

**The Melbourne Welsh Male Choir** Since its inception in 1984 under the leadership of Bill Mead, the Choir quickly established itself as a leading male choir and became known for its "special" sound and the boldness and ambition of its concert productions. 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. Grazina Pranauskas was our first female conductor in 2007. Our current MD Lucas de Jong was appointed at the end of 2007. 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 Humphreys MBE. 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. 2013 is the twenty-first year of this competition. 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 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.

**Lucas de Jong** has been the Music Director of the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir since October 2007. His choral experience began at the age of 10 when he joined a boys choir. Soon after that he made his debut as a soloist in the Australian Opera. While studying at the Melba Conservatorium and the Victorian College of the Arts he was also performing for Victoria State Opera. In the early 1990s Lucas began his career as an operatic baritone soloist in England and continued to tour the world, performing over thirty-five roles. Lucas has been a teacher of classical voice at Monash University, the Australian Catholic University and in his own studio while continuing his operatic career. He studied conducting with John Hopkins, conducting performances of 'The Magic Flute' and 'Orpheus in the Underworld' for Monash University.

**Simon Walters** emigrated to Melbourne in April 2010 from the UK lured by his wife who is an Aussie. A professional musician since 1994, he is a practiced sight reader in a variety of styles, and is still in demand for arrangements, transcriptions & backing tracks in the UK despite being on the opposite side of the world. Since arriving in Australia, Simon has musically directed the Frankston Ladies' Choir, accompanied the Melbourne Welsh, done a saucy cabaret with international artiste Isabel Hertaeg, and played on various functions and event gigs with a multitude of bands. One thing's for sure, life is never dull finding out where the next bit of work is coming from, and Simon looks forward to working more closely with

**Siôn Gough Hughes** is a proud Welsh man who lived in Wales for the first 30 years of his life. After attending Aberystwyth Theological College he was ordained and has worked in many fields of ministry including pastoral, chaplaincy and youth work. He became minister of the Melbourne Welsh Church in the year 2000 and has worked with them over 10 years, during which time the church has seen growth and many changes under his ministry. His many interests include rugby, photography, karate, reading and writing.



**You Raise Me Up**  
He Ain't Heavy  
You Raise Me Up  
When I Fall In Love  
Shenandoah  
Stars  
Anthem  
Va Pensiero  
O Hear Us (Magic Flute)  
Divine Brahma  
Nessun Dorma  
Prayer from Lohengrin  
Ysbryd y Nos  
Ai Am Fod Haul  
When She Loved Me  
Ar Lan y Môr



**Great Southern Lands**  
Waltzing Matilda  
Suo Gan  
Two Little Boys  
Danny Boy  
Linden Lea  
Somagwaza  
Aberystwyth  
Deus Salutis  
Llanfair  
My Silver Trumpet  
Cany On Wayward Son  
American Trilogy  
Calon Lan  
Cwm Rhondda  
Fantasia on Welsh Airs



**Last Christmas**  
The Creation  
Men of Harlech  
The First Noel  
Away in a Manger  
O Come All Ye Faithfull  
Cavatina  
Drunken Sailor  
Somebody to Love  
Sosban Fach  
Gwahoddiad  
Christmas Day  
Christmas Medley (L O'Brien)  
Angel Carol/Hark The Herald  
Llanfair  
The World in Union  
The Lord At First  
O Holy Night  
Legend  
Once In Royal David's City  
Senzenina



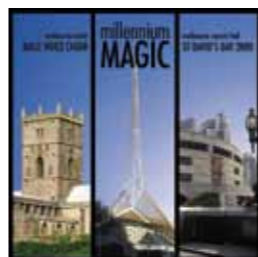
**Favourites Around World**  
Waltzing Matilda  
I Still Call Australia  
Two Little Boys  
Danny Boy  
Shosholoza  
Somagwaza  
Senzenina  
Somebody To Love  
Take Me Home  
She Was Beautiful  
An American Trilogy  
Morte Christie  
Goin' Home  
Hine e Hine  
The World In Union  
Song Of The Jolly Roger  
Amazing Grace



**Till The Boys Come Home**  
The Army, the Navy  
Bless 'Em All  
Roll Out the Barrel  
There's a Boy Coming Home  
My Prayer  
Kiss Me Goodnight  
Nursie, Nursie  
We'll Meet Again  
Home, Sweet Home Again.  
Land of Hope & Glory  
Its a Long Way to Tipperary  
Goodbye Dolly Gray  
Good-bye-ee  
Lili Marlene  
Roses of Picardy  
Who Were You With Last Night  
Pack Up Your Troubles  
Waltzing Matilda;  
Keep the Home Fires Burning.  
Vera Lyn Medley  
Emblem of the Army  
Army of Immanuel  
Sousa Medley



**The Welsh Collection**  
Ar Hyd y Nos  
Fantasia on Welsh Airs  
Sing Rhonda  
Gwahoddiad  
Llanfair  
Rachie  
David of the White Rock  
Men of Harlech  
Tydi A Roddaist  
Myfanwy  
Eli Jenkins' Prayer  
Suo Gan  
Aberystwyth  
Calon Lan  
Cwm Rhondda  
Deus Salutis  
Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau



**Millenium Magic**  
The Creation  
Fantasia on Welsh Airs  
Cavatina  
Danny Boy  
Myfanwy  
Ar Hyd Y Nos  
Sosban Fach  
Counting The goats  
The World in Union  
Sing Rhondda  
American Trilogy  
Shosholoza  
I Still Call Australia Home  
Gwahoddiad  
Llanfair  
Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau



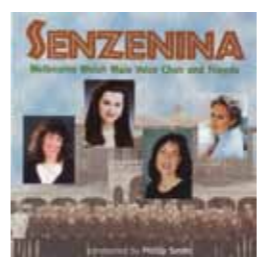
**Heritage**  
American Trilogy  
Men of Harlech  
Gwahoddiad  
Morte Christie  
Matt Monro Medley  
Amazing Grace  
Deep Harmony  
Welsh Lullaby  
Tydi A Roddaist  
Li'l Liza Jane  
Myfanwy  
My Lord What a Mornin'  
Rhythm of Life  
Goin' Home  
Gwahoddiad  
Eli Jenkins' Prayer



**MW with Judith Durham**  
Fantasia on Welsh Airs  
Blaenwern  
This Is My Song  
Suo Gan  
English Folk Song Suite  
When Starlight Fades  
Let Me Find Love  
Gwahoddiad  
Llanfair  
It's Hard To Leave  
Deus Salutis  
Wales You're A Dreamland  
My Father's Last Words  
Australia Land Of Today  
I Still Call Australia Home  
Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau



**Songs From The Heart**  
Men of Harlech  
With a Voice of Singing  
Anthem 'Chess'  
Hine E Hine  
O Mia Bambino Caro  
Soldiers' Chorus  
Jesus Christ Superstar  
Ol' Man River  
American Trilogy  
Deep River  
World in Union  
Gendarmes Duet  
Song of the Jolly Roger  
My Way  
Skylark  
Accentuate the Positive  
David of the White Rock  
Rachie  
Gershwin Showcase



**Senzenina**  
Sing Rhondda  
Verdi Prati (SA Russell)  
Witness (LDavies)  
Away in a Manger  
Tears in Heaven (P Smith)  
The Moon and I (K Wheeler)  
The Water is Wide  
Memory (SA Russell)  
Lied und Czardas (Wheeler)  
Somagwaza  
Can't Help Lovin' (L Davies)  
The Entertainer (L O'Brien)  
Senzenina  
Take Me Home  
Pie Jesu (Wheeler, Davies)  
Shosholoza

# MELBOURNE WELSH MALE CHOIR SINGER OF THE YEAR 2013





Purchase of this programme puts you in the draw for a CD - drawn after interval and winner announced at the end of the concert

# Singer of the Year Concert 2013

2 pm Sunday 8th September 2013 Whitehorse Centre, Nunawading  
Compere Siôn Gough Hughes Conductor Lucas de Jong  
Accompanists Simon Walters Janet Perkins

Men of Harlech *from Fantasia on Famous Welsh Airs* arr. Mansel Thomas  
In The Spirit *A medley of Spirituals* arr. A Humphreys

Finalists - accompanist Janet Perkins  
Staceu Alleaume - Soprano  
Si mi chiamano Mimi *from La Bohème* Puccini  
Daniel Carison - Baritone  
Madamina il catalogo e questo *from Don Giovanni* Mozart  
Rebecca Gulinello - Soprano  
Eccomi in lieta vosta, oh quante volte *from I Capuletti e I Montecchi* Bellini  
Nathan Lay - Baritone  
Ah! Per sempre *from I Puritani* Bellini  
Alexandra Ioan - Soprano  
Nun eilt herbei *from The Merry Wives of Windsor* Nicolai

Goin' Home Dvorak arr. Ditson/Fisher  
Danny Boy Fred E Wetherley/ Linda Steen Spevacek

## INTERVAL

Reverend Eli Jenkins' Prayer *from Under Milk Wood* Dylan Thomas  
A Reflection on Welsh Mining  
Calon Lan *Shaft of Song read by Bill Spawton* John Hughes arr. A. Humphreys  
Sing Rhondda Eleanor Purdy

Finalists - accompanist Janet Perkins  
Rebecca Gulinello - Soprano  
Children of the wind *from Rags* Charles Strouse/Stephen Schwartz  
Nathan Lay - Baritone  
Stars *from Les Misérables* C-M Schoenberg  
Alexandra Ioan - Soprano  
Stii tu bade *Romanian folk song* T Brediceanu  
Daniel Carison - Bass Baritone  
If I Were A Rich Man *from Fiddler on the Roof* J Bock  
Stacey Alleaume - Soprano  
And This Is My Beloved *from Kismet* R Wright/G Forrest

Nella Fantasia Ennio Morriconi arr. Joy Amman Davies  
When The Saints Trad arr. John Rutter

## Singer of the Year Presentations

The Choir wishes to thank and acknowledge The Opus 50 Charitable Trust, The Robert Salzer Foundation, and the Dorothy Andrewartha Bequest, for the generous sponsorship of this year's Singer of the Year competition. The Singer of the Year will receive \$5,000; Second Prize is \$2,500; Third Prize \$1,500; and the 4th placegetter an Encouragement Award of \$1,000 from the estate of Dorothy Andrewartha. This year, our adjudicator particularly asked to be allowed to add a 5th finalist, because the standard was so high. To make this possible, the choir is awarding a Melbourne Welsh Male Choir Encouragement Award of \$500 as a fifth prize.



**Ian Cousins** - Adjudicator  
Ian is well known as a recital and concert performer, singing teacher, adjudicator and examiner for various music organisations throughout Australia. Ian received his music training at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and the National Theatre Opera School in Melbourne. In 1975, he represented Australia in the Pan Pacific finals of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions and won the Victorian State Final of the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition.

Soprano **Stacey Alleaume** is one of Australia's most unique and captivating performing artists. She is renowned for her voice of remarkable beauty, warmth, character and expression. Stacey holds a Bachelor of Music (Music Performance) degree from The University of Melbourne and completed her studies in the Performance Program at The Opera Studio Melbourne in 2010. Stacey has been the recipient of many awards and has had great success in vocal competitions including winning the Australian Youth Aria (2009), Runner-Up of The Herald Sun Aria competition (2010 and 2011), the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Aria (2011), and the international winner of the prestigious Waiariki Institute of Technology New Zealand Aria (2011). In November, Stacey will be travelling to Italy to understudy the role of Nannetta from Verdi's opera Falstaff, at the Teatro Pergolesi.

**Nathan Lay** completed his Bachelor of Music at the Melba Conservatorium of Music in 2008. During his time there, he was awarded the 'Melba Conservatorium Scholarship' and twice awarded the 'Robert Salzer Scholarship' for showing operatic potential. He was a semi-finalist in the 2010 and 2011 Herald Sun Aria. In 2012, Nathan was the winner of the Eisteddfod By the Bay Aria, semi-finalist in the Sydney McDonald Aria, semi-finalist and reserve-finalist in the 2012 Herald Sun Aria, runner-up in the Armstead Singing Award, runner-up in the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir's 'Singer of the Year' competition, winner of the Kantor Encouragement Award (runner-up) at the Melbourne Recital Centre's 'Great Romantics Competition 2012', and was runner-up and winner of the People's Choice Award at the 2012 Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Aria competition. Later this year, Nathan will be playing the principal role of 'Bunyip Bluegum' in the world premiere of The Magic Pudding - The Opera for Victorian Opera.

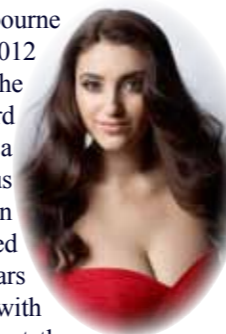


**Janet Perkins** - Accompanist  
Janet studied with Roy Shepherd at the Melbourne Conservatorium. She specialises in vocal accompaniment, and is in great demand for many Eisteddfodau in Melbourne and Regional Victoria. These include Ballarat's Royal South Street Competitions and the preliminary stages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

**Daniel Carison** is currently completing his second year studies in Bachelor of Music Performance at Melbourne University. He works as an actor and classical vocalist for TV, film and advertising. He has a number of years experience in film, stage and musical theatre performance, and operates his own recording studio. He is the winner of the Hermann Schildberger Award for best up and coming classical vocalist in the 2013 Boroondara Eisteddfod.



**Rebecca Gulinello** completed her bachelor of Music in Voice at the Melbourne Conservatorium in 2013. In 2012 she was a semi-finalist in the Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngel canto award and a semi-finalist in the prestigious annual Herald Sun Aria. In the same year she was invited as a finalist of Opera Scholars Australia, to perform a solo with the 'alpha sinfonia' orchestra at the annual 'Opera in the alps' event in 2013. Rebecca is the recipient of the Amelia Joscelyne scholarship with the Dame Nellie Melba Opera trust in 2013 and will continue studying under the tutelage of Gary May.



Romanian born New Zealander **Alexandra Ioan** is currently completing her Masters in Performance at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music under the guidance of Ms Anna Connolly. In 2013 Alexandra was a finalist in the National Liederfest competition where she won the Best Ensemble and the Lynette Casey-Brenton Awards. She also won first prize in the 2013 South Eastern Arts Festival Aria competition and was a finalist in the Boroondara Eisteddfod Robert Saltzer Award. After graduating from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, Alexandra was as an Emerging Artist for the New Zealand Opera. She has been the recipient of many scholarships and awards. Highlights include singing alongside Dame Kiri Te Kanawa at the Nelson Sealord Opera in the Park 2008



## Singer of the Year - Previous Winners Update

**Lee Abrahmsen Soparano (2012)** has just returned from London having made her debut recital at St Martin in the Fields: "Lee sang a selection of songs by Poulenc, Strauss and Grainger with such a beautiful voice and animation that she elicited a spontaneous, standing ovation! This is a rare response in this venue." Whilst in the UK, Lee also appeared as part of the Royal Overseas League's sell-out concert series at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. The concert series won one of the critics' ThreeWeeks Editors' Awards. In 2014, Lee will make her role debut with Sydney Symphony Orchestra in Richard Strauss' Elektra under the baton of new Chief Conductor David Robertson; and returns to Victorian Opera under Maestro Richard Mills in a concert version of Vincenzo Bellini's Norma.

**Siobhan Stagg Soprano (2011)** Since winning Singer of the Year in 2011, Siobhan completed her studies at the University of Melbourne and moved to Cardiff to undertake a Master of Advanced Vocal Technique at the Wales International Academy of Voice under Dennis O'Neill and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. After graduating this June, Siobhan spent two months as young artist at the Salzburg Festival where she performed Pamina Die Zauberflöte für Kinder, Konstanze Die Entführung aus dem Serail für Kinder and a concert performance of Jeanne d'Arc with the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra. From September 2013 Siobhan joins the Deutsche Oper Berlin as one of five young artists. In their 2013/14 mainstage season Siobhan sings Pamina Die Zauberflöte, Woglinde Das Rheingold and Waldvogel Siegfried as part of the Ring cycle conducted by Sir Simon Rattle, Frasquita Carmen as well as Sophie Werther in concert at the Berlin Philharmonie starring Vittorio Grigolo and conducted by Donald Runnicles. Siobhan's debut album Hymne à l'amour was released in Australia in April. Though now based in Europe, Siobhan will revisit Australia in 2014 for some concerts including Handel's Messiah with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

**Barbara Zavros Soprano (2010)** Since winning the competition. In 2011 she won the Herald Sun Aria. In 2012 she covered two principal roles with Victorian Opera (Countess Almaviva and Anne Trulove) and performed Anne Trulove twice for the company as a result. In 2012 she gained representation with Graham Pushee with Arts Management. In 2013 working in OA Chorus and Oz Opera production of Barber of Seville

**Samuel Dundas Baritone (2009)** Lady Fairfax New York Scholarship, Opera Foundation Australia 2013 Heather Begg Scholarship, The Melba Trust 2013. Roles with Opera Australia in 2013 Dottor Malatesta, Don Pasquale, Donizetti; Sid, Albert Herring, Britten; Marcello, La Bohème, Puccini; Morales, Carmen, Bizet; (Handa Opera On The Harbour) Yamadori, Madama Butterfly, Puccini. Roles booked in 2014 Papageno, The Magic Flute, Mozart; Prosdócimo, Il Turco in Italia, Rossini; Eugene Onegin, Eugene Onegin, Tchaikovsky; Count Ceprano, Rigoletto, Verdi; Belcore, L'Elisir D'Amore, Donizetti; Dottor Malatesta, Don Pasquale, Donizetti.

**Jaqueline Porter Soprano (2008)** Since winning the MMWC Singer of the Year competition in 2008, Jacqueline Porter has been a principal artist for Victorian Opera and appears regularly as a soloist with the major orchestras and choral societies in Australia. She has worked with celebrated conductors such as Sir Neville Marriner, Oleg Caetani and Markus Stenz and her recitals and concerts are frequently broadcast on ABC Classic FM. One of Jacqueline's career highlights has been the relationship she has established with Vladimir Ashkenazy, former Chief Conductor of the Sydney Symphony, who has invited her to perform with him on several occasions. These performances include the role of Solveig in Grieg's Peer Gynt (SSO) and Prokofiev's The Ugly Duckling, which was recorded by the SSO for international release. Jacqueline has also spent time studying with vocal coaches around Europe and particularly enjoyed studying the role of Solveig with Barbara Bonney in Salzburg. Operatic highlights include performing the roles of Gretel in Hansel and Gretel for State Opera South Australia and Susanna in The Marriage of Figaro for Victorian Opera. Earlier this year Jacqueline and her husband, Chris, welcomed a baby boy, Benjamin!

**Adrian Tamburini Baritone (2007)** Since SOTY win in 2007 he has been fortunate enough to secure full time employment singing with Opera Australia, a position he still enjoys. He has sung a number of principal roles with the company in the Sydney Opera House, the Arts Centre Melbourne, the Lyric Theatre in Brisbane and recently on Sydney Harbour. In 2012, after receiving a Scholarship Grant from the Acclaim Awards, he travelled to Europe to study singing in Italy with soprano Valeria Esposito; and in London with bass, Sir John Tomlinson. Over 2012-2013 he was lucky to travel around Australia singing the role of Leporello in Oz Opera's touring production of Mozart's Don Giovanni. 2014 sees him continuing his tenure with Opera Australia.

**Suzanne Shakespeare Coloratura Soprano (2006)** holds a Postgraduate Artist Diploma in Opera Performance at the Royal College of Music International Opera School in London, graduating in 2010 as a multiple prize and scholarship winner. Recent engagements include her debut for Opera Australia, and Scottish Opera. She won the Stuart Burrows International Voice Award 2011.

The waistcoats we wear are of Welsh tartan and manufactured in Swansea from Welsh wool - made to measure in Wales. We wear them with pride. If you are not on our mailing list, please fill out a form at the CD sales desk, or visit our website. We are particularly seeking email addresses to cut down on the cost of postage. Our rehearsals are at Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue in Ringwood on Wednesday nights. We are always seeking new singers, particularly tenors.

