

## Concert Choir 2005 Semester 1

### Performances

3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Lions International Conference Centre	Adelaide Convention Centre
1 <sup>st</sup> June	School Assembly	BSS gymnasium
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Staff room	Brighton Secondary
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Winter Choral Concert and 'Hope There Is' CD launch	St Augustine's Church
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Performing Arts Challenge 5 performances	Congress Hall & Sydney Town Hall
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Adelaide Choral Eisteddfod	Adelaide Town Hall

The 2005 Concert Choir operated under two different conductors. Michael Griffin in Semester 1, and Jeffrey Kong in Semester 2. This change was brought about when it was decided that the Chamber Choir, consisting of 14 Year 12 girls would embark on an international tour under the direction of Michael Griffin.

As in 2004, the Choir prepared diverse and complex repertoire to a standard rarely bettered by school choirs. Again, the focus of this choir was not on quantity of repertoire, but quality and attention to detail. Two performance events stand out: the Lions International Conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre, and The Choral Championships in Sydney both held during Semester 1. The Lions conference opening ceremony was a major event and in front of a large audience, the Choir performed magnificently. The sound system was of good quality and the technicians knew how to use it – (after years in the job, this was refreshing). In gratitude for our performance, Lions generously funded our latest CD 'Hope There Is', a collection of choral music from the 2004 choir. The launch, as part of the Winter Choral Concert was well attended, and formed excellent preparation for our tour to Sydney the following day.

After the clean sweep in 2004, the Sydney competitions were always going to be a challenge. Reaching the top in anything is difficult, but with resulting expectation, possible complacency and other choirs determined to bout, we could not repeat the achievement. However, our performances were close to and sometimes equal to our very best. In four divisions we were awarded a 1<sup>st</sup>, two 2<sup>nd</sup> places and a 3<sup>rd</sup> - an excellent result against some fine choirs. Needless to say though, that we were disappointed. What was more disappointing was the venue Congress Hall. The acoustic and lack of a warm-up area was sub-standard for such a major competition.

One event that should not pass unmentioned was the Adelaide Eisteddfod Open Choral win. The quality of this field keeps improving and it was genuine thrill to come out on top for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year (treble choir in 02,03).

I appreciate the work ethic of the students and our accompanist Annie Kwok during Semester. Hard work always pays off eventually, and these students have learned how to focus singularly on working toward artistic excellence in a large group.

### **Michael Griffin**

#### **Repertoire Semester 1**

Lux Aeterna – 1. Intoritus  
Spain  
Nightingale Sang  
A Gaelic Blessing

Morton Laurisdén  
arr Rutherford  
arr Kirby Shaw  
John Rutter

Credo  
Old Man River  
Andy's Gone with cattle

Richard Nance  
Kern/Hammerstein  
arr Morton

#### **Australian Choral Championships, Sydney – 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June**

Following the widely publicised set of achievements in the 2004 Australasian Choral Championships, the Brighton Concert and Chamber Choirs gave a stunning set of performances at this year's event and were a credit to themselves, our school and to South Australian public education.

The Concert Choir came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Under 18 Choral division, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Secondary Schools' final, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Sacred Choral Award and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the major event, the Australasian Choral Championship.

The Chamber Choir, consisting of seventeen Year 12 girls, won their two events, the Secondary A Capella Award and the Under 18 Chamber Choir. Remarkably, it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> successive year they have won the latter.

The school entries were of a higher standard than 2004. What is particularly pleasing about this is the fact that the other two most successful schools at the event – one from N.S.W and one from S.A – attributed their success to the inspiration they gained from our students in 2004. This is what good competition is about – students inspiring each other to strive for greater levels of excellence.

Our students billeted with students from Barker College, Hornsby. We are very thankful to Barker for their superb hosting and generosity, and look forward to returning hospitality in the future.

Once again our community can be enormously proud of our students. Their behaviour, professionalism and level of courtesy made them excellent

ambassadors. As well as the students, I wish to thank the choirs conductor, Michael Griffin, the accompanist, Annie Kwok, for her usual thoroughness, Antony Hubmayer for his organisation and our Principal, Olivia O'Neill, for coming to Sydney to support us.

**Michael Griffin**