



TILL THEY ALL COME HOME:
 A CONCERT TO MARK THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
 OF THE ARMISTICE
 3pm Sunday 11 November:
 Melbourne Town Hall, 90 Swanston Street, Melbourne

“TILL THEY ALL COME HOME”
Melbourne Welsh Male Choir
 conducted by
David Ashton-Smith O.A.M

Melbourne's Concert Commemorating 100 Years Since the WW1 Armistice

Featured Artists

Marina Prior **Mike Brady**

Australian Youth Band
Melbourne Town Hall
3 pm Sunday 11th November

Adult \$50 Concession \$45
www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au/tickets
Phone 9800 3889

The Melbourne Welsh Male Choir will mark the 100th anniversary of the WW1 Armistice with Till They All Come Home, a concert expected to fill Melbourne Town Hall and more on Sunday 11 November, 3.00 p.m.

The choir hopes that choir supporters including veterans and their families will make a day of it and come to the concert after the Remembrance Day commemorations.

RSL members are eligible for a concession price ticket.

The 50-strong choir will be joined by the 60-piece Australian Youth Band, together with “Australia’s leading lady of musical theatre”, Marina Prior, and music legend Mike Brady AM.

Till They All Come Home celebrates the music of both World War 1 and World War 11,

World War 1 led inexorably to World War 11 and, despite the passage of time, both wars continue to resonate globally. Both continue to have dramatic and lasting effects on Australia. So much horror, so much death, so many lives otherwise destroyed.

Through all of this, music both comforted and inspired.

Marina Prior will perform a Vera Lynn medley with the choir as well as “We’ll Gather Lilacs”, “Sally Pride of our Alley”, “Wish Me Luck (As You Wave Me Goodbye)” and the Edith Piaf standard, “La Vie en Rose”.

Marina’s grandfather was a World War 1 ANZAC, as were all his brothers. He was shot three times and sent back to the front 3 times. He was only 19. She has all his records.

The Choir’s program includes a medley of songs from both wars, a Gershwin showcase, and some Melbourne Welsh favourites “Cwm Rhondda” and “The World in Union”.

With Mike Brady, they will also perform Eric Bogle’s 1980 hit about visiting the grave, in Flanders, of a WW1 soldier Willie McBride entitled “No Man’s Land”.

The choir is delighted to be joined by Mike Brady. As readers of the Friends Newsletter may recall on ANZAC Day at the MCG this year, 10 of our choristers joined forces with members of the Australian Women’s Choir to form the backing group for the debut performance of “This Place is Their Place”, Mike Brady’s song about the RSL. It was a great occasion.

At our concert, Mike will again perform this song with us, as well as another moving song of his, called “Let it Shine”.

Mike Brady’s father, Robert, was a Dubliner who enlisted with the British Army in 1940 and landed in Normandy a month after D-Day, taking part in the fierce battles around Caen. His tour of duty was with the Royal Engineers. After the end of the war, he served in Malaya, repairing war damage and constructing airfields. Two of Brady’s great uncles lost their lives on the Somme during World War 1.

The choir is also thrilled to have the Australian Youth Band (AYB) on board. The choir were the AYB’s guest artists at their recent concert at MLC’s James Tatoulis Auditorium in Kew and we are confident that they will produce the standard of accompaniment appropriate to such a special occasion.

The AYB is Victoria’s premier youth performance ensemble and has performed all over Australia at popular regional festivals, major sporting events, marching band festivals and corporate functions. It’s also done nine international tours.

Till The Boys Come Home: Songs & Music from World

Wars 1 & 2 is the choir's best-selling CD. The concert was initially going to be called Till The Boys Come Home but the choir decided that, given the significant number of women who served, particularly during World War 2, it was more appropriate to use the more inclusive Till They All Come Home.

Melbourne Town Hall is the right place for the concert – it was a major recruitment centre during World War 1 and the Victorian centre for the Australian Comforts Fund (originally the Lady Mayoress' Patriotic League), which organised 'comforts' for soldiers on the battlefields.

Tickets are sure to be in high demand so make sure you book early through our ticket secretary on 9800 3889 or online at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=4125148>

Joint concert with Ringwood Salvation Army Band

16th Annual Concert for Cancer 1st September

The choir was once again delighted to participate in the charity event at the Band's home at Ringwood Salvation Army Citadel. The acoustics at the Citadel are great for all forms of music but as the photo shows the Choir's basses had to be separated in order for our MD to see our accompanist through the gap!. Nevertheless the concert was a great success both musically and in terms of revenue raised for the Cancer Council and we look forward to working with the band in future.



Laughter is the best medicine

While singing in the choir is a great way of maintaining your health, laughter is still the best medicine. We are including a joke or two to keep you going.

Drawing God

A Kindergarten teacher was walking around the classroom observing the students while they were drawing. Stopping at the desk of one little girl who was working hard on her drawing, the teacher asked what the girl was drawing. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Choir Member Profiles

Our profile this month is not of a chorister but someone who plays a vital role in the management of most of our choir concerts :-

Stage Manager - Mike Russell

Although Mike is not new to the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir, there would be many who are not aware of his 10-year involvement with the choir as a chorister over the last 30 years. Mike lives in Croydon South with his wife Marjie. They have 2 children, daughter Penny who is married, and son Anthony who is engaged.



Mike is semi-retired and still works a few days a week as a consultant in solar PV equipment. His other pastimes are tennis and golf.

The Russell family originally came from County Cork, Ireland, in 1850 and settled in Ballarat. His introduction to choral singing was by way of a Victorian Welsh Concert in Lilydale. It was Norm Maggs, who was a member of both choirs, who convinced him he would be happier at the Melbourne Welsh!

He first joined the Choir, as a bass, in 1990 under the leadership of Bill Mead and has fond memories of travelling to Georgia, USA, for the 10,000-voice concert in the Atlanta Astrodome. He left the Choir after five years but re-joined in 1997, under Phil Smith. He was part of the group that travelled to South Africa to the Eisteddfod in Roodepoort, Johannesburg. He resigned again in 2002.

We welcome Mike back to the choir even though he is not singing. We appreciate the time, energy and professionalism he puts into the job of getting us on stage correctly.

New Chorister – Will Morton (B1)

Will Morton moved to Australia from the UK in 1994, having met his Australian wife Kate while she was working in England. They have lived in Richmond ever since and they have two daughters, Charlotte and Jess, who are both young adults and starting to head off into the world!



Will has had two distinct careers; 20 years in technology start-up and corporate roles, followed by 12 years in business consulting and program management for organisations using technology to change the way they work.



He used to sing in choirs as a lad (church, musicals and barbershop) and his claim to fame was that he turned down an invitation from the Kings College choir because it would have meant moving to boarding school. So it is 30 or more years since he was last in a choir but he is really enjoying it and hopes to be up to standard in time for the concert in November. As to his Welsh background, Will's great, great, grandmother, Theresa Llewellyn, was Welsh. Will was introduced to the choir by second tenor and former Choir treasurer David Phillips; they worked together about 6 years ago and had a chat about the choir, which has been in his mind ever since. He appreciates how we have made him feel welcome and he is looking forward to getting to know the choir members and getting back into singing.

Upcoming Choir Concerts

The choir has two concerts before our major concert at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Tuckers' Concert in Geelong - Seniors Week

5th October at 2:30 p.m.



This has become an annual engagement to sing at St Mary's Basilica, Geelong during Seniors' week and is one of our favourite engagements. This will be our 16th consecutive performance and the

second under the stewardship of Tuckers' Director of Community Relations - Alyson Burchell.

As a special treat for this year's audience we will be featuring a bracket of songs from one of our Singer of the Year 2017 finalists - Chloe Harris a wonderful mezzo soprano.

The concert is free for patrons. For enquiries and tickets please contact Tuckers Funeral Services on 03 5221 4788



A Triple Treat: Concert with Sydney Welsh Choir and the Australian Youth Band at Kingston Arts Centre, Moorabbin

The Sydney Welsh Choir from the outset has had a core of Welsh-born members but has increasingly attracted singers with no obvious Welsh link, though it is amazing how many Welsh ancestors can be discovered by a spot of genealogical research!

Special occasions at which the choir has performed include the Royal Easter Show, Darling Harbour Christmas

Pageant, the official Australia Day Luncheon, and the official NSW Government Anzac Memorial Service, at which they are the one choir chosen each year.

This will be the last concert of their Victorian Tour, which will have included concerts at Geelong, Sorrento and the Shrine of Remembrance in the city.

The Australian Youth Band will accompany the choirs in many of their songs and will also display their formidable talents with a number of items from their own repertoire.

It promises to be an afternoon not to be missed so book your tickets at

<http://www.kingstonarts.com.au/Welsh>

or call 9556 4440



2 pm Sunday 21st October

Kingston Performing Arts Centre

985 Nepean Highway - next to Moorabbin station

Ticket enquiries 9556 4440

<http://www.kingstonarts.com.au/WHATS-ON>

Pigmy

A hunter walking through the jungle found a huge dead dinosaur with a pigmy standing beside it. Amazed, he asked: "Did you kill that?"

The pigmy said "Yes."

The hunter asked "How could a little bloke like you kill a huge beast like that?"

The pigmy answered: "I killed it with my club."

The astonished hunter asked: "How big is your club?"

The pigmy replied: "There's about 90 of us."



Sponsorship

The choir is actively seeking sponsors in particular for the annual funding of our Singer of the Year Concert.

The number of winners and runners up who have gone on to make careers on concert and opera stages worldwide is testament to the significance of this event, which was sold out this year.

If you would like to be associated with this wonderful event or simply wish to have your name or product associated with the choir, please contact any member of the choir's committee and we will be delighted to work with you to make the most of your sponsorship.

Hiring the choir

The choir is also available for corporate and sporting events, dinners, anniversaries, weddings etc.,

So if you require anything from short rousing opening for a conference (say) to a full two-hour concert complete with choir risers and electric piano (if required), please contact Colin Brown (0409188109), or any committee member to discuss your needs.

Want to join the choir?

The choir is always on the lookout for new members whether experienced choristers wanting a new challenge or young inexperienced singers who would benefit from the coaching and direction of our professional music team (which we believe to be the best in the business) and the mentoring of our established choristers.

Our web based learning aids enable newcomers and established choristers to come up to speed with new and existing material very quickly.

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday (excepting school holidays) and run from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. when the choir is updated by the choir president and secretary about upcoming events and related choir matters.

We urgently need younger members, although we welcome potential members of any age to come for an audition.

As one of our relatively recent recruits and admittedly, a chorister who had sung in Wales, said, "There are male choirs and then there are Welsh male choirs..."

If you are interested give Gwyn Harper (0419 562 353), or any choir member, a call and we will be pleased to introduce you to an irreverent but highly motivated group of guys who love the company of fellow choristers and enjoy singing in 4-part harmony

Up coming events in summary

Friday, 5th October

Recital at St Mary's Basilica
(sponsored by Tuckers)

2:30 p.m. St Mary's Cathedral,
150 Yarra Street, Geelong

For enquiries and tickets please contact
Tuckers Funeral Services on 03 5221 4788

Sunday, 21st October

Joint Concert with the Sydney Welsh Choir

2:00 p.m. Kingston Arts Centre,
979-985 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin
book your tickets at

<http://www.kingstonarts.com.au/Welsh>

or call 9556 4440

Sunday 11th November

"Till they all come home"

3:00 p.m. Melbourne Town Hall
Swanston Street, Melbourne

book your tickets at

www.melbournewelshchoir.com/tickets

or phone 9800 3889

Car Crash Miracle

A Rabbi and a Priest are in a car accident and it's a bad one. Both cars are totally demolished, but, amazingly, neither of the clerics is hurt. After they crawl out of their cars, the rabbi sees the priest's collar and says, "So you're a priest. I'm a rabbi. Just look at our cars. There's nothing left, but we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God. God must have meant that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace the rest of our days." The Priest replies, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God." The Rabbi continues, "And look at this. Here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished but this bottle of Morgen David wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune." Then he hands the bottle to the priest. The priest agrees, takes a few big swigs, and hands the bottle back to the rabbi. The rabbi takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap on, and hands it back to the priest. The Priest asks, "Aren't you having any?" The Rabbi replies, "No...I think I'll wait for the police."

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