

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. 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. 2016 is the twenty-fourth year of this competition.

Overseas performances by the choir include Cardiff Arms Park in Wales in 1992; Atlanta, Georgia in 1994; concert tours of South Africa in 1997, Canada 2002, Wales including London’s Royal Albert Hall in 2008 and Vienna in 2014. The Choir’s most recent success was a concert at the Recital Centre in November, with Teddy Tahu Rhodes, to a sell-out audience, and a standing ovation. 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.

David Ashton-Smith OAM was appointed as Musical Director in January this year.



David Ashton-Smith OAM 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 Australian Pops Orchestra. 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.

David was awarded the Order of Australia medal in the Queen’s Birthday Honours in June.



UK born Simon Walters became a professional musician in 1994 and has enjoyed a hugely varied career. Simon was first call West End audition pianist as well as keyboardist for touring show Masters of the Musicals for over ten years and musical director for countless pantomimes. His arranging work includes orchestrating the film “Morris: A Life With Bells On” starring Sir Derek Jacobi and scoring/sequencing numerous school musicals for Starshine Music. Since his arrival in Australia in 2010, Simon has enjoyed accompanying the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir as well as leading

the Frankston Ladies Choir both as musical director and pianist. Most recently, Simon has worked with cabaret artiste Martine Pavey on various Morning Melodies shows (look out for “Big, Blonde and Beautiful” from 2016) and also has an early week residency at the Munich Brauhaus in South Wharf with a unique oompah/ pop fusion band.



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



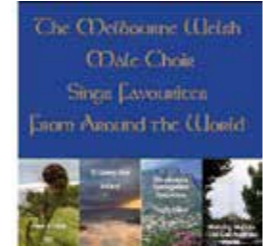
Waltzing Matilda
Suo Gan
Two Little Boys
Danny Boy
Linden Lea
Somagwaza
Aberystwyth
Deus Salutis
Llanfair
My Silver Trumpet
Cany On Wayward Son
American Trilogy
Calon Lan
Cwm Rhondda
Fantasia on Welsh Airs



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



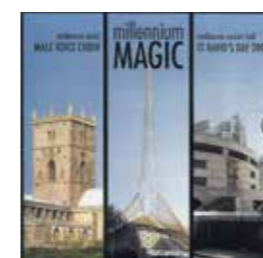
Waltzing Matilda
I Still Call Australia
Two Little Boys
Danny Boy
Shosholoza
Somagwaza
Senzenina
Somebody To Love
Take Me Home
She Was Beautiful
An American Trilogy
Morte Christe
Goin’ Home
Hine e Hine
The World In Union
Song Of The Jolly Roger
Amazing Grace



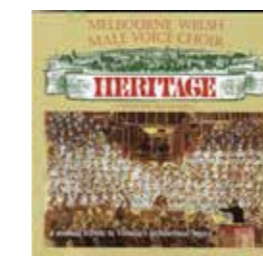
Bless ‘Em All
Roll Out The Barrel
There’s a Boy Coming Home
My Prayer
Kiss Me Goodnight / Nursie
We’ll Meet Again
Land of Hope & Glory
Its a Long Way to Tipperary
Goodbye Dolly Gray
Good-bye-ee
Lili Marlene
Roses of Picardy
Who Were You With Last Night
Pack Up Your Troubles
Keep the Home Fires Burning.
Vera Lyn Medley
Sousa Medley & more



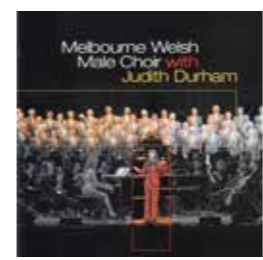
Ar Hyd y Nos
Fantasia on Welsh Airs
Sing Rhonda
Gwahoddiad
Llanfair
Rachie
David of the White Rock
Men of Harlech
Tydi A Roddaist
Myfanwy
Eli Jenkins’ Prayer
Suo Gan
Aberystwyth
Calon Lan
Cwm Rhondda
Deus Salutis
Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau



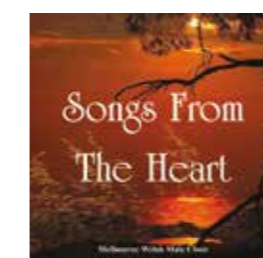
The Creation
Fantasia on Welsh Airs
Cavatina
Danny Boy
Myfanwy
Ar Hyd Y Nos
Sosban Fach
Counting The goats
The World in Union
Sing Rhondda
American Trilogy
Shosholoza
I Still Call Australia Home
Gwahoddiad
Llanfair
Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau



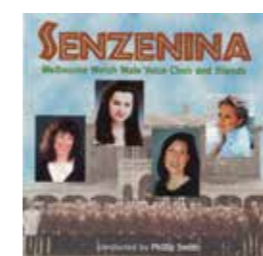
American Trilogy
Men of Harlech
Gwahoddiad
Morte Christe
Matt Monro Medley
Amazing Grace
Deep Harmony
Welsh Lullaby
Tydi A Roddaist
Li’l Liza Jane
Myfanwy
My Lord What a Mornin’
Rhythm of Life
Goin’ Home
Gwahoddiad
Eli Jenkins’ Prayer



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

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir



Singer of the Year 2016





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 2016

7 pm Saturday 10th September 2016 The Knox School, Wantirna South

Compere and Conductor: David Ashton-Smith OAM

Accompanists: Simon Walters and Simon Bruckard

Adjudication Panel: Graeme Wall, Margot Cory-Wall, David Ashton-Smith

On our CD

Songs From The Heart

Anthem from *Chess* Anderson/Rice arr. D. Heywood

Va Pensiero (*Chorus of the Jewish Slaves*) from *Nabucco* Verdi arr. S Northcote You Raise Me Up

Prayer from *Lohengrin* Wagner arr. George Mead You Raise Me Up

Finalists - accompanist Simon Bruckard

Kate Amos (Soprano)

Je veux vivre (*Juliette's Waltz*) from *Roméo et Juliette* Gounod

Nicholas Jones (Tenor)

Una Furtiva Lagrima (*A furtive tear*) from *L'Elisir d'Amore* Donizetti

Bronte Zemlic (Mezzo Soprano)

Mon coeur s'ouvre a ta voix (*Sofly awakes my heart*) from *Samson and Delilah* Saint-Saëns

Benedictus Robot Arwyn

Ar Hyd Y Nos (*All Through The Night*) Traditional Welsh arr. Harry Evans Millenium Magic

From Far Inside The Shrine *Duet from The Pearl Fishers* Bizet arr. A Humphreys In The Spirit

INTERVAL (20 minutes)

Its A Grand Night For Singing from *State Fair* Rodgers & Hammerstein

Gershwin Showcase arr. Carl Strommen Songs From The Heart

Memory from *Cats* Andrew Lloyd Webber arr. Alwyn Humphreys

Medley from Man of La Mancha M Leigh arr Alwyn Humphreys

Finalists - accompanist Simon Bruckard

Kate Amos (Soprano)

Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again from *Phantom of the Opera* Webber/Hart

Nicholas Jones (Tenor)

Younger Than Springtime from *South Pacific* Rodgers & Hammerstein

Bronte Zemlic (Mezzo Soprano)

Can't help lovin' dat man from *Show Boat* Kern & Hammerstein

When I Fall In Love Young/Heyman arr. Alwyn Humphreys

When I'm 64 John Lennon/Paul McCartney In The Spirit

A Reflection on the Singer of the Year Competition

Adjudication & Presentations

The Choir wishes to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of this year's Singer of the Year competition.

Robert Salzer Foundation Major sponsor

The Singer of the Year winner will receive \$5,000 and the other finalists \$1,000 each.



Graeme and Margot Wall

Graeme Wall and Margot Cory began their careers singing with leading choirs and orchestras all over Australia. They were leading soloists with the ABC and the Victoria State Opera for many years.

Margot won the ABC National Vocal and Concerto competition and Graeme the Sydney Sun Aria. They studied and performed in England for 4 years and for 20 years were Music Directors at two of Melbourne's well-known schools – Grimwade House Melbourne Grammar (Margot) and Eltham College (Graeme).

For the past 20 years they have been responsible for putting on Opera in the Alps (Mt Buffalo) Opera in the Winery (All Saints) Opera under the Stars (Eltham) Opera in Market (Queen Vic Market) and Opera by the Lock – Mildura.

Their passion is to assist young singers and instrumentalists perform with leading professional musicians in interesting places. Their company "Australian Music Events" provides this opportunity. Their Not for Profit program - Opera Scholars Australia trains 25 young opera singers each year with many going on to successful careers in opera and concert in Australia and overseas.



Simon Bruckard

Repetiteur and conductor Simon Bruckard holds a Master of Music (Opera Performance) from the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, and is currently a member of music staff at Victorian Opera and part of their

professional development program. In 2016 he is a recipient of the Melba Opera Trust Margaret Schofield repetiteur scholarship. For Victorian Opera, Simon has appeared as the conductor of youth opera *The Grumpiest Boy in the World* and *Remembrance* (regional tour). This year he conducts the Melbourne and touring productions of *The Pied Piper*. As a repetiteur and coach at Victorian Opera, he has worked on *La Traviata*, *Norma*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Sweeney Todd*, *I Puritani*, *Banquet of Secrets*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and *Cendrillon* to name a few. Simon frequently performs as a collaborative pianist with singers and instrumentalists, and is also a sought after French, German and Italian language coach).

S Wonderful
From
Gershwin
to *Queen* *Bohemian Rhapsody*
(with lots
in-between!)

**Frankston Ladies Choir
& Melbourne Welsh
Male Choir**
2 pm Sunday 23rd October

Kingston Performing Arts Centre

Ticket enquiries 9720 4336

www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au

Full \$40

Early Bird to 15th September \$35

Children \$20

Previous Winners

2014 - Jeremy Kleeman (Bass Baritone)
2012 - Lee Abrahmsen (Soprano)
2010 - Barbara Zavros (Soprano)
2008 - Jacqueline Porter (Soprano)
2006 - Suzanne Shakespeare (Coloratura-Sop)
2004 - Mark Fowler (Tenor)
2002 - Michelle Cook (Soprano)
2000 - John Bode (Tenor)
1998 - Leslie Martin (Soprano)
1996 - Antoinette Halloran (Soprano)
1994 - Paul Blewett (Baritone)

2015 - Michael Lampard (Baritone)
2013 - Stacey Alleaume (Soprano)
2011 - Siobhan Stagg (Soprano)
2009 - Samuel Dundas (Baritone)
2007 - Adrian Tamburini (Baritone)
2005 - Lauren Oldham (Soprano)
2003 - Lisa Anne Robinson (Soprano)
2001 - Amanda Forbes (Soprano)
1999 - Alexandra Sherman (Mezzo-Sop)
1997 - Kim Wheeler (Soprano)
1995 - Sally-Anne Russell (Mezzo-Sop)
1993 - Paul Batey (Tenor)



Kate Amos (Soprano)

Kate is a Melbourne-born soprano holding a BMus (Perf) Honours, Dip. Lang (Italian) and Masters of Music (Opera Performance) from the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music at the University of Melbourne. In 2014-2015 Kate was a Young Artist with Victorian Opera and continues on in 2016.

In 2016, Kate performs the title role in *Cendrillon* (Cinderella) with Victoria Opera, she covers Emma Mathews in the roles Orlando/Selena in *Voyage*

to the Moon and appears in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Kate sang the role of a "Minstrel" in *Laughter & Tears* including *I Pagliacci* with Victorian Opera at the Palais Theatre. Kate also makes her debut with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in "Lerdia's Playlist" at City Recital Hall, Sydney. Kate performed in all of Victorian Opera's main stage productions in 2014-15 seasons. Additional performing credits include 'Christine' in *The Phantom of the Opera* for WTC for which Kate received a Lyrebird Award for "Best Actress in a Musical".

Kate was the 2011-12 AME 'Opera Scholar of the Year' winner performing solo at Opera in the Market and Opera in the Alps alongside distinguished guests: Yvonne Kenny, Guy Noble, Marina Prior, David Hobson and Benjamin Northey.

Kate has just accepted a highly prestigious place to study at the Welsh International Academy of Voice (WIAV) in Cardiff, Wales on scholarship for 2016-2017.



Nicholas Jones

Nicholas was born in Melbourne, and completed a Bachelor of Music Performance at the Victorian College of the Arts, studying voice with Raymond Connell. Nicholas has been the recipient of generous support from the Sleath Lowry Award, the Athenaeum Award, and Australian Music Events. He was runner-up in the MRC Great Romantics Competition, finalist in the Herald Sun Aria, multiple prize-winner at *Liederfest Victoria*, and winner of the Warrnambool Eisteddfod and the South Eastern Arts

Festival aria competition.

He has performed in the chorus of 14 Opera Australia productions since 2007, including *Carmen* on Sydney Harbour and the Melbourne Ring Cycle, and the national tour of the musical *South Pacific*. In 2015-16, Nicholas created the role of Society Rabbit in Kate Miller-Heidke's opera *The Rabbits* for OA, which won 4 Helpmann Awards (and is now featured on a live cast recording). In 2016, Nicholas also created the role of Samson Lamb in State Opera of South Australia's new opera *Cloudstreet*, for which he received unanimous rave reviews. In October, he will perform multiple roles in Opera Australia's revision of *The Eighth Wonder*, to be performed on the steps of the Sydney Opera House.

2017 will see him performing more roles for OA and several concert appearances.

Nicholas maintains a passion for performing a diverse repertoire, including opera, operetta, musical theatre, lieder, chanson, folk song and jazz.



Melbourne born mezzo-soprano **Bronte Zemlic** is one of Australia's most promising rising musicians. At the end of 2015 Bronte finished her studies of a Bachelor of Music at Monash University under well renowned Australian mezzo-soprano Roxane Hislop.

Bronte held a scholarship with Opera Scholars Australia from 2013 till 2016; in her time with OSA she has been afforded many great opportunities including playing the title role in Bizet's opera "Carmen" and performing as a soloist at the 2016 Opera In The Alps. In 2015 Bronte was awarded a scholarship to attend the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music's Opera Studio to work with celebrated American soprano Amy Johnson and work on various French operatic roles.

2016 see's Bronte undertaking an Independent Study Program under the guidance of voice teacher Roxane Hislop and mentor Deborah Humble. She is in the Mentor Program with the internationally renowned Melba Trust, which has proven to be invaluable in forging contacts and aiding to her ongoing operatic training. Performance highlights for 2016 include featured soloist at the 2016 Opera in the Alps. Bronte looks forward to her Opera debut as 'Ines' in Verdi's *Il Trovatore* with Citi Opera. She would like to thank the ongoing support received from the Farmer Family to aid her private tuition and studies.