

SAPPS Music Society Annual General Meeting 2023

Director of Music Annual Report for 2021-22 Festival of Music

2022 PSMF – we did it! We put on our 10 concerts at Festival Theatre ✓

However, Covid-19 still affected our plans with Conference 1 cancelled, week 3 country conferences cancelled, and combined choir rehearsals cancelled until week 5.

It made for a very interesting start to 2022 and certainly not the one we were all hoping for. We drew strength from having spent the last 2 years being creative and we got to work with a Plan B!

The start to the school year was staggered for students – year 5 and 6 kids didn't arrive on school sites until week 3. Choir and singing did not begin then, or in many cases until week 5 or later.

Plan B – design and record a set of online learning modules for each of the songs to cover the term 1 learning grid.

Cathy and I presented the Term 1 teaching sessions accompanied by Felicity and Caroline, while Chad filmed us.

Annie Kwok, composer of Who Knows? presented her whole song for us as teaching and learning blocks.

These were put together as an online resource for teachers to use to learn the songs and to start choir with their students. Often we resorted to meeting / connecting online in Zoom or Teams.

Schools opened from week 5 onwards, but still, choir was allowed in some schools and not in others. Attendance was inconsistent due to illness for students AND teachers.

Country conferences were allowed by the end of week 5 – Port Pirie, Eyre peninsula – (Cleve), and Riverland went ahead at the end of week 8.

Congratulations to the amazing PSMF team. Unstoppable is us - we continue to keep the students at the centre of all that we do and we just keep singing!! We get on, we work hard, we problem solve, and we stay positive.

Thanks to Rohan Yates, Natalie Bond, Andrew Johnston, Jo Casson and the Festival Theatre sound and lighting team.

Well done and thanks to the following people for providing so many South Australia students the opportunity to participate in and experience quality music....

- To Irene, tremendous leadership once again, nothing is too hard...
- Assistant Director Cathy – so capable, approachable, and willing to do anything asked of her – an amazing colleague to work with.
- Accompanists Felicity and Caroline - Your expertise, skill and choral knowledge are invaluable!
- To the school choir teachers, HPI choir teachers and accompanists + school support staff and other volunteers from schools – once again they kept the “flow” of music alive despite the bumpy start to the choral year.
- Orchestra Manager Michael + Michael A and the conducting team Susan, Katie, Lisa and Thea – congratulations for conducting and making music for our choirs to sing to.
- Troupe Manager Maria and her team – Charlotte, Toby, Kathleen, Chad, - awesome performance once by all again – congratulations.
- To Host Manager Heather and her mentors – such professional and confident hosts - well done
- To Production manager Anne and her team of energetic positive concert managers who expertly led the students to stage from the banquet room without losing anyone – so much more ‘space’ for 400+ kids and adults!!
- Amazing Guest Artists to compliment our show.

★★★★BRAVO★★★★

Repertoire 2022.

- ✱ *City of Music*- Composed especially for the 2022 Year of the choir as initially designated by the Adelaide city Council and the Adelaide Choral Network by Glyn Lehmann. The song began with the sound of St Peter's Cathedral Bells which we filmed and recorded on site early term 3. After the orchestra tuning and Kaurna

welcome, vision was shown on Kabuki drape, orchestra commences playing, curtain drops to reveal choir just prior to singing 'We gather here on Kurna Land....' (all except on one night when it failed to drop...)

- ★ *Revolution* – high energy 2 part song of the Festival of Year 5/6 students from now on!
- ★ *Advance Australia Fair*
- ★ *Who Knows?* – commissioned song composed by Annie Kwok – telling of our new era in the Festival with year 7 students now at high school – the new possibilities – dare to believe, I am here so real, learning a new song, who knows what follows..... 2 soloists and Auslan Signing.
- ★ *You've Got a True Friend* – funky friend song – joined by troupe on stage, 2 soloists featured as well – lots of fun.

Commissioned Work – in two couplets this year, split up by a GA (this changed from original Songbook order)

- ★ *When Galaxies Collide* – Featuring aerialist from Cirkidz and soloist from troupe – strong start to the space theme.
- ★ *Stargazers* – Stunning Steampunk costumes that lit up!! – Full troupe on stage – AMAZING – sparkling song about the SA Astronomical Society.
- ★ *Echoes of Home* – featured just 3 dancers plus choir
- ★ *A River in the Sky World* – dramatic white costumed troupe with soloist raised on podium and white shimmering material – telling the Kurna night sky story.
- ★ *Wau Bulan* had the works – Soloist, Choir, Choreography led by two leaders, and a class of floor performers – thanks to Heather for her planning of the teaching unit for Wau Bulan, her coordinating and selecting of floor performers. A great piece – spectacular especially when the soloist from Malaysia wore the traditional costume from Malaysia and her grandparents from OS attend the show.
- ★ *Lost the Plot* – piano and choir only – the kids loved it! True choral piece by Paul Stanhope.
- ★ *I Got the Music* – 2 soloists plus the rapper. AND the Junk Squad – Michael x 2's junk percussion groups who featured in the interlude through to the end of the piece. Full on music and sound.
- ★ *Can You Feel It* – Hosts thanked everyone on stage during the intro, troupe, orchestra, soloist and choir.... Great finale to the show.

Resources – Recording choirs once again came from the hard-working SAPPS Choir + Norwood PS.

Thanks to Cathy and Gaby, and Lisa and Caroline. Less songs to record due to The Space Between Us being already recorded for 2020, so only a small number of new or different bars to record, therefore only one school group was required. We appreciate the extra effort, learning and teaching time that goes into this set of resources for the following year.

The App and FoM website are extremely well utilised, easily accessed and kept up to date.

Conference One – cancelled. Attempted rescheduling end of week 8 but alas, no go!

Combined Choir Rehearsals – Started in week 5 – mostly just single school visits until week 8.

Car Park Sing – about 15 in attendance under the tree – a sing through of the repertoire.

Conference Two 1.5 – YES! we did a conference!! Term2, end of week 2, Friday and half of Saturday was our first gathering for the year for conducting and revision of repertoire. Again, we encouraged teachers to bring along their own music stand to 'free the hands' and enable some conducting practice as each song is being revised. Wonderful to be able to be together and SING!!

Choir Assessments – re-badged for 2022 as a MASTERCLASS rather than an assessment, for workshopping repertoire with students and teachers.

Soloists – Auditions in Term 2 week 6, after pre-audition solo workshops. Followed by Term 3 masterclasses set out in song groups to bring students together – Who Knows? x 2, You've got a Best Friend x 2, I Got the Music x 3. Mark Oates guest presenter, +Annie Kwok guest presented and workshopped her song with the soloists.... Students lined up for her autograph even!!

Orchestra and Troupe

Orchestras started with staggered sectionals across a Sunday at the end of week 5 and rehearsals began in week 8. Term 2 full day rehearsal Thursday week 2, and at Grainger Studio end week 7.. VERY successful and worthwhile to rehearse as one team of players.

Troupe started in term 2, week 3. Soloists chosen. Underdale and Norwood groups. Jo, Carla and Laura once again choreographed and dressed the students for a stunning performance.

The extra Bump in day at Festival Theatre enabled just orchestra and troupe both having separate rehearsal time in the pit and on stage. Valuable!

Repertoire Rumble – held in Term 2, week 9 at Unley PS. Small group of choir teachers gathered to rehearse repertoire whilst conducting and singing.

Festival Concert Series – the schedule from 2021 stayed - students came for rehearsal and stayed until end of performance – ‘CONCERT DAY’ consisting of photos, rehearsal, dinner, concert, parents pick up. Villis catered for meals if schools ordered, or BYO. Students new ‘hold’ is the banquet room – walking through the foyer via OP side stage.

Regional PSMF – Country choir visits for Adelaide Affiliates + Remote schools along with regional workshops in weeks 9-11. Roxby Downs, Kingscote, Southeast, Whyalla and Port Lincoln. All regions except Port Augusta held concerts. Northern Metro changed it up to a 3-concert series to Shedley Theatre, Southern dropped back to just one concert this year.

The SAPPS Choir – after a tough start to the year, with online auditions, online rehearsals, and inconsistent attendance due to illness they have gelled together solidly and finished the year on a HIGH!! Congratulations to Cathy, Gaby, Cheryl, new administrator Joanne Kay, and Chad. This team work so hard to provide these talented kids an extension choral program and unique and memorable performance opportunities. ****BRAVO****

Year 3-4 Class Singing – resources still on website – updated with another of Glyn’s – Life without Sport.

Collaborations –

- ✳ State Opera and Catholic Schools Festival – Conducting workshops for teachers led by Anthony Hunt. Well attended by teachers looking for explicit direction on choral conducting.
- ✳ Adelaide University – offering university students sessions with our choir teachers in schools.
- ✳ MusicaVIVA – networking with to share expertise and contacts.
- ✳ Western Australia Massed Choir Festival associate affiliate,
- ✳ UNESCO – inclusion of logo in Songbook and website
- ✳ Children’s University – students still achieve hours through our opportunities.
- ✳ Paul Jarman Workshop for SAPPS Choir recording students on the 2023 Commissioned Work.

Professional Development, events, community concerts and conferences –

Virtual Summer School, ANCA online workshop for choir teachers, DreamBIG Children’s Festival planning and meetings for 2023, Sky Song at Leconsfield (drone lighting show), Online webinars and meetings, (MER,) National Folk Festival Canberra, Directorate Meeting at the ZOO, Level Up Australian Curriculum session, IPPA 21st Century Manager Series at EDC, attendance at ADYO and YAV and Aus Girls concerts, attendance at Curriculum Launch for teachers and students..

Thank you for another outstanding year of engaging students in artistic excellence through choral music. ♥

BRAVO PSMF!! ★

Robyn Filmer, Dec 2022.