

Vocal Ensemble 2001

Performances

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| 16 th June | Winter Choral Concert | Maughan Church Adelaide |
| 20 th June | Adelaide Eisteddfod Competitions | Town Hall Adelaide |
| 17 th September | Winners' Encore 2001 | Town Hall Adelaide |
| 19 th October | Annual Jazz Cabaret | Spence Hall Brighton Secondary |
| 24 th October | Annual Music Centre Concert | Town Hall Adelaide |

When starting a new ensemble at Brighton, two difficulties have to be overcome. The first is finding a rehearsal time in a timetable already crammed every lunch hour and after school period with the major instrumental and vocal ensembles, and the other is taking care not to overload those enthusiastic students who are already committed to so much of our program. Put it all together and we came up with a girls' vocal ensemble of 22 students from years 10 – 12 with a rehearsal time of 35 minutes a week on Monday after school.

The original aim of this new ensemble was to sing vocal jazz repertoire, a style less often encountered in the other performing choirs, and a style often enhanced with microphones and the backing of a trio.

Given the brief rehearsal time the objectives for 2001 included traditional songs as well. We would prepare for the Adelaide Eisteddfod (chamber choir division), the Winter Choral Concert and some songs for the annual jazz cabaret. There would be no time to learn large amounts of repertoire and indeed no real need to perform extensively as most of the girls had joined this choir as an extra choral experience.

Hence it has been a very successful year. In the Eisteddfod, the choir sang two contrasting songs – an Australian work called *A Song of Rain* and the Kirby Shaw arrangement of *Route 66* and we were quite delighted to be awarded first prize and the perpetual shield to display for the year.

We were again proud to be invited in the rather exclusive *Winners' Encore*, a concert put on by the Eisteddfod society featuring 18 of the some 160 or so competition winners in various divisions.

The jazz cabaret was fun. Nat Wiseman (bass) and Andre Wise (drums) joined our regular accompanist - year 12 student Michael Hammer (piano) to provide a solid swing backing for the choir.

Congratulations to the girls for their success and also for making the rehearsals as enjoyable as they were. Many thanks also to Michael Hammer who provided us with first class piano accompaniment throughout the year.

Michael Griffin

Vocal Ensemble Repertoire 2001

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| Route 66 | arr Kirby Shaw |
| Caravan | arr Mark Brymer |
| A Clare Benediction | John Rutter |
| A Song of Rain | Anne Boyd |
| My Foolish Heart | arr Alan Slater |

