

## Concert Choir 2004

### Performances

23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Adelaide Choral Eisteddfod	Adelaide Town Hall
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Choral Recital 1	Hudson Room Brighton Secondary
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Choral Recital 2	Hudson Room Brighton Secondary
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Performing Arts Challenge 7 performances	Willoughby Hall & Sydney Town Hall
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Staff room	Brighton Secondary
30 <sup>th</sup> August	Peter Goers radio show	ABC studio Collinswood
1 <sup>st</sup> September	Governing Council reception	Hudson Room Brighton Secondary
1 <sup>st</sup> October	Choralfest lunchtime Concert	Elder Hall University of Adelaide
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Senior School Concert	Elder Hall
28 <sup>th</sup> October	Valedictory	Adelaide Town Hall
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Festival of Lessons & Carols	St Peter's Cathedral
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols by Candlelight	Elder Park

The Concert Choir enjoyed a year full of performance, competitions and success!

The Concert Choir has long been one of the premier ensembles at Brighton Secondary School, and its reputation has been enhanced by international tours (most recently to China in 2003), festival performances and competitions both here and interstate. It has been some time now since the Concert Choir has entered in competition. Before 2004, the Concert Choir last won an Adelaide Eisteddfod division in 1996 and enjoyed success in the Melbourne Festival of Choirs achieving a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the youth section in 1994 and two 2<sup>nd</sup> places in 1995. If these achievements reinforced the Choir's position as a

leading school choir in Australia, then the events of 2004 will be recorded in history as a milestone in musical achievement by a Brighton ensemble.

Special Music Schools must be seen to be at a higher level of excellence by the public in order to maintain their *raison d'être*. Competition gives our ensembles an opportunity to demonstrate the benefits and quality of the special music education we offer. Competition also gives us an insight into our standing in comparison to other similar ensembles, and the inspiration and enthusiasm which students gain from hearing others is invaluable. Therefore we must be brave and participate and support these festivals, and learn to enjoy and be gracious –win, lose or draw, within the competitive spirit!

It was decided to make the focus of 2004 a trip to Sydney for the Australasian Choral Championships. As reported separately, the achievement of winning four 1<sup>st</sup> places in the four divisions entered – preceded by 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Adelaide Eisteddfod is remarkable. The level of publicity in the form of television, radio interviews and live performance, and newspaper articles was commensurate with what this ensemble had achieved.

Another tribute to the Choir was the invitation to perform at the national *Choralfest* conference held at The University of Adelaide. Featuring 50 of the best choirs in Australia, the Concert Choir performed a stunning program in front of a capacity audience at Elder Hall on October 1. This concert doubled as a University of Adelaide lunchtime concert –an honour in itself to be programmed in this concert series. The ANCA organising committee informed us that in feedback about the conference, a number of respondents mentioned the Brighton performance as the “musical highlight of the conference”.

A fitting finale to the year was the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols at St Peter's Cathedral. Unanimously acclaimed for the polish, musicianship and accessibility of the repertoire, this performance was indicative of the achievement and standards set throughout the year by the Concert Choir.

There is no doubt that 2004 has been a wonderful good news story; that we are redefining the paradigm of possibilities is a tribute to the spirit of adventure and faith that these young choristers have. These positive experiences have an enormous impact on this group of students. The interaction with each other, teachers, other choirs and members of the public has benefited their interpersonal skills. That the commitment and application displayed by these students in the quest for musical excellence was recognised and transformed into artistic achievement, is indeed satisfying and results in much self-growth for the individual. From their successes, the students have gained a renewed level of self-esteem and optimism and feel as if they can ‘conquer the world’!

**Michael Griffin**

## **Repertoire 2004**

Surrexit Dominus	Nigel Butterley
Hope There Is	Clare McLean
South Australia	arr Stephen Leek
The Lord Bless You and Keep You	John Rutter
Witness	arr Jack Halloran
O Magnum Mysterium	Morton Laurisden
Credo	Richard Nance
Trickle, Trickle	Kirby Shaw
Sweet Georgia Brown	arr Kirby Shaw
Over The Rainbow	arr Roger Emerson
Remember, O thou man	Thomas Ravenscroft
Coventry Carol	arr Martin Shaw
Carol of the Bells	arr Peter J Wilhousky
O Holy Night	Adolphe Adam
Jesus Christ the Apple Tree	Elizabeth Poston
Gaudete!	Steeleye Span

## **Brighton Choir Wins Adelaide Eisteddfod - June**

The Brighton Secondary Concert Choir enhanced the fine reputation of Brighton Secondary School for choral singing by winning First Place in the Open Choral Section of the Adelaide Eisteddfod Choral Competitions on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Brighton's choirs have exerted their dominance in these competitions, winning first prizes every year since 2000.

Michael Griffin conducted the Choir of 44 students from Years 10, 11 and 12 at the School.

Choirs at Brighton have won more than 35 choral awards at the Adelaide Eisteddfods since becoming a Special Interest Music Centre in 1976.