

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

Vol 1 - No 2 - May 2003

Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondents: Peter Tamm & Dieter Fischer

I hope you all enjoyed the concert at Lobethal on the 4th. Personally I thought we sang well, and the trip up there and back was also enjoyable. Now, if only Maurice would learn not to stand in a row by himself...

Although we are the oldest male choir in Australia let's not get carried away. The Regensburger Domspatzen, the Bavarian Boy's Choir, recently celebrated their 1,027th anniversary ...

Bill van de Water

Report from Committee

Meeting May 12th

- A tour of NZ is in the early planning stage. Peter Reeh sent messages to four choirs, none of which has yet replied.
- Riverton Ecumenical Service 8 June: Peter Reeh met with John McInerny in Clare. They want us to sing a lot of liturgical music but given the late notice this is not possible. At this stage we will do about four sacred songs that we already know. Bruno Bachmann will conduct. The church service commences at 1:30, and we will have a barbeque in a Riverton park before the service, at 11:30. The choir will subsidise drivers for the cost of petrol.
- Erbensuppenessen afternoon 22 June: Hall has been booked. Werner Heinze will provide the music. Our own Horst Reichert has kindly agreed to do the cooking.
- Jubilee Concert 20 September: Choirs participating will be Tanunda Liedertafel, DVC, Alpenfrieden and Arion. "The Two Herbies" will provide the music for the gala ball. We are organising a BBQ lunch to be held at the Club on Sunday.
- Due to Bruno Bachmann's occasional employment-related unavailability the committee has decided to appoint another vice-conductor to deputise for Bruno in his absence. More on this later.

From the ALT Ladies

Dear Liedertafel Ladies,

In preparation for the Jubilee Concert in September, a meeting with a few of our ladies is planned for late July. To ensure the smooth running of the event, our Co-ordinator Maria Schmelzle and Ladies will focus on the ushering of people to their seats and any other tasks that may prove useful on the day.

Our next event, Pea Soup Lunch on the 22nd of June at the Tilley Reserve, calls for cakes once again and this time tickets will include Coffee and Cake, this should make our job much easier.

Brigitte Reeh

FROM THE BATON

As you know, Ernest is away for a few weeks performing with the SA Opera.

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

2nd: Franz Bond

6th: Dieter Schulz

23rd: Günter Linhoff

25th: Hermann Hintermeier

30th: Karl-Heinz Ohse

2nd: Ernst Clemens

15th: Werner Falkenburg

24th: Günter Pohlenz

29th: Bruno Seifert

31st: Willi Hermann

Singer Profile

Willi Söns (Tenor 1)

Where do you begin to profile a singer who has been with the ALT since September 1954 and is still going strong? Space does not permit any more than some brief highlights from this man's mountain of experience and stories.

Willi joined soon after arriving in Adelaide from Remscheid in 1952 and first sang under the conductorship of the multi-skilled Valentin Heck, who also ran a tailor shop in the back of the then original Club.

His father, also a keen singer, helped reform the choir after WW2, and for a while conducted the choir. Singers were recruited from the so-called "German Camp", workers employed by the German firm Wender & Dürholz.

Willi has good memories of many hours singing with a small but enthusiastic circle of singers. At the choir's 100th anniversary concert in 1958 only 14 singers participated under the baton of Gert Käse.

In those days of 6 o'clock closing singers used to bring their own drinks to practice on Tuesdays, and many hours were spent in the resident caretaker's home after practice – in fact, many singers went straight to work from there!

Willi has been on all of the choir's three tours of Germany – in 1983 to the Hamburg song festival, in 1987 to Coburg and also in 1995 when the choir unfortunately didn't make the grade with regard to getting on ZDF television at the song festival. However Willi, as usual "getting in where darkness wouldn't", managed to get a ticket to the televised concert and was seen on TV anyway.

When asked about highlights as an ALT singer Willi nominates the 1970 visit to Wollongong's Sanssouci choir's German song festival, which played to a full house followed by a great barbeque and many hours of "Gemütlichkeit".

We all look forward to Willi's 50th anniversary with the choir in 2004.

From the Archives

In May 1977 the Federal Government announced the results of a poll for a national anthem. The songs available were: 1) God save the Queen, 2) Advance Australia Fair, 3) Song of Australia, 4) Waltzing Matilda. There was no doubt that the origin of Song of Australia made it the most popular in South Australia (33.8% in SA), but nationally it registered only 9.8% percent. As we all know 'Advance Australia Fair' won, with a 43% national vote. What a shame that the efforts of the Adelaidier Liedertafel's first conductor and composer of the song Carl Linger with fitting words by Caroline Carlton did not make it nationally.

Here's a blast from the past: a page from our 1908 concert program. There are only two copies of the official program from this concert known to survive. One is in the SA Museum and Willi Söns is the proud possessor of the other (there's no truth in the rumour that he sang at the concert!) This page was scanned from his copy.

1858 1908

ADELAIDER LIEDERTAFEL.
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1858—ANNIVERSARY—1908

GRAND CONCERT
ADELAIDE JUBILEE EXHIBITION BUILDING,
17th SEPTEMBER, 1908.

Under the Patronage and in the presence of His Excellency the Governor
Sir Geo. R. Le Hunte, K.C.M.G., and Lady Le Hunte;
the Chancellor of the Adelaide University, Right Honorable Sir S. J. Way, Bart., P.C., D.C.L.,
and Lady Way; the Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University, Dr. Barlow, B.A., LL.D.,
and Mrs. Barlow; the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Adelaide, Frank Johnson, Esq., J.P.,
and the Lady Mayoress; the Imperial German Consul, Hon. H. C. E. Muecke, M.L.C.

The Liedertafel being fraternally and generously assisted by
The Adelaide Orpheus Society
The Adelaide Choral Society
The Adelaide Bach Society
The Port Adelaide Orpheus Society
The Adelaide Glee Club
The Broken Hill Quartette Club
and a Complete ORCHESTRA.

*"They discourse music, so do we;
And in this, at least, all may see,
A concord of Angelic birth,
That sweetens life throughout the earth.—ECHO.*

SANDS & McDUGALL, PRINTERS, ADELAIDE.

The Last Word:

BANKER: Someone who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and takes it back when it starts to rain.