

# Brighton Secondary School

## South Australia

### TREBLE CHOIR REPORTS 1998 – 2000

Conductor and Director: Michael Griffin

#### 1998

With the exception of a year-10 student, the 45 enthusiastic and lively members of the 1998 Treble Choir were in years 8 and 9. Our fifteen piece repertoire was international, with songs from Thailand, Africa, Wales, France and Rumania.

Our first public performance was the *Celebration of Choirs* in St. John's Halifax Street which provided an excellent opportunity to rehearse for the forthcoming Adelaide Eisteddfod - Open Choral division. We were pleased with the Eisteddfod performance, singing *There is no Rose* and *Sun and Moon*. The adjudicator praised the choir for a "lovely quality of sound", "good balance in part singing" and some "thrilling passages" in *Sun and Moon*.

The rest of the performances were also well received and all the students are to be congratulated on their endeavour, punctuality and spirit of professionalism in learning the repertoire from memory.

#### Repertoire 1998

All through the night	Arr R.E.Schram
Shining Moon	Arr A Snyder
Siyahamba	Arr H. Leck
Mangwani Mpulele	Arr L. Walter
There is no Rose	Benjamin Britten
Chindia	A. Pascanu
Three little fishies	Arr Kirby Shaw
Who can I turn to	Arr J. Althouse
Sun and moon	Arr Mac Huff

Little David play on your harp	Arr E. Crocker
The earth adorned	W. Ahlen
Celebrate this day together	Arr P Liebergen
Breaking up is hard to do	Arr R. Emerson
Personent Hodie	Arr John Rutter
Past three a clock	Arr John Rutter

## Performances

2nd June	Festival of Music auditions	Hudson Room, Brighton
21st June	Celebration of Choirs	St John's Church Halifax Street, Adelaide
23rd June	Adelaide Eisteddfod	Adelaide Town Hall
5th August	Winter Choral Concert	Pilgrim Church Flinders Street, Adelaide
22nd September	Festival of Music	Adelaide Festival Theatre
24th October	Annual Music Centre Concert	Elder Hall, Adelaide University
4th November	Lunch Hour Concert	Victor Harbor Town Hall
7th December	Festival of Lessons and Carols	St. Peter's Cathedral North Adelaide

## 1999

The year began with an enthusiastic turn out of 70 students and so began twice weekly rehearsals with a large and (as it turned out to be) unruly choir. It became evident that not all members were in the right frame of mind to contribute to so members were re-auditioned and the best 40 selected. Within a week progress was made and the students started to realise their potential. The choir became a joy for all concerned and gave a series of good performances.

Our first major performance was in Elder Hall at the Winter Concert. The performance was well received by a large and appreciative audience. The following week the Choir sang a specially commissioned song 'Love flows like a River' for the S.O.S Children's Village charity organisation. Included in the concert was a number of other songs, but the highlight was *Love Flows like a River*. This likable song was lead by year 12 tenor Dale Blackeby supported by the choir singing flowing counter melodies. The piece

utilised synthesised drums and bass adding filling to the piano accompaniment. The song was sung very well and the students enjoyed a change of pace and the different style of music. Thanks to Mr. Kong for his fine accompaniment throughout the year and to the students who were a joy to work with.

### **SOS Children's Village Anniversary Song Performance 23rd June 1999**

This international children's charity organisation commissioned the Treble Choir and tenor Dale Blackeby to sing the song *Love Flows like a River to the Sea*. This song was especially composed for the organisation's Jubilee Year and sung around the world on the same day. The SA event attracted around fifty guests to the Hudson room and the Jubilee Song was integrated into a concert programme lasting 30 minutes. The Treble Choir sang five songs, Adrian Nightingale played Monti's *Czardas* accompanied by Mr. Griffin and The year 9 Flute Quintet played the Brubeck Classic *Take 5* accompanied by Mr. Hubmayer. The concert was well received by an appreciative audience concluding with the highlight Jubilee Song. This congenial pop song was much fun for the choir to sing and they sang with confidence and enthusiasm supporting the excellent lead of Dale Blackeby. Mr. Ellis Weyland, Regional Director of SOS presented us with an attractive plaque for our efforts and we concluded the occasion with afternoon tea.

#### **Repertoire 1999**

It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing	Arr. Mac Huff
Lullaby (Good night, My Angel)	Arr. Mac Huff
Once I had a Sweetheart	GM and AP Puddy
When Love is Kind	Arr. A. Frankenpohl
As long as he needs me	Arr. N. Leyden
For the beauty of the earth	J. Rutter
Now is the month of maying	Arr. D. Kalbach
Brother James Air	Arr. G. Jacob
Love Flows (like a river to the sea)	Arr. C. Kolonovits
Fifty Ninth Street Bridge Song	Arr. F. Metis
Joshua fight de battle ob Jericho	Arr. P. Wilkinson
The Christmas Rose	G. Grier and L. Everson
Quem Pastores Laudavere	Arr. J. Rutter

## Performances

25th March	Probus Club	Hudson Room, Brighton
1st June	Festival of Music auditions	Hudson Room, Brighton
18th June	Winter Concert	Elder Hall, Adelaide University
23rd June	S.O.S Children's Village	Hudson Room, Brighton
15th August	Sunday Service	Uniting Church Malvern
18th September	Festival of Music	Adelaide Festival Theatre
24th October	Annual Music Centre Concert	Elder Hall, Adelaide University
7th December	Festival of Lessons and Carols	St. Peter's Cathedral North Adelaide

## 2000

This year the Treble Choir consisted of 50 students in years 8-10. The majority of works performed were in three parts - two soprano voices and an alto section although we also sang unison, two and four part works. The students worked excellently. They were punctual, enthusiastic and responsive. We rehearsed twice weekly, at lunchtimes on Tuesday and Friday and the students were quick to settle into a working routine.

The highlight of the year was being awarded first prize in the Open Section of the Adelaide Eisteddfod Choral Competitions on 4th July. The Treble Choir performed two works in the competition – 'The Snow' by Elgar and 'Chattanooga Choo Choo' with much style and assurance. The adjudicator, Mr Carl Crossin from the Flinders Street School of Music, summed up the performance by saying, "Bravo! Excellent choice of contrasting repertoire performed with panache and polish."

It was most gratifying to win this award as the students invested a good deal of time ensuring that diction, breathing and expression were as good as possible. Surely this is one of the rewards in studying the arts, that to achieve the beauty of a masterpiece we aim for perfection, leaving no stone unturned in ensuring that every subtlety is appropriately conveyed.

### **Adelaide Eisteddfod Choral Competitions: 4th July (press release)**

The Brighton Secondary School Treble Choir enhanced the fine reputation of the School for choral singing by winning first place in the Open Section of the Adelaide Eisteddfod Choral Competitions on 4th July. The Choir of 50 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 at the School was conducted by Michael Griffin with Antony Hubmayer as accompanist.

Results in the Open Section were:

1st	Brighton Secondary School Treble Choir	93
2nd	Cabra College Concert Choir	92
3rd	Seymour College Senior Choir	89
HM	Wellington Girls College NZ	88

It was a happy occasion for us as both the choirs from Wellington (NZ) and Canterbury (Melbourne) were awarded places during the evening. Canterbury gained 1st place in the Small Choirs Section and Wellington came 2nd in that section as well as the Honourable Mention in the Open Section. Brighton hosted both Choirs during the week of the Eisteddfods.

#### **Wellington Girls College: 4th July**

Students from the Choir of Wellington Girls College were hosted by Brighton families for four nights from 30th June - 5th July. Like the Canterbury Chorale from Melbourne, this Choir was in Adelaide to participate in the Adelaide Eisteddfod Choral Competitions. The Choir with its conductor, David Dobson, spent the whole day at Brighton on Tuesday 4th July. During lesson 3, there was a workshop with the Treble Choir, and two combined items were rehearsed by David Dobson - May the Road Rise to Meet You by the New Zealand composer David Hamilton, and Al Shlosha D'varim, by Allan Naplan. This was a very worthwhile session. After recess, the Wellington Choir presented a choral concert for the Year 10 music students. The variety and entertaining nature of their items were appreciated. After a short rehearsal, the school provided lunch for our guests in the Conference Room.

The highlight of the day was the afternoon concert in the Hudson Room. Both the Wellington Choir and our Treble Choir sang individually, and combined at the end for a wonderful performance of the two songs rehearsed earlier in the day. This was a fitting end to a very enjoyable day. The students enjoyed working with two visiting choirs this

year, namely The Canterbury Chorale (a group of 24 senior students from Canterbury Girls Secondary College in Victoria) and the Choir of Wellington Girls College, from New Zealand. Both choirs participated in the Adelaide Eisteddfod Choral Competitions and joined us for workshops and performances. Our students gained considerably through the opportunity to hear what other choirs are doing.

Another highlight of the year was in joining the Concert Band on its tour of the mid north. Performing at Gladstone and Port Pirie was a useful experience and the 2 day trip in itself was a lot of fun. The Gladstone Gaol was novel accommodation, and could still be reverted to its original function without too much trouble. Some girls seemed to be spooked by the experience as they spent some time loitering near the locked front gates of the gaol. The acoustic at the Keith Michell Theatre in Port Pirie was difficult for choral music, another learning experience for the choir. Thanks to the students who were such a joy to work with, and to our accompanist Antony Hubmayer for his expert pianism and happy demeanour.

### Repertoire 2000

The Snow	E. Elgar
Chatannoga Choo Choo	M. Huff
Stormy Weather	J. Althouse
The Shiek of Araby	D. Dallwitz
Solitude	D. Dallwitz
Gershwin for Girls	T. Chinn
Jubilee Hymn to the Holy Spirit	M. Herry
Al Shlosha D'Varim	A. Naplan
May the Road Rise to Meet You	D. Hamilton
There is no Rose	B. Britten
Carol of the Bells	P. Wilhousky
Cantate Domino	Pitoni
O Holy Night	A. Adam

### Performances

4th June	Young Adelaide Sings	Elder Hall, Adelaide University
24th June	25th Anniversary Celebration Concert	Elder Hall, Adelaide University
3rd July	School Concert with Canterbury (Vic)	Hudson Room, Brighton

4th July	School Concert with Wellington (NZ)	Hudson Room, Brighton
4th July	Adelaide Choral Eisteddfods	Adelaide Town Hall
6th August	A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon	Uniting Church, Glenelg
9th October	Gladstone High School	Gladstone High School
10th October	Keith Michell Theatre	Pt. Pirie
17th October	Annual Music Centre Concert	Town Hall, Adelaide
4th December	A Celebration of Christmas	Our Lady of Victories, Glenelg

*Many of the pieces listed in the repertoire for these years may be downloaded at <http://www.musiceducationworld.com/?q=choralmusicmp3s>.*

*Michael Griffin is available for workshops with students and staff: <http://www.musiceducationworld.com/?q=workshopsforstudents>*