

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. 2014 is the twenty-second 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, and half of the choir visited Vienna, and took part in the Salzburg Festival in 2014. The Choir is proudly independent, 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 both choirs in the years to come.



Programme Design & Layout Alan Stevenson



In The Spirit
Goin’ Home
When The Saints
Ride The Chariot
Shelter
My Father Was A Miner
Bugeilio’r Gwenith Gwyn
Calon Lan/Shaft of Song
Bring Him Home
I Dreamed A Dream
On My Own
Do You Hear The People Sing
Stout Hearted Men
Barcarolle
The Nun’s Chorus
Duet from the Pearl Fishers
When I’m Sixty Four



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



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



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



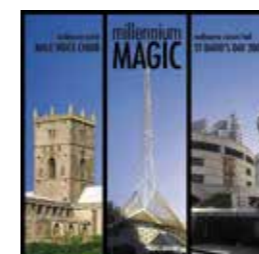
Waltzing Matilda
I Still Call Australia
Two Little Boys
Danny Boy
Shosholoza
Somagwaza
Senzenina
Somebody To Love
Take Me Home
She Was Beautiful
An American Trilogy
Morte Christe
Goin’ Home
Hine e Hine
The World In Union
Song Of The Jolly Roger
Amazing Grace



Bless ‘Em All
Roll Out The Barrel
There’s a Boy Coming Home
My Prayer
Kiss Me Goodnight / Nursie
We’ll Meet 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
Keep the Home Fires Burning.
Vera Lyn Medley
Sousa Medley & more



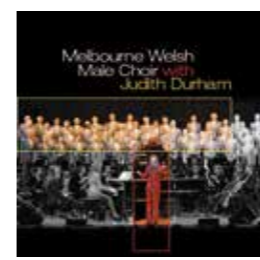
Ar Hyd y Nos
Fantasia on Welsh Airs
Sing Rhonda
Gwahoddiad
Llanfair
Rachie
David of the White Rock
Men of Harlech
Tydi A Roddaist
Myfanwy
Eli Jenkins’ Prayer
Suo Gan
Aberystwyth
Calon Lan
Cwm Rhondda
Deus Salutis
Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau



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



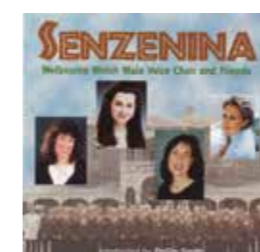
American Trilogy
Men of Harlech
Gwahoddiad
Morte Christe
Matt Monro Medley
Amazing Grace
Deep Harmony
Welsh Lullaby
Tydi A Roddaist
Li’l Liza Jane
Myfanwy
My Lord What a Mornin’
Rhythm of Life
Goin’ Home
Gwahoddiad
Eli Jenkins’ Prayer



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



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



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



Singer Of The Year 2015



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 2015

7 pm Saturday 19th September 2015 Karralyka Centre, Ringwood

Compere Bill Spawton Conductor Lucas de Jong

Accompanists Simon Walters and Janet Perkins Adjudicator David Ashton-Smith

	On our CD	
Ar Hyd Y Nos	arr. Harry Evans	Millenium Magic
Nant Y Mynydd	Welsh Folk Song John Ceiriog Hughes	
Ysbryd Y Nos	H Elis, J Howard, C Harpwood	You Raise Me Up
Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn	arr. Derek Jones	In The Spirit

Finalists - accompanist Janet Perkins

Kimberley Colman (Soprano) 'Ah! Je ris de me voir si belle - Faust/Gonoud

Michael Lampard (Baritone) 'Perfidi! Pieta, rispetto, amore' - MacBeth/Verdi

Michelle McCarthy (Soprano) 'Obéissons quand leur voix appelle' - Manon/Massenet

Divine Brahma from <i>The Pearl Fishers</i>	Bizet	You Raise Me Up
Goin' Home	Dvorak arr. Ditson/Fisher	In The Spirit
Prayer from <i>Lohengrin</i>	Wagner arr. George Mead	You Raise Me Up

INTERVAL (20 minutes)

Stout Hearted Men	Romberg arr. W Scotson	In The Spirit
The Water Is Wide	Somerset Folk Song arr. Phil Smith	Senzenina
Hine e Hine Maori lullaby	te Rangi Pai arr. Alwyn Humphreys	Songs From The Heart
New York, New York	Ebb/Kander arr. Alwyn Humphreys	

Finalists - accompanist Janet Perkins

Kimberley Colman (Soprano) 'I Have Confidence' - Sound of Music/Rodgers and Hammerstein

Michael Lampard (Baritone) 'Impossible Dream' Man Of La Mancha/Leigh

Michelle McCarthy (Soprano) 'Think Of me' - Phantom of the Opera/Lloyd Webber

Stars from <i>'Les Miserables'</i>	Schonberg arr A Humphreys Solo Lucas de Jong	You Raise Me Up
A-Roving	arr. Norman Luboff	
Somebody To Love	Freddie Mercury arr. Brett Jones	Favourites Around The World

Adjudication & Presentations

The Choir wishes to thank and acknowledge The Opus 50 Charitable Trust, The Robert Salzer Foundation, and The Maroondah City Council for the generous sponsorship of this year's Singer of the Year competition. The Singer of the Year winner will receive \$5,000; and the other finalists \$1,500 each.

Previous Winners

2014 - Jeremy Kleeman (Bass Baritone)	2013 - Stacey Alleaume (Soprano)
2012 - Lee Abrahmsen (Soprano)	2011 - Siobhan Stagg (Soprano)
2010 - Barbara Zavros (Soprano)	2009 - Samuel Dundas (Baritone)
2008 - Jacqueline Porter (Soprano)	2007 - Adrian Tamburini (Baritone)
2006 - Suzanne Shakespeare (Coloratura-Sop)	2005 - Lauren Oldham (Soprano)
2004 - Mark Fowler (Tenor)	2003 - Lisa Anne Robinson (Soprano)
2002 - Michelle Cook (Soprano)	2001 - Amanda Forbes (Soprano)
2000 - John Bode (Tenor)	1999 - Alexandra Sherman (Mezzo-Sop)
1998 - Leslie Martin (Soprano)	1997 - Kim Wheeler (Soprano)
1996 - Antoinette Halloran (Soprano)	1995 - Sally-Anne Russell (Mezzo-Sop)
1994 - Paul Blewett (Baritone)	1993 - Paul Batey (Tenor)



Kimberley Colman a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, has performed as a concert soloist with The Musical Society of Victoria, Gertrude Opera, Winchelsea Morning Melodies, The Music Lovers Society of Victoria, the Austral Salon, and Opera Scholars Australia. Kimberley's awards include being a finalist in the Armstead Singing Award (2014, 2105), the Warrnabool Aria (2014, 2015) a semi-finalist in the Herald Sun Aria (2014, 2015), second place in the South Eastern Arts Festival aria (2015) and winner of the Australian Concerto and Vocal Competition (2014).



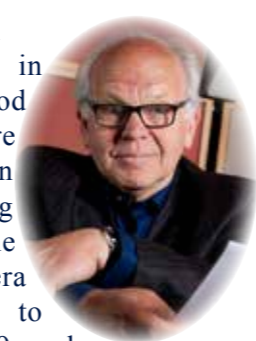
Melbourne-based baritone, **Michael Lampard**, was born in Tasmania and studied with Suzanne Ortuso at the University of Tasmania graduating with a Master of Music in 2010. He is also an experienced conductor and art-song composer. Equally at home on the operatic stage as in recital and new music, he has performed or covered more than 40 operatic roles and performed recitals across Australia, in the UK, the USA, Japan and in Italy. He has worked with orchestras including the Sydney and Tasmanian symphony orchestras, the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra and the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra. Competition success includes twice being an award winning finalist in the Australian Singing Competition and the RMP Aria, and being a quarter finalist in Placido Domingo's prestigious Operalia competition in Paris.



Michelle McCarthy is a recent graduate of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. Since graduating, Michelle has toured with Opera Australia's School's company in the title role of Cinderella (Rossini). Upcoming roles include Williamson Girl in the Australian Premiere of

David Lang's the 'Difficulty of Crossing a Field' and Sally in 'Thomas and Sally' (Thomas Arne) for the inaugural Nagambie-Lakes Opera Festival this October as well as soprano soloist in Carmina Burana with the Maroondah Symphony Orchestra

Janet Perkins 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. Janet works annually with many students toward tertiary examinations, and with professional singers in recitals and other concerts.



David Ashton-Smith studied singing in Melbourne for a period of 10 years before going to London in 1971 where he sang principal roles with The English National Opera Co. David returned to Australia in late 1979 and since then has maintained a varied and high profile music performing career. His choir The Ashton Smith Singers of Australia has been in existence for 35 years and performs regularly with the APO. The choir has also contributed to several Australian films and last year sang the Melbourne concert with Andrea Bocelli. David was Managing Director of the Australian Pops Orchestra during 2005-9 mounting major concerts at the Sydney Opera House and at Hamer Hall at the Victorian Arts Centre as well as major corporate events at Crown Palladium and the Sofitel Collins St. David teaches singing and is a sought after vocal adjudicator. David is closely associated with 'Australian Music Events' and puts together the orchestra for 'Opera in the Alps' and 'Opera in the Market' each year.

Our Next Concerts

Teddy Tahu Rhodes with the Melbourne Welsh

3 pm Sunday 15th Nov

Melbourne Recital Centre Southbank
Tickets available from the Recital Centre
Phone: 9699 3333

St Mary's Basilica - Tuckers Geelong

Thurs 1st Oct 2:00pm
Tickets from Tuckers 5221 4788

Mooroolbark Christmas Concerts

Sat 12th Dec 7:30pm & Sun 13th Dec 2:00pm
Mooroolbark Community Centre,
125 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark
Tickets 9726 5488

St David's Day Concert with Roy Best

7pm Sat 27th February 2016
Karralyka Centre, Ringwood
Tickets 9870 8891

The first **Singer Of The Year** competition final was held in 1993 at The Robert Blackwood Hall at Monash University as part of our Annual Concert. Our first conductor was Bill Mead. Bill, a fine tenor was a past member of the Morriston Orpheus Choir. He suggested that we follow the Morriston's example and hold an annual competition for young singers under thirty-five. The choir committee endorsed the idea and our then secretary Cyril Jones with a background in journalism and television production put the wheels in motion.

Application forms were prepared by Cyril, printed and distributed to Universities, colleges, music teachers and advertisements placed in newspapers. The original prize money was \$3000 which came from the choir's own funds. Being the president of the choir at the time I was very much involved in assisting Cyril. We were thrilled to have had at least 30 applicants for our first Singer Of The Year competition. Jeanette Russell, a well-known soprano and music teacher was our first adjudicator. Auditions were held at the Presbyterian Ladies' college and three finalists were chosen to feature in our Annual Concert. Paul Batey a stand out tenor was crowned our first winner.

For twenty three years now the competition has been well supported by our young singers and many have gone on to grace the world stage.

Over the past sixteen years the competition has been well organized by our current choir secretary Alan Stevenson, who also does the splendid graphic designs for advertising and the programme. The competition still attracts around twenty applicants each year.

The Melbourne Welsh is very grateful for the generous support of The Opus 50 Charitable Trust, and The Robert Salzer Foundation which enables us to offer prize money of \$8,000.

Our present adjudicator, well known singer, music teacher and choral conductor David Ashton-Smith admits to having a difficult task in choosing the finalists because of the very high standard of the entrants.

The three finalists will perform two songs each at our Singer Of The Year Concert at Karralyka Centre on Saturday evening 19th September, and our adjudicator will announce the winner at the end of the performance.

I've heard it said, "This is the best value concert you could ever get for the money."

Enjoy
Bob Williams



Singer of the Year Concert 2013

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.