

## Concert Choir Sydney Tour, 28<sup>th</sup> July-1<sup>st</sup> August 2004

The Pollard *Australasian Choral Championships* are held annually in Sydney as part of the McDonalds Performing Arts Challenge. This competition was originally as the City of Sydney Eisteddfods in 1933 and is the largest of its kind in the world.

Brighton's Concert Choir and Chamber Choir recorded a stunning achievement winning all five divisions entered:

- The John Lamble Australasian Choral Open Championship
- The John Lamble Australasian Championship for Secondary School Choirs
- U18 Choir
- Sacred Choral Award for Secondary Schools
- U18 Chamber Choir

This complete domination of Australia's largest and highest quality Choral Championships has been invariably described as the most significant choral achievement by a school choir in this country. In particular, the 2004 Brighton Concert Choir is the first school choir to ever take out the open Championship, the largest choral prize in Australia.

The four adjudicators (Dr Steve Watson, Ben Macpherson AOM, Stephen Schafer and Julie Christiansen) who evaluated the performances were overflowing in their praise for Brighton, a sample of their comments follows:

"Riveting...tone is remarkable, as is the sheer musicality of this group. Outstanding by every measure."

"Highly impressive. This is one of the most outstanding choral ensembles we have heard in recent years. We need to promote you. You should be on the world stage mixing it with the best in the world. This is the best school choir in Australia"

"Not much to say. .fabulous! Very confident, a pleasure to hear this choir."

"We are unanimous that this is the best choir...excellently tight ensemble...a great feat of managing..."

"A great sense of fun comes through. Very entertaining and accomplished."

"You are so refined. Bravo conductor, the challenges were masterfully rendered. You're a wonderful wonderful choir –wow! An absolute credit to your school and a wonderful example to all young choirs in this country".

The conductor and Musical Director of both choirs is Michael Griffin, who also conducted the Choir on its successful tour of China last year. The accompanists were Heather Elliott and Jeffrey Kong.