



The Legacy audience loved “Songs we love to Sing”



The Kingston Cultural Centre, Moorabbin was the venue for a wonderful Sunday afternoon’s entertainment in aid of Legacy.

Featuring the wonderful voice of Kate Amos, with Scott Harrison at the venue’s signature Wurlitzer cinema organ (rising from below the stage) plus the dulcet notes of our American guest trumpeter Erin Ellenburg, the drums of Fletcher Findlay, electric guitar of Justin Stewart and professional dancers Vanessa and Barry Day, the show had something for everyone and, judging from the applause, was a great hit with the audience.

From the snare drum opening to the World War 1 songs “Till the Boys Come Home” followed by the moving “In Flanders Fields” and “For the Fallen” until the finale of “American Trilogy” and “When the Saints go Marching in”, with organ, trumpet, drums and choir in full voice, the audience were enthralled.

The concert had a something for everyone. There was a traditional Welsh bracket, several songs from the glorious voice of Kate Amos, reprising the songs of Nellie Melba and Vera Lynn in the first half and with such a wonderful organ and joined by our music director, Lucas, it provided the perfect environment for Kate to display her musical range with two songs and a duet from the “Phantom of the Opera”.

Not to be outdone, the choir’s own soloists gave us a bracket of Beatles numbers complete with

Beatles haircuts and guitars and including “O Bla Di O Bla Da” complete with vegetable barrow and featuring our tenor Matt Thomas.

In the second half our two professional ballroom dancers (Barry & Vanessa Davy) performed a classic Viennese waltz on the floor of the Hall to the choir’s rendition of Offenbach’s Barcarolle.

For a change of pace the choir performed an oldie but goodie, “Stand by me” featuring the rich baritone of Terry Thomas (same surname as Matt but no relation) and “Where shall I be” with Erin’s haunting trumpet accompaniment.

“New York, New York” finished with four of the choir doing an impromptu chorus line complete with Sinatra hats!

The “Les Miserables” segment showed how good four-part male harmony can. Our compere and deputy conductor, Ray Kitto, who is himself a legatee, imbued the concert with dignity, solemnity and humour.

And we can’t go without mentioning what a great accompanist we have in Simon Walters who injected great rhythm and life into the concert.

At the end of a fairly long concert the main question from members of the audience was “When are you going to do this kind of concert again?”



The Boys Join the Girls

Those of you who have attended our concerts in the past few years will be aware of the talents of our accompanist Simon Walters with his jazz improvisations and his sympathetic accompaniment of our guest artists. What many of you probably don't know is that he is also a music director in his own right and directs the Frankston Ladies Choir, usually from the keyboard.

With this sort of relationship it was really only a matter of time before the two choirs decided to put on a joint concert and demonstrate their talents.

This concert is very different for both choirs in that many of the songs in the programme will be sung together and hence on occasion you may hear seven-part harmony!

The concert will also feature new arrangements of two Queen favourites "Somebody to Love" and "Bohemian Rhapsody".

This is bound to be crowd pleaser so get your tickets quickly. The Frankston Arts Centre is ideally located for people coming from Melbourne and has ample parking as well as quality seating.

ANTHEMS
The Greatest Songs Of All Time sung by



**Frankston Ladies Choir &
Melbourne Welsh Male Choir**



**2 pm Sunday
12th July
Frankston Arts Centre**

**Tickets Box Office
9784 1060**
or website www.thefac.com.au

**Full \$40 Concession & Members \$35
Children \$20**



Entries open for the 2015 *Singer of the Year* Competition



Rebecca Rashleigh, Jeremy Kleeman and Nathan Lay - our SOTY finalists in 2014

This year's Singer of the Year (SOTY) competition will take place on the 19th of September 2015 and it will be the 22nd time the prizes are awarded.

What started in 1993, as an idea to emulate our brother choir in Wales - the Morrision Orpheus - who had created their own MOCSA competition some 16 years earlier, has blossomed into one of the most well respected and sought after prizes in the Australian music calendar. A testimony to the significance of the Singer of the Year competition and concert is the number of past winners and finalists who are currently gracing the world's stages.

Besides providing a genuine financial contribution to the careers of these fine young singers (in *John Bode's* speech after winning in 2000 he said "this pays my fares to continue my career in London") the competition also affords the choir an opportunity to include some of the finalists as soloists in our own concerts throughout the year.

Kate Amos, our soloist in the choir's last concert "Songs we Love to Sing" in aid of Legacy, (see above) was a SOTY finalist in 2013, while *Lee Abrahmsen*, our 2012 winner, performed some of the songs made famous by Vera Lynn at the choir's Morning Melodies concerts the Hamer Hall for the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC Day in April 2015.

A number of our SOTY finalists have appeared on our recordings and on one occasion three of our finalists *Kim Wheeler*, *Lynlee Davies* and *Sally-Anne Russell* joined the choir and the Melbourne Pops orchestra for a wonderful concert at Hamer Hall in February 1999.

On an early choir tour to Tasmania, *Antoinette Halloran* our 1996 winner, accompanied us as our guest artist despite being on her honeymoon! We well remember her comic interaction with the choir in her performances of "Art is Calling for Me!" (I want to be a Prima Donna), which brought the house down in the Theatre Royal in Hobart and the Albert Hall in Launceston.



The mutual appreciation between the choir and its soloists extends beyond professional engagements and the choir has benefitted significantly from the relationships it maintains with its SOTY entrants. As an example, *Sally-Anne Russell* our 1995 winner was responsible for introducing the choir to the Kathaumixw Choral Festival in Powell River in Canada, which was the venue for the choir's overseas trip in 2002, when she was the festival's guest artist and an adjudicator.

The SOTY competition is open to singers from 18 to 35 years of age and this year's elimination auditions will be held on Fri 11th and Sat 12th Sept at the choir's rehearsal venue at Federation Estate, Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. These elimination auditions are open to the public and provide a feast of free entertainment as some of the best young talent from Victoria (and indeed from other parts of Australia), perform two of their favourite items for our adjudicator. At the end of the second heat the three finalists are advised and they are then invited, as the final adjudication, to perform on stage, in concert with the choir at the Karralyka Theatre in front of a large audience on the following weekend.

Every competitor receives a written critique of their performance from the adjudicator *David Ashton-Smith*, which for many is more than worth the competition entry fee. Entry to this year's competition is now open and singers wishing to compete should visit the choir's website www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au/SOTY and download the application form. We invite friends of the choir and of the competitors, to book tickets via the Choir's website

www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au/tickets

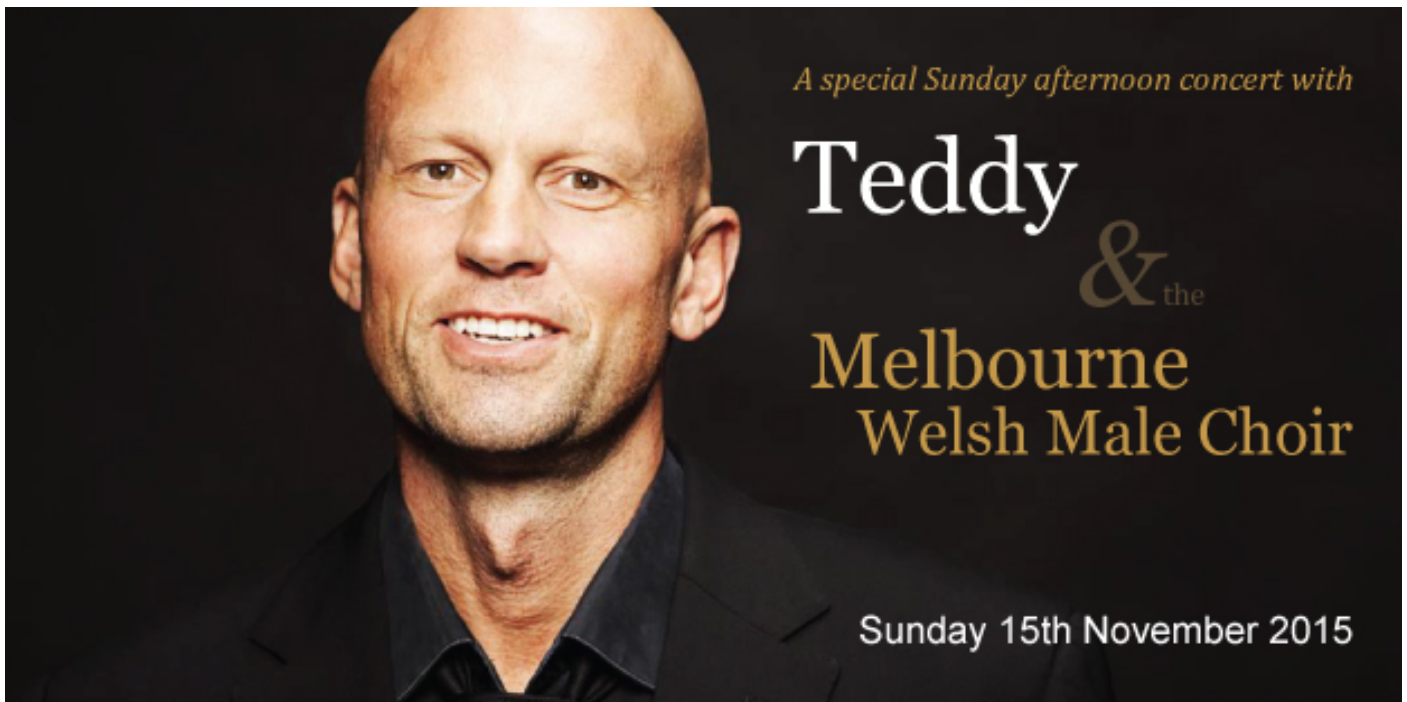
to ensure you do not miss this highlight of the choir's calendar.

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir

NEEDS...



Our choir is always seeking new members! If you are a singer and would like to join us in song, you are most welcome to come along and attend one of our rehearsals to discuss the joining process with our "New Members Officer", Herb Jenkins. We rehearse each Wednesday evening from 7pm until 10pm at the Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave. Ringwood.



The world of music is full of lasting relationships, which overcome time and distance.

In our recent newsletter we outlined how Bryn Terfel and Hannah Stone came to sing and play for and with us at the Welsh Church in Latrobe Street, largely as a result of their relationship with our patron, Alwyn Humphreys.

The choice of our guest artist for the choir's November 15 concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre, also came about as a result of a chance meeting with our Music Director Lucas de Jong and Teddy Tahu Rhodes, whose friendship goes back to the days when they were both working at Opera Australia in 2000.

As far as can be recalled Lucas said "Why don't you sing with my choir" and Teddy replied "Why don't you ask me?" Of such things are legends made....

We are indeed fortunate to have secured the services of such a talented artist at the peak of his career.

Having just starred in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and with upcoming roles in *Sweeney Todd* prior to his performance with the choir and *Jekyll and Hyde* in the weeks following, we were very lucky to get him.

He will be singing songs from shows such as *South Pacific*, *Les Miserables* and *Sweeney Todd*.

To book tickets for the Melbourne Recital Centre concert call the MRC box office on:

9699 3333

www.melbournerecital.com.au



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, 12th July, 2:00 pm

“ANTHEMS”

“The Greatest Songs of All Time”

Frankston Arts Centre,
Cnr Davey St & Young St,
Frankston VIC,

Tickets: 9784 1060 or
www.thefac.com.au

- Saturday, 19th Sept, 7:00 pm

“Singer of the Year” Concert

Karralyka Centre,
Mines Rd,
Ringwood VIC 3134,

Tickets: 9870 8891

www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au/tickets

- Thursday, 1st Oct, 2:30 pm
“Tuckers 2015 Seniors Week Concert”

St Mary's Basilica,
Geelong

Tickets: Tuckers 5221 4788

- Sunday, 15th Nov, 3:00 pm

Teddy Tahu Rhodes

with the

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir

Melbourne Recital Centre,
31 Sturt Street,
Southbank
VIC 3006,

Tickets from Melbourne Recital Centre

9699 3333

www.melbournerecital.com.au

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Alan Hughes, David Phillips, Phil Wallens,
Gwyn Harper.

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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.

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