

Das Lied

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Members with access to the internet are invited to have a look at our website – in particular, the link to Sangerfest 2008. There anyone with an interest in the festivities can offer suggestions and comments, enquire into accommodation facilities and have a look at the various tourist attractions of Adelaide and nearby areas. ALT members (with the usual ID and password credentials) can also have a look at what people around Australia are saying about Sangerfest 2008, via the "Members Only" page.

BvdW

Committee Snippets

- The agenda for Sangerfest 2008 is almost complete. At this stage there will be two concerts on Saturday (2pm: Individual Choirs; 7pm: Combined Choirs and special items)
- The Berliner Liedertafel have advised they will be touring either in 2008 or 2009

Singer Profile

Fritz Schmelzle (Tenor 1)

When he was only 4 years old, a birthday songster group encouraged Fritz to start singing. Now turning 70, he has not stopped.

Born in Haifa, Palestine, a third generation descendant from Wurtemberg (Dornstetten in the Black Forest), he could only stay in his family home until the outbreak of WW2, which saw his mother and 3 children having to go into local internment and his father joining German service.

By 1942 his family had to leave his birthplace permanently to make room for Jewish immigrants starting to establish the State of Israel. Fritz's great-grandfather who originally migrated to Palestine in 1881 and lived there in a Klemzig style settlement still had a heritage house near Stuttgart which now became a home for the family. Fritz was educated in Germany and graduated in commerce, and migrated to Melbourne in 1958.

Starting with the firm Dunlop it took 5 years of night studies to graduate as an Industrial Engineer, which eventually took him to work for General Motors in New Zealand, Siemens Australia and also Robert Bosch. On weekends

he helped with the building of a community centre, 9 pin Bowling club, the Iltis Ski Club on Mt Buller and a Tennis club.

During his time in Melbourne he sang with the Templer Choir and the Liedertafel Arion, of which he was a member for 20 years.

After his retirement Fritz came to Adelaide and with the help of long standing friend (and ALT Life Member) Wolfgang Fritzsche, he needed little encouragement to join the ALT. Wolfgang was also witness at his marriage to Maria.

Fritz has been the Liedertafel's historian since 1996, has assisted with the music committee and made a Family History project his major challenge for the year 2000.

He is certainly looking forward to one of the great highlights of the ALT - its 150th Jubilee in 2008.

His motto :FRISCH, FROMM, FROLICH, FRE!
is something enjoyable to live up to.

PT

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS:

February:

- 3rd: Peter Reeh (65)
- 7th: Hugo Gutwein (76)
- 11th: Ernst Guse (88)
- 13th: Ramon Meyer (50)
- 17th: Fritz Schmelzle (70)

March:

- 6th: Horst Reichert (73)
- 7th: Kurt Salewski (92)
- 21st: Manfred Grafton (67)

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Peter Tamm suggested I list some information about Conradin Kreutzer, some of whose songs we are now learning. Here is an extract from the Web:

Kreutzer was an operatic composer whose musical talent was characterized in its instrumental arrangement. Born in Messkirch, 22 Nov 1780, he died in Riga, Latvia on 14 Dec 1849. He studied with a local (Swabian burgher) musician, Rieger, on organ and theory with Weinrauch, and later with Albrechtsberger in Vienna. Much of his musical life seems unsettled, though he spent most of his time in Vienna and Germany.

His first marriage gave him two daughters who were singers and Kreutzer, on at least two occasions, traveled with and accompanied them. Positions that he maintained included Hofkapellmeister in Stuttgart, time in Schaffhausen, Kapellmeister in Donaueschingen, Kapellmeister of the Karntnertor, a theatre in Vienna, the Theatre in der Josefstadt (a suburb of Vienna), and the city music director at Cologne.

Kreutzer's most successful works were the operas "Das Nachtlager in Granada" (from which the

song "Abendchor" comes), and "Der Verschwender." Other operas were scored and arranged at his hand but met with only limited success. Both "Das Nachtlager" and "Der Verschwender" contain pieces that are still sung today (particularly in Austria), but most of Kreutzer's compositions were not considered to be ground-breaking. He was at the end of a musical era when the public was getting prepared to hear the operatic genius of Wagner.

Instrumentally and musically Kreutzer's compositions were rhythmically alive and accessible to the public for their inclusion of provincial flavors. The forte of Kreutzer can be appreciated and experienced in his simple and expressive songs.

(Adapted from Keith Johnson, All Music Guide)

BvdW

Last month's Crossword solution:



The Last Word - Did You Know That:

- Almonds are a member of the peach family.
- Human babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
- Our eyes remain the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
- There are more chickens than people in the world.