

# Brisbane Apollo Male Choir

125 years entertaining the citizens of Brisbane



[www.apollochoir.com](http://www.apollochoir.com)

## A Few Notes

### Big Year!



### April 2009



The year seems to be speeding up. Already we have had 3 public concerts, raising funds for Flood and Bushfire victims, Breast Cancer research, and to help a little girl with a devastating illness.

Still to come are 3 special birthday concerts, where we share with the public our achievement of 125 years of entertaining the citizens of Brisbane. These concerts are special, as they allow us to reach an audience that may not have been aware of who we are and what we do. Also, in that audience, there could be some prospective new members to join our ranks. The concert in the City Hall is especially important to us.

The visit of the Treorchy Male Choir from Wales could also be a highlight of this special year. If we, as a choir, could attend and see what this great choir does; then we, as a choir, can try to emulate some of those features in our own performances. All performers need to challenge themselves constantly and we are no exception. Once we see and hear what the world's best can do, we have a new starting point from which to view ourselves and find where we need polishing. And the year has only just got underway—hasn't it?

*Our lives begin to end when we become silent about things that matter.* Martin Luther King.

### Terry Brae



Our visit to Terry Brae IONA Complex on 16th April was on a perfect Brisbane morning. Most of the residents were in the auditorium waiting for us when we arrived 30 minutes before the concert was due to commence. After the sorting out of the chairs and a run through some of the solos with Carolyn Hall, who was

our accompanist for the day, the members gathered out in the grounds for their warm up.

It was a happy concert, with Doug Kinnersley singing his solo, *If I loved you*, in an



unusual way; Graham Pascoe giving a great rendition of *A Bush Christening*, and Ed. Lang shaking hands with almost all the residents while he sang, *Dear Hearts and Gentle People*. Richard Kwan was a welcome addition to the choir for the day.



### Lucia Bella.

18th April. 09.

A party-like setting greeted us as we arrived to set up for the fund raising concert for Lucia Bella, the three year old who has Netherton Syndrome. The Saturday Spectacular was organised by Mary Williams and Betty Mason to raise funds for treatment for Lucia. The Apollo Choir was the main draw card for the afternoon, which also included a fashion parade and raffle, plus Devonshire teas. The hall at St. Gerards Majella Church at Chermside was small and the room we had at the front for chairs was barely adequate, but we squeezed in and presented a well received program. Carolyn once again filled in for Margaret and did a great job on the piano.

The reason for the concert became very real for all of us who were there, as Lucia's parents had her with them attending. It was moving to see this little girl being so cheerful to all around her when we knew her health problems were so great. Francesca, Lucia's mother, spoke of the heart aches they had gone through seeking cures for their daughter and the effort the local hospitals had made to try and find a solution. The trip to Austria for treatment should happen soon and we can only hope and pray the treatment will allow Lucia to become a normal little girl. The Apollo Choir was privileged to be part of this event, and give its support to the fund raising effort which raised \$6,400. For Lucia Bella's story, visit our web page: [www.apollochoir.com](http://www.apollochoir.com)



*This Choir has gained support from the Brisbane City Council*

# Whats happening ?

On Wings of Song: Sunday -17th May

Music by Mendelssohn, Rutter & Mulholland.

Choral Connection with Conductor –Paul Holley.

St. Andrews Uniting Church. Creek & Ann St. City. 3.00 pm.

Remember Bev. Glover ? She was the accompanist for the Rowland Gregory Orpheus Choir from Orange. She is now secretary of a newly formed Male Choirs Assn of Aust. Inc. (MCAA). It is mainly centered in Sydney– Canberra region . She has invited us to join them , and then plan to go to Sydney 2010 in November to join then for a big festival . They plan to hold a festival every 2 years. 2012 could be Victoria, then perhaps Queensland. The web site is

[www.malechoirsassociation.org.au](http://www.malechoirsassociation.org.au)

Bye the way, the Rowland Gregory Orpheus Choir is now the Orange Male Choir.

We received an invitation to be part of the Gothic Symphony

Here are some details—there would be

4 Brass Bands: 2 Full Orchestras: 450 Voices

1 Brave Conductor: 25 Years in the Making

And One performance at the QPAC Concert Hall on 22nd December 2009.

Unfortunately, the practice timetables were too complex to consider within our own busy schedule.

*"When you walk through a storm hold your head up high" is a lovely lyric, but terrible advice if the storm is electrical.*

## Science and Voice:

When judged by its size, our vocal system fails to impress as a musical instrument. How then can singers produce all those remarkable sounds?

The human voice would not receive much acclaim if instrument makers placed it in a lineup of traditional orchestral instruments. Arranged by size, the voice box [larynx]-and the airway it sits in –would be grouped with the piccolo, amongst the smallest of mechanical music makers.

All instruments have a sound source, a resonator that reinforces the basic sound and a radiator that transmits the sound to listeners.

The human's sound source is the vibrating vocal folds of the larynx; the resonator is the sound-boosting airway above the larynx; and the radiator is the opening at the mouth.



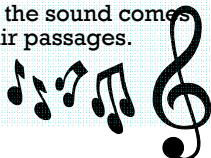
A trumpeter's lips vibrate as air, pumped from the lungs, rushes between them into a cup-shaped mouthpiece to create a fundamental frequency and several higher frequencies, called overtones. The metal tubes ( which can be up to a metre long when unfolded) are the resonators, and the horn at the end radiates the sound. The frequency of notes are changed by solenoids, worked by the fingers, that shorten or lengthen the tubes. On a violin the pitch changes by holding down a string, shortening the vibrating length, and raising the pitch.

The human vocal folds, in contrast, must do what no other string instrument can do; vary the length and tension of the vibration simultaneously to change frequency. Rather than pinning down a vocal fold with a finger to shorten its effective length, we must use muscles to shift its end points. It is too complex to explain here , but amazing when you consider what happens to produce the sounds we do produce with our vocal folds, which are about the size of our thumbnails.

Humans tend to think of the entire human body as an instrument, which could be compared to, say, a double bass in size. But most of the body contributes nothing to the sound—neither the back, the chest, the belly, the legs. All the sound comes from the voice box (larynx) and the air passages.

Abridged from "The Human Instrument"

Scientific American—Jan-08



## Another Male Choir turns 125 !

Direct from Wales, the world renowned *Treorchy Male Choir* returns to Australia to celebrate its 125th Anniversary of music making history.

With over 60 singers on stage, *Treorchy Male Choir* has been hailed as the greatest male voice combination in the world and has performed for Prime Ministers, Presidents, Archbishops, Royalty, singers and film stars all over the world. Alongside the works of **Greig, Wagner** and **Verdi** the choir will also perform modern songs from **Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Stephen Sondheim, Paul Anka** and **John Lennon**.

Don't miss this glorious evening of Welsh music, popular classics and choral masterpieces

We have written to the tour organisers to try and meet the choir while in Brisbane on June 13th. Michelle would like us to arrange a concert party to go and see them– it might be about \$60 per seat but should be worth it for our own pleasure and development. Bill will be booking the seats—let Peter know if you are going. You can pay Bill for them before the concert.

## Treorchy Male Choir



125th Anniversary Tour

Concert Hall, QPAC



### Coming up— Concerts.

**Wednesday 6th May** **Sinnamon Village. 10. 15 am.**  
**620 Seventeen Mile Rocks Road.**  
**SINNAMON PARK**

**Friday 8th. May** **Centenary Memorial Gardens 6.30 pm.**  
**353 Wacol Station Rd. SUMNER**  
**"Specially for Mothers"**

**Saturday 16th May** **Sunnybank Uniting Church 7.30 pm.**  
**Crn. Hellowell Rd & Hillcrest St,**  
**SUNNYBANK HILLS**

125 years Special Concert

**Saturday 23rd. May.** **Chermside Kedron Community Church 2 pm**  
**Gympie Road, CHERMSIDE.**  
125 years Special Concert

Thought for the day: Try to glance at the conductor on the first beat of every bar. That way you at least have some idea why she is becoming so stressed. You may even be able to respond to what she requires.

### The Brisbane Apollo Male Choir Inc.

President : Ross Lovell

Vice President : Ed Lang

Musical Director : Michelle Albert

Treasurer : Bill Reekie

Secretary : David Pitt

Email : [sec-apollochoir@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sec-apollochoir@optusnet.com.au)

Web site : [www.apollochoir.com](http://www.apollochoir.com)