

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

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Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondents: Peter Tamm

Well, I think I speak for all when I say that yesterday's Erbsensuppenessen day was magnificent. A good roll-up, lovely food and great company. We also sang well! As is usual on a day like that there are many people to thank for making the day possible. It is impossible to name them all but it would be remiss of me not to single out some of the people who made the day a success. The ladies: Brigitte Reeh, Brigitte van de Water, Maria Schmelzle, Karen Baier and some whose names I don't know or forgot. These women were on their feet almost all day. Ramon Meyer worked the bar all day (except for the times when he was demolishing about 4 bowls of pea soup), and thanks also to his young apprentice. Peter Reeh and Hermann Hintermeier who did all the preliminary hard work. Manfred Baier who seemed to be lugging gear in and out of the hall all day and, of course, our "chef extraordinaire" Horst Reichert who cooked and stirred all day. There are, as usual, others whose names I don't know but who contributed on the day to make it a success. Thank you to all!

Manfred Grafton passed on this extract from the May/June editorial of the Berlin Liedertafel magazine "Der Merker". The writer points to the difficulties faced by male choirs in today's musical world. Food for thought?

"Past traditions that confidently propelled choirs along their way to success are no longer the keys to good results in the recruitment of new singers. Managers of choirs need to be able to transform themselves to meet the needs of the modern musical reality. Today's young people shape the use of their free time differently and old traditional ways are shunned by them. The consequence is a polarisation and the eventual stagnation of such choirs (a problem no doubt on a universal scale)."

BvdW

Report from Committee Meeting

- Our insurance claim has been discussed at several committee

meetings. It was decided to pass this to the AGM for discussion and resolution.

- Outstanding memberships for 2004/05 are still at around \$3,000
- Perth 2005: Rail prices obtained. At almost \$4,000 for a couple return (economy class) most of us will be flying. Accommodation is still being negotiated.
- Jubilee concert: Additional artists include a Dixieland jazz band and another jazz group. Should be a swinging show.
- Had an enquiry from a "doctors band" from Meiningen. They are an amateur choir who want to be part of Sangerfest 2005, and we're looking into having them as part of our 2005 Jubilee concert on 4th September 2005 (2 weeks before Perth).
- We have been invited to Arion's 145th jubilee concert in Melbourne in June 5th next year.

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

Choir

- 3rd: Werner Tromp (73)
8th: Maurice Sykes (73)
12th: Erwin Weise (89) YES! 89 and still going strong!

Ladies

- 29th: Kathleen Sons (56)

And a very special occasion:

Hildegard and Manfred Grafton celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on August 4th!

If you have forthcoming personal events and celebrations let Bill or Peter T know and we will publish them here.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Members of the Adelaider Liedertafel have no doubt fond memories of many past concerts and other happy occasions. Let me try your recollections for some of these events of the past.

One of the most successful festivities in the recent history of the choir must have been the combined concert for the 120th Jubilee held together with the Australian Sangerbund in the Festival Theatre, Adelaide in 1978. The ALT under president Norbert Petersen were responsible for the organisation and subsequent enjoyment of the event. My sources tell me that 17 choirs and a Brass Band participated, coming from Wollongong (Sanssouci), Canberra (Harmonie), Perth (Heimatchor) as well as choirs from Sydney, Melbourne Adelaide and surrounds. Our life member Helmut B. assisted with the stage management of the performance (and what a job).

The real fun took place the following day in the Barossa Valley at the premises of winemaker Hermann Thumm. A huge marquee was erected for the occasion and I am certain there were some world records set in the consumption of food and beverages by the 800 plus guests. Here are some of the highlights:

The breakfast, lunch and dinner comprised 70 kg of hamburger meat, 2 steers, rolled meat from 2 pigs prepared on spits, 10x18 gallon kegs of beer, 250 litres of red and white wine, a 10 gallon keg of 25 year old port wine, cakes, salads and soft drinks. What a show! I am told that food and drinks never ran out.

Singers are no doubt aware that a concert for massed choirs organised by the Metro Male Choir is to take place in the Adelaide Festival Theatre in March 2005. The ALT has in the past taken opportunities to combine with this choir. Going back to 1966 a choral concert took place in the Pt Adelaide Town Hall and the ALT, Metro Male Choir, Adelaide Glee club, Pt Adelaide Orpheus Society and Lobethal performed. We also joined with them in 1973 at our 115th anniversary held in the Latvian Club, Wayville and for the 'Carl Linger Memorial' concert (what a fitting concert to have on the calendar and bring in an audience outside of our usual support group). If we don't seriously take next year's opportunity to combine with other choirs in a top setting like the Festival Theatre it may well be our last chance to do so.

PT



Question: In what year was this photo taken? See Peter Tamm for answer.

The Last Word:

Useful information: If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.