

## The SAPPs Choir Administrator Annual Report 2020

In 2020 the SAPPs Choir staff remained Cathy Lange, conductor, Gaby Freer, assistant conductor, Cheryl Clark, accompanist, and Deb Hepworth, administrator. This is the third year of staff stability.

We began the year with 60 **students** and retained 46 of these. Reasons for leaving were; Covid and other health issues, change of venue, move to a private school, taken on too many things. The remaining students consisted of 8 year 5's, 20 year 6's and 18 year 7's. Seven of these were boys.

The **fees** were \$200 per child (previously \$180) and \$100 for school card holders and concurrent second child (previously \$140). The music levy that is refunded at the end of the year when all music is returned, remained at \$30. We received all monies, bar \$30, by the end of term 2.

Our **repertoire** for the first semester included

♪ Eye of the Sound Storm	♪ How Can You Catch the	♪ I Sing Because I'm
♪ Proud Mary	Wind?	Happy
♪ For Love of Country	♪ Spirit of the Anzacs	♪ Higher Ground

Our **repertoire** for the second semester included

♪ Better World	♪ Christmas A-Comin'	
♪ Maringa Krismes	♪ See the Star of	♪ Great Day
♪ A Solfege Christmas	Bethlehem	

Our camp at Nunyara Conference Centre changed to a weekend day camp. The team felt that the friendship consolidation, development of the ensemble 'feel' of the group and the establishment of a solid foundation in repertoire learning, could all be achieved without the sleep over. An increasing numbers of students were not comfortable staying over, a handful always took a long time to settle and the learning time on Sunday mornings was always a little compromised. It was too, a big call on our staff. It worked very well and we did achieve what we wished. Survey results indicated that although some missed the opportunity to sleep over, many said they were glad to be in their own beds.

And things continued to be different in every way!

Due to Covid 19, all rehearsals were in abeyance for the last three weeks of Term 1.

The SAPPs Choir and their families, decorated their letter box/front door with a sprig of rosemary or a small Australian flag. At 5.50am, with a candle or a poppy lantern, they sang *For Love of Country*, by Vonda Last, in their driveway, while accessing the choral track on the Festival of Music app, to honour those who fought for freedom. Many families photographed or filmed their participation and uploaded it to our SAPPs Facebook page! The Department also used some of our vision for their Facebook page.

In Term 2 'Zoom' rehearsals began. These were not ideal but certainly enjoyed by everyone. They enabled the whole team to remain connected, which was our main aim.

We established a SAPPs Choir page on the PSMF website, where we made available warm up and repertoire learning sessions. We also posted on our Facebook page, other music activities the engage our students while many of them were learning from home.

In preparation for the return to face to face rehearsals in Week 8 of Term 2, we took the decision to move from our normal rehearsal venue to Klemzig PS. There we have all the rehearsal advantages of Unley PS PLUS the ability to keep our students quite distanced from each other and the adult team distanced from each other and the students (which was impossible in the small room at Unley). We realized that this decision would impact on some of our families. The decision was not lightly made, but we believe that it was in the best interests of the majority.

At the beginning of Term 3 we continued at Klemzig, hoping that a return to Unley would be possible. With safety issues paramount, we quickly realized that the inability to spread out at Unley PS would make the return impossible. We researched alternative venues but with our criteria (large space, 2 rooms, location, parking, suitable toilets and costs) Klemzig ticked the most boxes. Being not as central as Unley we hoped the impact on our families would not be great and we lost only one member.

Live gigs were always the most likely to be impacted and this was the case, so we took every opportunity in the second semester to provide performances in non- audience or virtual spaces. The choir

- Sang and were filmed performing Higher Ground, for the Festival Sing movie
- Entered the ANCA Southern Stars Choral Showcase, achieving a gold level standard and the Adjudicator's Prize, in a section with secondary school students
- 20 selected students recorded the Festival repertoire for 2021 resources
- 19 of our students contributed their version of 'Better World' to the the PSMF experiment into a virtual choir, as a precursor to including a virtual song in the repertoire for 2021.
- We planned extensively for our Covid 19 safe 'SAPPS on the Green' Christmas concert which quickly morphed into ...
- Virtually SAPPS 2020 filmed at St Oswald's Church in Parkside. This movie, along with camp and other photos, the Higher Ground vision, our Southern Stars Showcase winning entry and the Better World virtual choir vision, became the 2020 memories digital download available our families at end of the year.

We believe that the lack of live gigs ... not having the thrill of face to face performances ... did impact on the learning and performance readiness of the students. This will inform what we do next year.

In November we again held auditions, taking the 2021 numbers to approximately 62, and we finished the year, as usual, with bowling.

Throughout the year the choir continued to be supported at rehearsals by Chad Lofts, particularly in the area of vision and IT. His expertise is invaluable.

Our Parent group was much less active but took over the music collection and sorting. They are always a wonderful support to the choir.

The Festival team are always at our backs, ready to support and help, in the Office, at rehearsals and gigs.

The Music Society continues their financial support of the choir, without which we could not exist.

Thank you to all these people and groups.

Deb Hepworth

The SAPPS Choir Administrator