



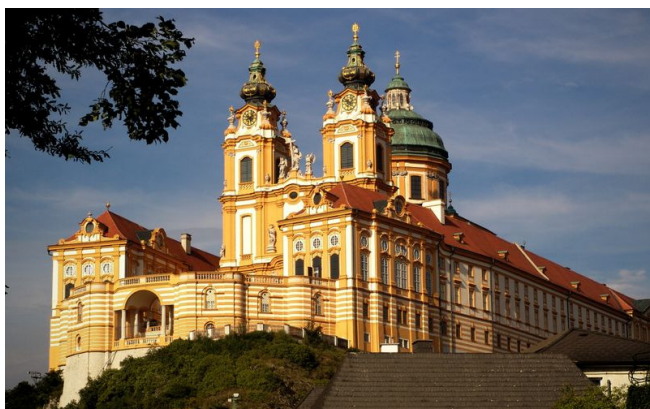
The Choir Sings in Salzburg & Vienna - Part 2

Continued from the tour article in Newsletter No.1 . . .



**Formed up in the Peterskirche ready to perform.
Monday, July 7, 2014**

Today we boarded the coach for our journey to Melk Abbey which is perched on the hill above the town. It is considered to be one of the most beautiful buildings in Austria and dates back to the 12th century. It is much smaller than the Abbey in Salzburg.



Melk Abbey overlooking the Danube

We gave an informal concert performance for tourists in the Abbey. Our accompanist Simon Walters was faced with the daunting task of having to play the Abbey organ as there was no piano. After a few practices with the vast array of organ stops and controls on this very large organ, Simon indicated that he was ready to play and we sang a short program from the organ loft to the assembled tourists and congregation in the Abbey below.

The acoustics were wonderful! Our partners, who were seated in the audience, said that our singing sounded as though it was coming from a much larger choir!

We then went on to Vienna to rehearse at Peterskirche (St. Peter's Church), a relatively small church, but ideal for our ensemble. We had the use of an electric keyboard for our accompanist

This enabled us to sing in the centre of the church. This midday concert was a great success and many of the people from the large audience came up to us afterwards to congratulate us for our performance and to ask if we had

CD's for sale that they could purchase, listen to, and remember us by.

The following morning we journeyed to Schönbrunn Palace and on arrival at the gates we saw a poster advertising our concert. We had a quick look at the gardens at the rear of the Palace before forming up on the Palace forecourt for the 12:00 noon open-air performance.



About to perform for the audience at the Schönbrunn Palace.

Despite the fact that we had to sing a *capella*, the audience appeared to have loved our performance and we received many compliments. We lunched in the Palace restaurant and then we were given a guided tour of the Palace.

That evening, we gathered for our last function, a dinner at a traditional Heurigen in Gumpoldkirchen, a village about 40 minutes from Vienna.



The magic of the serenading violin at a restaurant in Vienna

Sadly our tour was coming to an end. The final dinner was another wonderful experience, providing a fitting end to a wonderful tour.

The following pictures tell their own stories and show the glorious venues that we were so privileged to sing in and to visit. Gwyn Harper. Mike Lyons & Brian Evans

*My thanks to Gwyn Harper, Mike Lyons and Geoff Heyme for supplying a vast array of photographs from which I chose the pictures that are shown in this newsletter.
Brian Evans, Editor*



St Peter's Church looking towards the altar. The choir sang from the Altar.



The glorious splendour of the gilded baroque interior of the Melk Abbey.



Simon familiarising himself with the Melk Abbey organ with its awesome array of keys and stops – we could only look on and be in wonder as he quickly took control and played like an old hand!

A selection of candid pictures of the tour group at work and play!



Terry and Jill enjoying a dance



Final Dinner antics



Some serious singing requires lubrication of course!



Geoff was very happy at the restaurant at Wieden, Vienna - It was his birthday!

On our last day we sang at a retirement home. There was an upright piano, and a very small stage and we sang a program that delighted the audience. Lucas sang a few solos which the audience really enjoyed. Our guide, Trixie helped introduce some of our songs in German and this was appreciated by the audience too!. Afterwards we were invited to partake in a delicious spread and we were thanked by appreciative individuals for the entertainment we provided. A great concert and a great feeling!



OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY 1984 - 2014

In 1984 Melbourne Welsh Male Voice Choir (now Melbourne Welsh Choir) was formed. The original choir sang under the baton of Bill Mead. Bill sang as a Tenor with Welsh National Opera and he established a sound and singing standard with this choir that formed the strong foundation upon which successive Music Directors have further developed over the years. Lucas de Jong, our current Music Director, is a trained operatic baritone and brings yet more growth and edge to the choir's performance and singing qualities, with particular regard to voice projection techniques, diction and expression.

Of the original seven men who formed the choir thirty years ago, only Terry Thomas remains making Terry our longest serving chorister. Terry sings with the baritones and because of his "golden" voice, he has been a soloist at our concerts on many occasions. Terry's story appears as a special feature in this newsletter.

Some of our choristers travel from far and wide to attend rehearsals and our concerts. Our choristers also come from many walks of life – we have Engineers, Nurses, Marketing and Sales persons, a Lawyer, Teachers, Accountants, Builders and a Doctor. Many of our choristers are retired and can spend more time practising their music and helping fellow choristers.

About 22% of our choristers are Welsh born, with another 22% of direct Welsh descent and we also have men of English, Scottish, New Zealand, Irish, South African and Dutch origin and of course we have "generational Australians".

Membership is open to everyone who can sing and there is no entry voice test. However the ability to sing in tune and to learn Welsh lyrics is tested 3 months after joining. The ability to read music, although a great help, is not mandatory.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm until 10:00pm and we perform at concerts and special events on 15 to 20 occasions per year, both in and around Melbourne and country Victoria. We also travel overseas about every four years to participate in a choral Festival or choral related gathering.



Our choir has sung at many prestigious venues such as :- The Mozarteum and Cathedral in Salzburg, the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Hamer Hall in Melbourne, the Sydney Opera

House, the original concert halls in Launceston and Hobart, Tasmania and many other venues in Wales, England, South Africa, British Columbia, Canada and Austria.

Some of the more memorable venues where our choir has performed include the Cardiff Arms Park (for the 10,000 voice choir of the World), the Atlanta Dome Stadium, USA (used for the 1996 Olympic Games), a Zulu Kraal near Durban and a 5,000 seat canvas tent near Johannesburg, South Africa, an ice hockey stadium in Powell River, BC, Canada (for the Kathaumixw Festival), as well as the ruins of the church in the convict settlement of Port Arthur, Tasmania.

TERRY THOMAS OUR LONGEST SERVING CHORISTER - 30 YEARS A COMMITTED CHORISTER!



Terry was born in Morriston, Wales. He went to Pentrepoeth School where his music teacher was Ivor E Simms, the founder of the Morriston Orpheus Choir. He came to Australia in 1965 and worked here for 3 years. He then went back to Wales until 1979 following which he returned to Australia.

He received a telephone call from a Derek Marvelly who wanted to know if he was interested in starting a new Welsh choir.

Terry certainly did and together with 6 other men they started the Cantorian Cymreig Victoria (Victorian Welsh Singers). A silly fall-out caused Terry and many others to leave and they formed the Melbourne Welsh Male Voice Choir. *More of Terry's story in coming issues of our newsletter.... Editor*



WE NEED YOU!

If you want to be challenged and be part of a fine group of men, who love to sing and perform to appreciative audiences, then join us you won't regret it! **Singing is good for your HEALTH and MEMORY – we perform all our songs without music!**

BUT to be a performing chorister we do need your commitment!

UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

- **St. David's Day Concert** - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 7pm, Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood.
Our celebration of St. David's Day will feature our guest artist and one of Australia's most loved and dynamic tenors, Roy Best
- **Gymanfa Ganu** - Sunday, March 1, 2015, TBC, St Michael's Church, 120 Collins Street, Melbourne.
- **Till The Boys Come Home** – Monday, 20th April, 2015 – Morning Melodies at 11:00am and 1:00pm, Hamer Hall, Melbourne.



The choir has been invited by the Arts Centre to perform Morning Melodies in the Hamer hall on Monday, 20th April, 2015, marking the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing in 1915..

It will be the opening event in a three-month exhibition at the Arts Centre on the theme of "Entertainment in Wartime" and we have chosen to entitle our concert "Till The Boys Come Home", with a program featuring many numbers from our CD of that name.

We have given the Arts Centre approval to use the striking and symbolic cover design by Richard Yeates for their program and promotional purposes.

We are fortunate to have the talented Lee Abrahamsen, our Singer of the Year 2013, as our guest artists for this

event. She will be singing several numbers made famous by the "Forces Sweetheart", Vera Lynn, during WW!!

Tickets are available from the Arts Centre Box Office, Telephone: 1800 182 183

Traralgon Concert – Sat, 21st March, 2015 – Tickets - 5176 3333

Our endeavour is to include performances in regional Victoria as often as possible. We will be performing this concert at the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon.

This follows past performances in Cobden, Horsham, Warragul, Bairnsdale, Sale, Toongabbie, Bendigo and Ballarat.

We also encourage local performers to participate in these concerts and on this occasion we have invited the Latrobe Orchestra to join us to play a selection of pieces in each half of the concert. They have been in existence for over 50 years. They have an excellent reputation for encouraging young local musicians.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION!



TEDDY TAHU RHODES

In concert with the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir – Sunday, November 15, 2015 at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Although it's still a long way ahead, this is one of our most exciting events we have planned for 2015! A joint concert with the popular New Zealand born baritone, Teddy Tahu Rhodes. The details of this concert are still in the planning process, but we urge all our Friends of the Choir and regular patrons to put this concert in your diaries as a concert NOT to be missed! And tell all your friends about it too!

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THIS NEWSLETTER: The production of this newsletter is a joint effort. Contributions of all kinds are sought from members to keep the newsletter varied and interesting. We also welcome contributions from our supporters.

Editorial tasks, design, layout, printing and mail-out are by Brian Evans & Gwyn Harper. Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the choir. The MWMC Newsletter articles may be reproduced, but we do insist on acknowledgement as the source.

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Brian Evans, Editor