 08

Preparation for Christmas Lights Concerts going well. Michelle happy with music available. Laurie to check Church stage for room. Margaret will work with Trish Jones on Concert on 22nd.Feb. David to find guest artists for Sunnybank Concert /Margaret to find guest artists from within Chermiside Church if possible for that concert. Malcolm succeeded with grant for preparation for Christmas expenses. Will try for Keyboard grant again next year. Bill told us we would lose funds this year but should be in better position next year. He recommends membership fees rise to \$40. Donation jar at Coffee & Cake night should gain about \$300 in a year. Keith thanked for his effort in getting the City Hall Concert; doing great job as Promotions officer, helped by Peter & Fraser. Committee to work with Michelle to find solution to Tuesday availability dilemma. Carolyn to be approached for assistance. Early warning for soloists not working yet: Should there be a roster or book kept of who and when? Michelle should have final say on who does or doesn't sing and when. Choir warm up working well with Ed. leading. Peter Schinkel has printed about 30 "brief histories". David would like to present one to each place we visit next year.

Annual General Meeting will be held at St. James Church Hall on Tuesday, 27th. January 2009 at 7.30 pm.

Notice of motion from Treasurer, seconded by committee:
"that membership fees be increased to \$40 in 2009"