



Brisbane Apollo Male Choir

125 years entertaining the citizens of Brisbane



www.apollochoir.com

A Few Notes

St. Martins Nursing Home

Our visit to St. Martins on 1st September saw some change of roles as Michelle prepared for her visit to America in just a few days' time. Jim again led from the front as conductor while Rob compered the concert and did an excellent job. About 16 choir members were there and their singing was well received by the audience. Peter sang "Smilin' Through" which the residents enjoyed.

Doug Kinnersley also sang a number we have not heard him sing before "The Loveliest Night of the Year".

Doug Ryan's wife, Valmai, has found a place in the choir. Margaret discovered that she could read music so has enlisted her help as a page turner. Diana filled this role for many years and Margaret missed the assistance—it was appreciated.

We did not have the usual cup of tea before we left, but we did receive a letter of support from the home to assist us in our application to the City Council for a keyboard.

Thanks to Margaret and Doug K. for story and photos.



September 2009

The Choir received a card from the St. David's Welsh Society of Brisbane. It contained the following message:

Congratulations on the 125th Anniversary of the Choir. What a wonderful achievement! The St. David's Welsh Society of Brisbane has enjoyed performances of the choir on many occasions and have appreciated the willingness of choir members to be involved in activities of the Society, particularly at the annual Gymanpa Ganu over many years.

Thank you for your contribution to the cultural life of Brisbane and may your wonderful tradition of music-making continue well into the future.

We received a request from Bill Thomas to provide a small concert party for the same group. Four of us went to the Ann Street Presbyterian Church hall on 29th Aug. for their "August Tea".



Malcolm, back from overseas, Jackie, Doug K. and Margaret provided entertainment for the St. David's Welsh Society. They started with "It's a Grand Night for Singing", then each provided 2 solo items.

Malcolm pointed out that all the party had "Celtic" origin—two Welshmen, one Irish, and the name of Munro.

The St. David's Society then entertained the party with afternoon tea.

Margaret with the President of the St. David's Society,



This Choir has gained support from the Brisbane City Council

CYMRU (Wales)



Postcard from Malcolm. Greetings from the land of Male Voice Choirs. Have managed to catch up with many relatives and friends, dodging the frequent showers. (The Brecon Agricultural Show has been cancelled due to soggy conditions-the first time in 250 years!). We are off to Budapest in a few days, then a cruise down the Danube. Spot the Roman amphitheatre in the map-close to my birth place. (It is at Caellion).

**Yesterday is History Tomorrow is a Mystery
Today is a Gift. That is why we call it "the present"**
from "Kung-Fu Panda"

Coming up— Concerts.

- Thursday 10th Sept. Brooklands Village**
Romulus & McCulloch St, Robertson 11.00am.
- Wed. 30th Sept. Terry Brae IONA Complex**
129 Brookfield Rd, Kenmore 10.30 am
- Wednesday 7th October Masonic Care**
60 Wakefield St, Sandgate 10.00 am.
- Wed. 14th October Pine Rivers Senior Citizens**
Community Hall, Anzac Ave, Kallangur 10.30am



Hindu Proverb:

**What comes from the mouth goes to the ear.
But what comes from the heart goes to the heart.**

From the Secretary.

I have decided to share with you my experiences as a singer. I started singing as a boy soprano in a Police Boys Club Choir in Sydney—age 8. After 3 years in this Choir, we were selected to sing in the Boys Chorus in a production of Carmen, by the Australian Opera Company. This was a huge experience for a 12 y.o. and it was nearly repeated with a chorus part in La Boheme the following year but family matters stopped me from taking part.

The next big event for me was the opportunity to sing in the Billy Graham Crusade choir during his visit in the 50's. There were 1000 voices each night of the crusade— and the leader, Cliff Burrows, I will never forget. This experience was repeated 7 years later on another visit, except the second time 2000 voices turned up and they formed 2 x 1000 voice choirs and I only sang every second night.

When I moved to Armidale I joined the Chorale, the Musical Society, and the Theatre Club. During my 17 years there, I played some part in 17 different musicals—from stage lighting and sound through to leading roles. This is why I find it hard to stand still while singing to an audience. I also sang in all the Chorale Concerts during that time. I joined the local community radio station co-op. and had my own radio program for over four years, playing popular music, and sometime doing fill-in programs for Classical or Jazz presenters. I recorded most of the live Orchestral Concerts for this station during this time.

During my spare time I became a Square dance caller, teaching Square and ballroom type dancing at club level for 20 years. I still dance and sometimes teach the ballroom style. Since coming to Brisbane ('87) I have sung with the Brisbane Chorale, Ipswich Choral Society, Logan City Community Choir, and was a founder member of the St. Andrew Concert Choir. I also sing the Messiah with Bach Society Choir each Christmas when I can.

I have found that the Apollo Choir is a very satisfying organization to be part of. There is a closeness between members and conductor / accompanist that I was not aware of in all the other choirs I had been part of.

I think I will stay. David.



What you eat today, walks and talks tomorrow.

The Australian National Choral Association, of which we are a member, has published an article about the Brisbane Apollo Choir. In contrast to most of the feature stories in their magazine "Sing Out", which are about youth choirs, the Apollo story tells of the enjoyment we bring to the other end of the age spectrum. Ed. might find an opportunity to read it to the choir.

Also, the Treorchy Male Choir have invited us to provide an article for their yearly publication, "Excelsior", which is due out in October. They invite those who have appeared with them or attended a concert during the year to send in comments/stories for consideration. Past contributors include Shirley Bassey and Tom Jones. More news when we receive a copy of the magazine.

Thanks.

There has been a great deal of flexibility shown by the Apollo Choir and its helpers during the August through to October period. The combination of Michelle being unavailable for concerts on Tuesdays plus spending time in America, Carolyn & Dick having an extended time away on a holiday, Margaret having 2 weeks away, and Jim being involved with the fiftieth annual eisteddfod sponsored by the Enoggera Uniting Church plus his normal Tuesday commitments, has meant difficulties in having both a conductor and accompanist available during this time. We also had Rob filling in for Malcolm while he was away.

A sincere thanks to Margaret and Jim who have made sure the "show must go on" during this period, often putting the choir ahead of personal considerations to do so.

The Brisbane Apollo Male Choir Inc.



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