

From its humble birth around a piano in a Melbourne suburb in 1984, the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir quickly established itself as a leading male choir in Australia, and became known for its "special" sound and the boldness and ambition of its concert productions. Within two years of its birth the choir had taken a leading role in helping to produce critically acclaimed concerts at the Melbourne Town Hall and the Hamer Hall and perhaps most ambitiously at the Sydney Opera House in 1989.

In pursuit of excellence the choir appointed its first professional Musical Director, Phillip Smith in 1995 and its first professional Accompanist Linda O'Brien in 1996. This winning formula resulted in a marked improvement in the choir's abilities. Douglas Heywood OAM joined the choir as Musical Director in 2001 and continued the improvement and enhanced performance by adding a full symphony orchestra to productions. The Melbourne Welsh Male Choir then produced ambitious concerts at the Hamer Hall employing guest artists - such luminaries as Aled Jones, Judith Durham, Rhonda Burchmore, Peter Brockelhurst, Sally Anne Russell and Rhys Meirion..

The choir is steeped in the Welsh Choral tradition but still is proudly Australian and has members from diverse nationalities. Beginning with its founding musical director Bill Mead, the choir has nurtured its contacts in Wales and has the honour of having as patron and occasional conductor Alwyn Humphries MBE. As a result the choir has accompanied Bryn Terfel and also Aled Jones in concerts in Melbourne and enjoys a well deserved reputation in the "Land of Song".

The Melbourne Welsh Male Choir has been engaged for many prestigious events including joining survivors of the Glen Miller Orchestra and The Seekers at the 50th anniversary of the Royal Melbourne Hospital at the Hamer Hall; the 75th Anniversary of the RAAF at the Tennis Centre; the 150th Anniversary of the Eureka Stockade in Ballarat; the opening of the Commonwealth of Nations Law Conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre; and the reopening of the Domed Reading Room at the State Library.

The choir fosters young talent through its annual *Singer of the Year* competition for singers under 35 years, with many of the winners and finalists currently performing on the world stage.

We are active in charity concerts, including assisting to raise in excess of \$200,000 for Palliative Care over the past 15 years, and contributing more than \$12,000 from our 2009 St David's Day Concert to the Victorian Bush Fire Appeal.

Overseas performances include Cardiff Arms Park in Wales in 1992; Atlanta, Georgia in 1994; concert tours of South Africa in 1997, Canada 2002 and Wales including London's Royal Albert Hall in 2008. The choir also regularly performs in regional centres within Australia including Tasmania.

The Choir is proudly independent, receiving no government subsidies and can only continue to prosper through the excellence of performances and recordings and the support of our audiences. We have an inspiring, professional musical team in Lucas de Jong and Linda O'Brien and under their influence the choir looks forward to a rewarding future.

ANNUAL NIGHT OF SONG
Saturday 4th September 2010
Compere: Ian Hankey

Advance Australia Fair

It's A Grand Night For Singing *from 'State Fair'*

Rodgers/Hammerstein arr Woodfield/Humphreys

My Lord What A Mornin' *Negro Spiritual*

arr. R. Lee Gilliam

I Dreamed A Dream *from Les Miserables*

Schönberg arr. Alwyn Humphreys

Va Pensiero *from Nabucco (sung in Italian)*

Verdi

Singer of the Year Finalists

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Reverend Eli Jenkins Prayer *from Under Milk Wood*

Dylan Thomas

When I Fall In Love

Young/Heyman arr. Alwyn Humphreys

Anthem *from Chess*

Anderson/Rice arr. Doug Heywood

Stars *from Les Miserables*

Schonberg arr. Alwyn Humphreys

Soloist Ron Caffyn (*Baritone*)

{ Hine e Hine

Te Rangi Pai arr. Alwyn Humphreys

{ Po ata rau (*sung in Maori*)

arr. Te Puoho Katene Clement Scott/Maewa Kaihau

INTERVAL

Llanfair

Robert Williams arr. Mansel Thomas

Ar Lan Y Môr

Welsh Folk Song

Ai Am Fod Haul Yn Machlud

Dafydd Iwan arr. Eirian Owen

Soloist Terry Thomas (*Baritone*)

Singer of the Year Finalists

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Divine Brahma *from The Pearl Fishers*

Bizet

You Raise Me Up

Graham/Loveland arr. Roger Emerson

An American Trilogy

arr. Alwyn Humphreys improvization Linda O'Brien

Presentation of Singer of the Year

Mae Hen Wlad



Ian Hankey - Compère

Ian was born in Wales (Morrison) and his parents were officers in the Salvation Army in which he had his early grounding in brass and choral music. For 9 years Ian was principal trombonist with the International Staff Band in London before coming to Australia in 1968 where he was awarded the premier grading for all wind instrumental soloists in Australia by the Central Auditioning Committee of the ABC in Sydney. This ABC grading entitled Ian to regular studio and concert broadcast performances and ABC recordings, probably the highlight of which was performing two concertos for trombone and orchestra with the late Arthur Fiedler, the Boston Pops legend conductor. For 10 years, Ian was conductor of the 70-voice Brisbane City Temple Songsters of the Salvation Army. Ian recently retired from the RACV where he established the RACV Art Collection, RACV Heritage Car Series and the RACV in Concert Series. Ian continues to compose and arrange choral music which is predominantly of a religious nature.

Roxane Hislop - Adjudicator

On graduating from the University of Sydney with an Bachelor of Arts, Roxane Hislop received a scholarship to attend the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music Opera School. She went on to win the prestigious Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship, the Inaugural AIMS Scholarship, the Dame Mabel Brooks Scholarship and the Sydney Sun Aria Award. Roxane also represented Australia at the National finals of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions in New York, and was awarded the Victorian Green Room Award for best female artist in a supporting role for her performances as Maddalena in Rigoletto and Olga in Eugene Onegin. Roxane has appeared with every major opera company in Australia and in concert with all the state symphony orchestras. She also teaches voice at Melbourne and Monash universities. Roxane's 2009 engagements include appearances with Victorian Opera as Geertje Dirck in Rembrandt's Wife, Dryad in Ariadne auf Naxos, Amastre in Xerxes; Flora in La Traviata and Maddalena in Rigoletto for Opera Queensland, Beethoven Symphony no. 9 with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and performances at Opera in the Alps and Opera by the Lock.

Janet Perkins - Accompanist

Janet studied with Roy Shepherd at the Melbourne Conservatorium. She specialises in vocal accompaniment, and is in great demand for many Eisteddfodau in Melbourne and Regional Victoria. These include Ballarat's Royal South Street Competitions and the preliminary stages of the Herald Sun Aria. Janet works annually with many students toward tertiary examinations, and with professional singers in recitals and other concerts.

The Choir wishes to thank and acknowledge The Opus 50 Charitable Trust, The Robert Salzer Foundation, Henkell Brothers and the Dorothy Andrewartha Bequest for the generous sponsorship of this year's Singer of the Year competition, enabling us to offer a total of \$10,000 in prize money. The Singer of the Year will receive \$5,000; Second Prize is \$2,500, and Third Prize \$1,500.

Dorothy Andrewartha dedicated her life to work for major charities and in particular young people. She was a life member of Save The Children Fund and other charities. She died earlier this year at 92 years of age. A bequest from her estate has offered the choir a Perpetual Annual Encouragement Award of \$1,000 to be awarded to an entrant in our Singer of the Year competition, independent of the scheduled prize winners, in her memory.



Lucas de Jong is a highly accomplished professional musician with more than 20 years Australian and international experience as a principal operatic baritone and classical voice teacher.

During his distinguished career, he has performed with some of the world's leading opera companies, including Royal Opera House

Covent Garden, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, English National Opera and Welsh National Opera. He has also performed in Australia with Opera Australia, Victoria State Opera, Opera Queensland and West Australian Opera.

In the course of his career Lucas has gained extensive knowledge and experience of performance and singing technique which he is able to bring to the choir with his own unique style.

He is currently a classical voice teacher and conductor for the School of Music at Monash University, and The Australian Catholic University.

For several years Lucas has performed roles for Melbourne Opera. He enthusiastically supports the development of young singers.

We are delighted with his vision and enthusiasm and are looking forward to a fruitful and rewarding relationship that will last for years to come.



Linda O'Brien has been the choir's accompanist since 1996, and in that time has impressed all who hear her, as a soloist as well as accompanist. She brings a freshness to the choir's musical accompaniment, which lifts the choir and audiences alike. Linda also accompanies the Australian Girls' Choir, and is the pianist for the Australian Pops Orchestra.

For many years Linda and her piano/violin/doublebass trio held a residency in the Grand Dining Room of Melbourne's Windsor Hotel. Singers she has accompanied include Marina Prior, David Hobson, Judith Durham, Sall-Anne Russell, Donald Cant, Philip Gould and Karen Knowles. She also enjoys frocking up to perform jazz, blues and cabaret in Kelly Auty's "Wild Women Show"!

Linda is the Official Accompanist for Royal South Street, Waverley, Diamond Valley, Mordialloc, Ararat and Boroondarah Eisteddfods. She has released two solo piano CDs - *Kitten on the Keys* (2002) and *Dizzy Fingers* (2007).

In addition, Linda gives private piano tuition, is in demand as a VCE and AMEB exam accompanist, and mentors and teaches song-writing skills to disadvantaged teenage girls ("Noisy Girls" project).

