



In Tune



Fees

Semester 1:

Choir Membership \$ 10

Rehearsal Fees \$80/\$75

Music Hire \$5

Star Chorale

Committee

President

Maren Rawlings soprano

Vice president

Joan Mcmeeken alto

Secretary

Judy Downie alto

Treasurer

Chris White bass

Committee members

Annette King, (soprano) Suzanne

Locadou-Wells, Joan McMeeken,

Jenny Stengards (altos), Jeff

Castles, Rod Findlay (basses)

Jane Elton Brown is a member of the Committee ex-officio

Performance Dress

Ladies: Full-length black skirt, black top with long or three-quarter sleeves, (no sparkles, please) black stockings and shoes.

Gentlemen: Black trousers and long sleeved shirt, black socks and shoes (Ladies singing tenor, please dress as for the gentlemen)

If you have news you would like included in In Tune, please let Judy Downie know.

Happy New Year

On behalf of the Star Chorale Committee, I want to wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

The decorations are gone (or they should be—bad luck to leave them up beyond 12th Night, you know!) and everyone is more or less back into workaday mode.

That means that rehearsals start again pretty soon—but more of that anon.

Sing Christmas

The concert held in the MLC Chapel on 4th December was again very successful. The temperature was much more bearable than in 2010, and the Chapel was again full.

The programme was lovely, with everyone enjoying Part 2 of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, as well as some carols by Colin Brumby, a contemporary Australian composer. The community carols were sung with great enthusiasm, and one lady at the front of the Chapel was seen to mouth the word "Wow!" as she sat down after O Come All Ye Faithful!

To add to the success of the occasion, the retiring collection raised over \$1400 towards the work of the Melbourne City Mission.

Plans for 2012

Plans for 2012 are gathering momentum.

Rehearsals commence on 1st February for our performance of Brahms' *German Requiem* in the magnificent Melbourne Recital Centre on 1st July.

Rehearsals will again be on Wednesdays this year, although there will be a number of extra rehearsals on Thursdays (and a Sunday) in June as we build up to the performance. The rehearsal dates are listed over the page. Venues are yet to be confirmed, as we are awaiting word from the school about the availability of the Auditorium etc.

However, we have a Back to Choir/Registration/Catch up Party on 25th January at 7.30. As the school is not available to us on that date, we are holding the party in the Church Hall of Auburn Uniting Church, in Oxley Road. As usual, ladies please bring a plate, and gentlemen, something to drink.

We again ask you to register on line, via the membership page on our website—www.starchorale.org.

We still have a very few vacancies for gentlemen to sing the Brahms with us, but we cannot accept any more enrolments for sopranos and altos, due to the important issues of choir balance, and the number of choristers that can be accommodated comfortably on the Melbourne Recital Centre risers. So ladies, if you have not already advised me that you intend to sing—I'm very sorry, but we look forward to seeing you in the audience!

Plans for 2012.....

Proposed Rehearsal Dates

February—1,8,15,22,29 **March**—7,14,21,28 **April**—4,11,18,25 **May**—2,9,16,23,30

All of the above are Wednesdays

June—Wed 6th, Wed 13th, Thurs 14th (with orchestra), Wed 20th, Thurs 21st (with orchestra), Sunday 24th, Wed 27th, Thurs 28th (with orchestra)

The final rehearsal will be on Sunday morning, 1st July, at the Melbourne Recital Centre at 10 am, with the concert at 3 pm.

The Centre is happy for you to bring your own lunch, and we will provide tea, coffee and water. There is also a nice restaurant nearby. This will obviate the need for two journeys into the city, and the concert will conclude by 5 pm—a definite bonus on a cold winter evening!

Fees

You will note that the fees are a little higher this semester. This is largely due to an increased number of rehearsals, as well as some increased running costs (staff costs at our rehearsal venue, for example). We always base our fees on the number of rehearsals and costs of running the choir (such as conductor's and accompanist's remuneration, postage, refreshments, stationery etc) and spread those costs over the expected number of choristers participating. This semester your fees work out to be less than \$4 per rehearsal! That's about a cup of coffee a week.

Semester 2, 2012

Plans are also afoot for a concert to raise funds to support the Jane Elton Brown Music Performance Award. The date(s) are not yet confirmed, but we expect it to be over the weekend of 24th/25th November. This was the closest we could manage to St. Cecilia's Day, and as St Cecilia is the patron saint of music, the dates seemed very fitting.

And another thing.....

- We were all very saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Philip Younger. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to his wife Sue, sister Ruth (one of us) and all his family
- We also extend our sympathies to Olive Flocas, whose husband John passed away in June, and to the family of Gordon Crewther who also passed away recently.
- To all our choristers who are experiencing, or whose family members are experiencing, ill health or other difficulties, please remember you have friends in our choir family.
- And on a lighter note—a number of people have asked for the recipe for Gill Bell's biscuits. Well, here it is! - direct from Gill!

Honey Oat Slice

140gm butter

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup plain flour, sifted with

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon baking powder

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup coconut

1 cup oats combined with

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup muesli – or can use $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups oats.

1 large tab. honey

Melt butter gently.

Add honey off the stove.

Stir all dry ingredients together in a bowl.

Add butter and honey.

Press into a rectangular baking dish (I find 18cm x 28cm ideal) lined with non-stick baking paper.

Bake in a moderate oven for 15 minutes.

Cut when hot; remove from tin when cold.

Note: I sometimes increase butter and honey for a chewier mixture.