



METNOTES



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**+Newsletter of the
Metropolitan Male
Choir of SA for the
Friends of the Choir**

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Proms Concerts 2008

Our annual Proms Concerts are over for another year, and what a wonderful feast of music they turned out to be. The Adelaide Town Hall was filled to capacity on both the Saturday evening and the Sunday afternoon, and our choir members thoroughly enjoyed the performances. The feed back we had from members of the audience was very positive, with many saying it was "the best Proms yet".

Many told us the band and choir looked good from the auditorium, but the sight from the stage with the audience getting right into the spirit of 'Rule Britannia' and 'Pomp and Circumstance' was amazing. I'm quite sure the flags, balloons, whistles and streamers in the auditorium, plus the audience response, brought out the best from the performers.

Talking of performers, we must thank the Australian Army Band Adelaide under the direction of Captain Dean Griffiths, soloist Kaylene Graham, and the Southern Districts Pipes and Drums for their wonderful contributions.

Our music scholarship winner, fifteen year old Hanna Christ on the oboe, accompanied by her 85 year old grandmother, Vera Tancibudek, were also great hits with the audience. We must also thank second tenor Haydn Madigan for his great organising skills once again. Lastly a big thank you to you, our supporters. Without you there would be no Proms.

Christmas Celebration 2008

This year's Christmas Celebration concert will be held in Elder Hall Adelaide on Saturday November 22nd starting at 7.30 pm. The Metropolitan Male Choir is already practising its Christmas repertoire, and we will be ably supported again by K&N Brass. Tickets will be available from choir members and at the door. We hope to see you there.

Celtica 2008

Once again we have been invited by the organisers of Celtica to perform at their Festival of Celtic Music at Port Adelaide. This year's festival is on December 7th, and we will be presenting a bracket of mainly Welsh songs at approximately 2 pm. Perhaps some of you would like to come along and give us some support?

Pleasant Sunday Afternoons

There are still a number of PSAs this year where you can see the Metropolitan Male Choir perform. These will be at Elizabeth Grove UC, Colonel Light Gardens UC, Strathalbyn UC, and Morialta UC. See overleaf in 'Diary Dates' for full details of the dates and times.

Aled Jones Concert

Our choir has been invited to appear again with the famous Welsh Tenor Aled Jones. This concert is at the Adelaide Festival Theatre on Monday October 20th. We feel this is a great honour, and will make sure our good name is upheld. Tickets are available through BASS.

Carnegie Hall Gala Concert

As I write this newsletter, six members of the choir, including our MD Don Noblet, are winging their way to New York to sing in the famous Carnegie Hall. They will be taking part in a Massed Choir Gala on 14th September. The guest artist for the evening is the well known Welsh Baritone Bryn Terfel. Our Musical Director will experience again what it is like to sing with the rank and file in the second basses.

Musical Director

Don Noblet has informed the choir that he wishes to retire from his position as Musical Director after the New Zealand tour in October 2009. He will then have been our MD for some 27 years – an outstanding achievement. The enormous contribution he has made to the choir has been appreciated very much by all of us. The position of Musical Director is currently being advertised.

Deputy MD and Deputy Accompanist Positions

Last year we announced that Josh Valstar and Olga Strizhak had been appointed to these very important positions. Since the last edition of MetNotes was written, both have unfortunately resigned. Olga has now secured a number of music teaching positions, which take up all her available time, while Josh resigned for personal reasons.

The choir was very disappointed in losing these capable musicians. Meantime, Geoff Seiben will lead the choir for three concerts while Don Noblet is overseas. Enid Shurdington has resumed the Deputy Accompanist role she filled for a number years before Olga's appointment.

We would like to thank both of these stalwarts for filling the breach.

New Members

The choir is always looking for new members, and we were pleased to welcome Second Tenor Trevor McGuirk to our 'family' recently. We hope he has many enjoyable years singing with us.

Olympic Games Concert London 2012

Continuing our long term planning strategy, the Metropolitan Male Choir had pencilled in another visit to the Royal Albert Hall London for October 2012. However, we have now been informed that there will be no overseas choirs taking part in the Festival of Welsh Choirs that year. Instead, a number of overseas choirs, including ours, have been invited to sing at a special pre Olympic Games Concert at Wembley Arena, organised by the London Welsh Choir. The concert will be held a week before the Olympic Games Opening ceremony.

It is indeed a great honour to be invited to participate in such an important event, and we will make sure we are represented there in good numbers.

Choir 80th Birthday Celebrations

As mentioned in earlier MetNotes, the Metropolitan Male Choir will be celebrating its 80th birthday with a dinner at the Tropeano Function Centre, Tapley's Hill Road on October 18th. The Wollongong Lamplighters choir, who are making a concert tour at that time, will be there to share this important milestone with us. Unfortunately, much as we would have liked to have invited Friends of the Choir along, there is not enough room at the venue for us to be able to do so.

New Choir CD

Those of you who attended the Proms concerts will already know that our new CD has been completed and is already on sale. It is called, appropriately, "You Raise Me Up", after the title track, and includes What Would I Do Without My Music, Kings Of Swing and fourteen other songs not previously recorded by our choir.

The CD sells for \$20 and will be available for purchase at any of our Pleasant Sunday Afternoons, as well as the Christmas Celebration concert and Celtica 2008.

Diary Dates for 2008

21 Sept. 2 pm PSA Eliz. Grove UC

12 Oct. 2 pm PSA Colonel Light Gardens UC

18 Oct. 80th Anniversary Dinner

2 Nov. 2 pm PSA Strathalbyn UCA

9 Nov. 2 pm PSA Morialta UCA

22 Nov. 7.30 pm Elder Hall Adelaide Christmas Celebration

7 Dec. 2 pm 'Celtica 2008' Pt Adelaide

Diary Dates for 2009

28 Feb. 7.30 pm Gymanfu Ganu Flinders St Baptist

19 April 2 pm Friends Concert Salvation Army Arndale

17 May 1.30 pm Heritage Service Moonta Mines

29 & 30 Aug. Proms Adel Town Hall

11 to 29 Oct. New Zealand Tour

28 Nov. Christmas Celebration Elder Hall