

Sotto Voce

Volume 16

May 2010

Committee News

The TSO chorus committee is compiling a history of the chorus, from its beginning in 1992 to the present.

The TSOC has grown in size and number of performances, especially since the appointment of June Tyzack as Chorus Director and Simon Rogers as Concert Manager.

Initially, we will list the performances of the chorus, with dates and music performed.

I will be pleased to receive details of concerts for particular years from members of the Chorus.

Duncan How

June's Pilgrimage

In an interesting coincidence, my book group has just finished reading *Walking the Camino* by Tony Kevin, who completed his own modern pilgrimage in 2007. I thoroughly enjoyed the read and all members of the group (which includes Sheila K) rated it very highly. Needless to say we were visualising June in the author's place!

The Camino means "the way", and Tony chose a challenging and long walk, his pilgrimage taking him the entire length of Spain from Granada to Santiago de Compostela. This story includes not only interesting details of that walk and Spanish history, but provides a fascinating insight into various traditions of participation, from wearing a scallop shell around your neck, and the necessity of having your pilgrim passport stamped at each overnight stay in order to receive your Compostela—proof of completion. After reading this book I hope we have the opportunity to hear from June about her amazing undertaking.

Colleen McIntyre

To find out more about June's travels, visit her blog at: www.travelpod.com/z/juneandchris/1/1271792672

June's thank you speech in Adelaide

This is really special. This work is really special to me. Everybody I've chatted to—you know it's special. But having said that, the only reason I could do this is because I have an "Andrew".

I really need to thank Andrew [Bainbridge] for being so fabulous. I mean this trip was thought of a couple of years ago and you know Andrew's been assistant chorus master for a year and a bit so you can see how that sort of ties in.

I couldn't obviously do it without Andrew—I really thank you Andrew, for your preparation of this work. During this time we've all been free, on holidays and childless, and he's suddenly got all these children—all these [Hutchins] boys to look after, so thank you very much.

"To stop the flow of music would be like the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable."

Aaron Copland

Always I need to thank all of you and that's from the bottom of my heart and it always is. You are really dear to me—you are my friends and like a second family and I really look forward to seeing you every Tuesday.

I really do appreciate what you give because you do it week in and week out and what's more you organise yourselves and come to Sydney and you come to Adelaide and Mary's talking about overseas to some strange place. I really do thank you.

I actually thank you for the work you put into learning—you're an absolute credit to yourselves. You're standing there on stage and Simon [Rogers] says, "What's that choir?"

"It's our choir!"

You're fabulous, you really are.

I thank you and I really hope you have a good performance tomorrow night.

June Tyzack

Member Profile: Michael Kregor (Tenor)

In 2010 I will get back into singing lessons and look for a musical to sing in.

I first discovered music when I was in High School and then about 10 years later when someone said “You’ve got a good voice. Do you want to sing in this musical...?” and so it started.

I love to sing because singing makes me feel good. There is that cathartic element to singing—it destresses, it refocuses, it’s a patch of sanity in our busy worlds.

If I were to sing karaoke my song would probably be (and has been) a Tom Jones song—but any loud belty tenor song and I’m usually there...

My favourite TV shows at the moment are probably *Doctor Who* and SBS’s *Italian Food Safari*.

My favourite thing to cook is osso buco—but I just love to cook fullstop. Last week’s meals included osso buco, roast beef and veal scaloppine with braised leeks.

My most memorable musical moments are many and varied. With the TSO Chorus, there has been the camaraderie singing in the semi-staged version of *La Cenerentola* with TSO, the coldness of Port Arthur in *Beethoven’s Ninth* and the experience singing in the Sydney Opera House. Other moments have been with Intervarsities especially singing Rachmaninoff’s *Bogoroditse Devo* in the ballroom at Government House. Still other moments with theatre too numerous to mention.



Tea or coffee? Definitely coffee, but tea has its place too.

I have never learned to play the piano.

My favourite music is many styles. At the moment it is world music from artists from WOMADELAIDE this year.

My favourite books are crime novels ranging from the light reading of Kerry Greenwood through to the humour and insight of Laos with Colin Cotterill to my present favourite author Peter Temple and his fantastic look at Melbourne life.

Dear friends and colleagues,

Just to let you know that I am still stuck in the UK for a while longer thanks to the rumblings of Eyjafjöll and consequent confusion.

After a couple of failed flight postponements, I currently don't have a flight time, but am all packed up on a hairtrigger to rush to Heathrow on the understanding that Singapore Airlines may call any time between now and.... maybe 3rd May. I clearly picked the wrong airline, since as I write Keith is in the air on the first Qantas flight to Singapore from Heathrow—though this could relate to his frequent flyer status.

Anyhow I'm very glad at least one of us is getting home to look after the cats after Lucy and Elle's heroic efforts. We're also both very appreciative that we've had family to stay with and haven't just been stuck as refugees in the airport or paying day after day for accommodation. It's lovely and sunny here, it's good to spend bonus time with my mother and I am finally getting used to the uncertainty. However, I am pretty keen to get hooooome! Sincere apologies to all regarding the numerous tasks, appointments and events I'm missing.

After the fabled call but before the rush to Heathrow I hope to send an email letting you know when I'm due back.

Looking forward to catching up with you all SOON!

Clare Hawkins 22 April 2010

Adventures in Adelaide: Mahler 8—Symphony of a Thousand

The TSO Chorus was well prepared for Adelaide, thanks to June and Andrew's rehearsals. As the week in Adelaide progressed, it was clear to us that our chorus has advanced significantly in recent years. We expect a professional standard, reinforced by the auditioning now in place, and by the expectation that we prepare for rehearsals, learn our parts and sing as an ensemble.

The Festival Chorus also included singers from three Adelaide choruses, the Willoughby Singers from Sydney, a few from Brisbane, plus the children's choir drawn from several primary schools in Adelaide. The TSOC's ensemble singing is a tribute to our progress under June Tyzack. The children sang well—it was a delight to listen to them.

One way to summarise what it felt like to sing in a large chorus is to quote Carl: "There is only one thing which sounds better than singing softly, and that is a large chorus singing softly."

The Chorus Mysticus is the real test, and conductor Arvo Volmer was very happy with our singing of it.

The venue of the Entertainment Centre is not ideal for a large symphonic and choral work. Amplification was necessary, with mixed results for the audience of 5000, depending on where they sat. The thrill of a live performance was shared by performers and audience. It was disappointing the reviews overlooked the contribution of the chorus, which was considerable. After the concert, I spoke to two people connected with the Adelaide Festival Management. They were surprised we had paid all our expenses to sing in Adelaide.

Highlights for me were:

- The two harps playing heavenly music before the Chorus Mysticus
- The brass, especially solo horns
- The soprs and altos singing 'Jene rosen, aus den Handen...' in Part 2
- Part 2, figure 108, orchestra leading into 'Dir der Un-be-ruhr-ba-ren ist es nicht be-nom-men' (tenor and bass), one of the gems of this symphony.

Duncan How

On Saturday 6 March 2010 a contingent of TSO players were among the passengers flying to Adelaide via Melbourne. We left Hobart at 14:15, time of arrival in Melbourne being 15:30. Without noticing however, the flight went on, and on, and on.

Finally the Captain announced we had been held up from landing in Melbourne because of a storm. In fact, he said, we were sixteenth in the queue to land! It was hard to understand as the sun was shining outside the plane and the sky was blue. However underneath us Melbourne was experiencing what has now become an historic hailstorm!

The Captain said maybe we'd go back to Launceston. Groans all round.

We flew around a little longer and asked the steward whether they could just drop us in Adelaide—after all a large proportion of us were going there.

Sorry, said the Captain, we're going back to Hobart. Very big groan!

In Hobart we weren't allowed to leave the aircraft. We simply refueled.

With free TV viewing, and running out of food and alcohol we flew back to Melbourne, touching down at about 7:30pm.

Of course, flights from all over Australia and overseas had been diverted or cancelled, so many of us were given hotels for the night and arrived in Adelaide at about 9:30 the next day.

Trish Robinson

Terry Choi-Lundberg played hostess to a group of choristers for Yum Cha one morning. With her Chinese background she ordered many dishes for us to try. They were presented delightfully in cane baskets stacked on top of each other and Terry explained them all to us. Some were braver than others and tried all manner of interesting and unfamiliar delicacies. It was an entertaining time. Thank you for organising it Terry.

Trish Robinson



Adventures in Adelaide: Mahler 8—Symphony of a Thousand (cont...)



Do you have a contribution for the next Sotto Voce? Please email Simone on slyemm@netspace.net.au by Friday 18 June 2010

Mini Breve

Choral resources in the 21st Century

- Buy a recording of a choral work through www.itunes.com and listen to it straight away—remember the old days when we used to have to order a CD and wait for it to arrive? (and it's a lot cheaper!)
- Watch a performance on www.youtube.com—want to see how it's performed? Watch it on youtube.
- Buy some sheet music and print it out straight away at www.sheetmusicplus.com—so what if Hobart doesn't have a decent music shop? You now have access to shops the world over.
- Find free music in the choral public domain www.cpd.org—lots of good choral sheet music for FREE! Our Mahler 2 came from cpd.
- Find a rehearsal midi for your part at www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk
- Follow a choral blog at www.australianmusiccentre.com.au/article/sydney-chamber-choir-sings-australian-repertory-in-spain or google "choral blog" and read about other choristers and choirs. Or start your own at www.blogspot.com
- Follow Graham Abbott's blog blogs.abc.net.au/keystomusic if you like Keys to Music and want to read more of Graham Abbott's entertaining musical journeys. You can add comments!
- Join a group—there are lots of groups on social networking sites like Facebook for people with shared interests such as choral singing. Everyone can post information and items of interest or get involved in robust discussions!
- Join a fan club—ok, I admit it! I joined a Teddy Tahu Rhodes fan club.
- Or look at a whole collection of choral resources and news in one place: www.choralnet.org
- And just for fun: Join the facebook group "I have sung in a choir with someone in the group" which now has over 50,000 members including several TSO Chorus members.

Beth Warren

Calling all Graphic Designers!

It is time the chorus had its own logo. I encourage you to have a go at designing a logo for use in *Sotto Voce*. Send your ideas to Simone by **Friday 18 June** for the July edition.

Whet your appetite

You may remember Calvin Bowman from our Town Hall concert in 2008, in which he was organist for Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. More recently we have discovered Calvin is first and foremost a composer.

Calvin describes his work as being influenced by the English pastoralists and his beloved Bach. As a performer he has presented the complete Bach organ works twice, most recently last year, when he performed them in a single seventeen-hour sitting. Calvin has a particular love for vocal music and his artsongs, which number approximately seventy, have been lauded for their careful craftsmanship and beauty.

His song *Now Touch the Air Softly*, recorded by Emma Matthews with the Monte Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra was nominated for 'Best New Composition' in the 2009 Limelight Awards, and in late 2009 Sir Neville Marriner conducted two performances of his song cycle *I would sing a little while* with Jacqueline Porter and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. Sir Neville described it as, "An absolute gem of twenty-first century imagination".

Bowman's interest in vocal music naturally led to the writing of his first and only opera to date, *Lost to the Music*, to a libretto by John Marsden.

We look forward to seeing Calvin once again later in the year, when he will join us as organist for Faure's *Requiem*.

Johanna van Tienen

CD Review

"Duets"—Blind Boys of Alabama

Saguaro Road Records, 2009. ST 1001

Duets is a collection of soul gospel music by The Blind Boys with different soloists, recorded between 1994 and 2009. The oldest recording is *When the Spell Is Broken* with Bonnie Raitt; the latest includes *How I Got Over* with Marva Wright.

These duets are a wonderful collaboration between the soloists and one of America's most enduring singing groups. The songs are uplifting and infectious. I listened to the CD on a recent trip to Latrobe and couldn't resist joining in the singing. I especially enjoyed the deep bass on some of the tracks.

I added The Blind Boys to my list of favourite singers, alongside Manhattan Transfer and Ella Fitzgerald.

Duncan How

Contact Details

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Websites

www.tso.com.au/aboutthetso/tsochorus.html

key.org.au/tsoc/

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8510342527

Are you a new member of TSO Chorus? Have you changed your contact details? Please contact Chorus Administrator, Trish Robinson for a membership form or to advise of changed details. Keeping membership up-to-date is essential for the smooth running of the chorus and we appreciate your assistance.

Your Committee

Tony Parker
Sheila Knowlton
Eryl Raymond
Jo Field
Duncan How
Jennifer Phillips
Dick Shoobridge
Tony Sprent
Johanna van Tienen

Reminders

Name Tags

Please wear to all rehearsals

Fund Raising

Please support our activities. The committee organises raffles, sports cards and occasionally social events. Surplus funds help support the Chorus.

Calendar of Events

Chorus Performances

• **13—15 May**
Recording: Christmas Carols arranged by Calvin Bowman
Federation Concert Hall

• **17—18 June**
Queen's Birthday Celebrations
Government House

• **7—10 July**
Festival of Voices: "A Spanish Pilgrimage"
Various city sites

• **Saturday 28 August**
Fauré Requiem
Federation Concert Hall

• **Wednesday 20 October**
TSO Goes to the Opera
Federation Concert Hall

• **Saturday 11 December**
Christmas with TSO
Federation Concert Hall

Chorus Development

• **Date to be advised**
Vocal Technique Class
With Jane Edwards

• **Date to be advised**
Vocal Technique Class
With Christopher Richardson

Chorus Activities

• **Tuesday 20 July**
TSO Chorus AGM

TSO Performances

• **Saturday 8 May**
Baroque and More
Federation Concert Hall

• **Tuesday 18 May**
Classical Mystery Tour
Wrest Point Casino

• **Friday 11 June**
Howard Shelley 25th Anniversary
Federation Concert Hall

• **Saturday 19 June**
Howard Shelley & Friends
Federation Concert Hall

• **Saturday 10 July**
The Lark Ascending
Federation Concert Hall

• **Saturday 17 July**
Viennese Classics
Federation Concert Hall

• **Wednesday 28 July**
ABC Young Performers
Federation Concert Hall

• **Wednesday 4 August**
Name that Tune!
Federation Concert Hall

• **Friday 13 August**
Grand Concertos
Federation Concert Hall

• **Thursday 19 August**
Rogers and Hammerstein
Federation Concert Hall

• **Friday 3 September**
Schubert 's Unfinished
Federation Concert Hall

• **Saturday 18 September**
Russian Romantics
Federation Concert Hall

• **Saturday 2 October**
TSO Gala Ball
Wrest Point Casino

• **Monday 11 October**
Classics Old and New
Federation Concert Hall

• **Monday 1 November**
Best of Baroque
Federation Concert Hall

• **Saturday 13 November**
My Homeland
Federation Concert Hall

• **Thursday 25 November**
Bernd Glemser in Recital
Hobart Town Hall

• **Saturday 27 November**
Bernd's Back!
Federation Concert Hall

• **Monday 29 November**
New Worlds
Federation Concert Hall

Do you have an event coming up? Send details to Simone by Friday 18 June for inclusion in the July edition of Sotto Voce.