

Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858 Vol 3 - No 9 – November 2005 (published 22 Nov 2005)

Editor: Bill van de Water Correspondent: Peter Tamm

Well, this has been one of those months that people in the newspaper game call a "quiet news" month. Nothing of major interest has happened, so there's little to report on the editorial front – except this:

There are still a few members who are unfinancial. Come on, you know who you are!

This month I've included a few details about our conductor, Jonathan. All of these details (and a pretty picture of him and Ed) are on our website.

BvdW

Report from Committee Meeting

- We discussed the bill from Flightworld regarding the buses in Perth.
- Christmas Concert: tentative guests are the DVC, Jens Sandström's children's choir, Eddie on piano and Alastair Knight on organ.
- Our Christmas party was discussed at length. Peter Reeh is going to address members on the subject.

Celebrations

Birthdays this month:

16th: Ludwig Merget (76)

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

Singer Profile

Our correspondent has been chasing Herr President for an interview so that we can publish his life story here, but he keeps avoiding us! Peter Tamm is going to buy a pair of roller skates, and I promise that next month he will catch him.

Our Conductor

The following information was provided by Jonathan at my request. It has been

published, together with a photo, on our website.

Jonathan Vincent Bligh was born in Adelaide, South Australia in 1984. At the age 11 he was awarded a two-year scholarship to Exeter Cathedral School, England, as a boy chorister in the Cathedral Choir. He left England in 1997 and took up another music scholarship at St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney and sang treble in the choir until his voice broke in 1998.

He then returned to Adelaide and completed his secondary school education at Marryatville High School as a Special Interest Music Student. In 2004 he completed his Bachelor of Music at the Elder School of Music (University of Adelaide) for flute and obtained the Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music, London (LRSM). Whilst at university he sang in the University Chamber Choir (*Adelaide Voices*), The Elder Conservatorium Choral, the Conservatorium's Jazz Choir (*Adelaide Connection*) and held the position of Bass Scholar in the St Peter's Cathedral Choir for 2004 and 2005.

For the last two years of his bachelor degree Jonathan studied conducting with Carl Crossin. He currently holds the position of Assistant Conductor of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir under William Shaw and Assistant Conductor of the Hahndorf Liedertafel directed by David Gallasch.

In October 2004 Jonathan conducted the choral finale of "A Goodlye Synge IV" featuring the combined university choirs of over 200 voices in Elder Hall. Early in 2005 Jonathan conducted the choir at Christ Church North Adelaide over a period of one month. Jonathan also sings and manages the Barbershop Quartet *Fourmal Attire* who perform regularly and have just completed a CD recording.

BvdW

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In our February Newsletter we gave all our coffee drinkers some historical info on the origin of coffee and how best to enjoy it. Now take time out for a cuppa tea.

Next to water, tea is the most commonly consumed beverage in the world. By the early 1700's the practice of drinking tea was an established part of daily life in England for both rich and poor. Tea drinking had also been popular in Holland and Portugal as early as the 16th century. The clever promotion of tea by the East India Company and others for its medicinal properties made it quickly acceptable, and then fashionable throughout society.

Tea has less than half the caffeine of coffee, and was said to make "the body active and lusty (??)". Brought mainly from China, tea was traded for opium, in turn purchased by the British in India. The most important consumption however was after dinner, generally taken in the afternoon, where tea was brought into the drawing room in a locked caddy and served by the lady of the house, thus coining the term "afternoon tea". The high value of tea made it necessary to secure the valuable leaves in a relatively air tight container, both to prevent it becoming stale and to

stop it being pilfered by servants. That's why tea caddies generally had a lockable hinged lid and two compartments to hold a variety of leaf.

Silver tea caddies were popular from the early 18th century and had the advantage of being more airtight. Wooden tea caddies are usually lined with zinc to assist with sealing the case.

In 1908 a New York tea importer sent tea samples in little silk pouches to his clients. His intention was that the leaves should be poured out of the pouch into tea pots in the traditional manner, but the recipients didn't understand this and put the whole bag into the pot expecting future orders to arrive in the same little pouches. When the tea was sent in normal bulk form many people complained and the marketer realised the potential, thus inventing the first tea bag. So there – the tea bag is not the relatively recent invention you may have thought it to be.

"All the tea in China" is a shortened phrase first used in Australia in the 1890's and means "not at any price", that is "not for all the tea in China".

PT



After a hard afternoon at Monarto zoo last month.

HARDWARE: Those parts of the computer which you can kick when the software malfunctions.