

The South Australian Public Primary Schools Choir

Annual Report 2022

Background Information:

In 2022 the SAPPS Choir staff consisted of Cathy Lange, Conductor, Gaby Freer, Assistant Conductor, Cheryl Clark, Accompanist, Chad Lofts, IT Support and Joanne Kay, Administrator.

Director of Music, Robyn Filmer was also involved in some rehearsals and the recording of the 2023 repertoire.

The choir was strongly supported by members of the Primary Schools Music Festival team.

The year began with additional auditions due to the heavy loss of students, as a result of Year 7's moving to High School. Due primarily to this, only 5 students were retained from 2021 and we began the year with 45 students.

Covid protocols introduced into South Australian schools at the beginning of 2022, impacted considerably on our early rehearsals in Term 1. Further auditions took place online to increase our numbers and rehearsals began using Zoom, until face to face gatherings were allowed again, with social distancing practices enforced.

We had students travelling from as far as Kapunda, Mount Compass and even a student from Port Lincoln. Unfortunately, she was unable to manage the distance and withdrew after the Winter Concert.

We continued to be faced with Covid challenges, both with student and staff absences due to Covid cases and it was extremely rare to have a rehearsal with all students present. In consultation with the PSMF Manager and the Board, it was agreed that Cathy would invite a core group of 2021 students who had moved on to High School, back to join us, in order to bring some experience to the choir and improve numbers. This proved to be very successful, and a small group of these students remained with us for the rest of the year.

Fees:

The fees were set at \$250 per child (previously \$200) and \$125 for school card holders and concurrent second child from one family. The music levy of \$40 was fully refunded at the end of the year to families where all music was returned in good condition.

Our repertoire for the first semester included:

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| Riawanna | I am the Earth | Speechless |
| Spirit of the Anzacs | Cockroaches | If You're Out There |
| Song of Australia | I'm a Spy | Bonfire Season |

Performances in the first semester included:

- Day Camp, Klemzig Primary School
- ANZAC Day Dawn Service, Adelaide War Memorial
- Sammy D Foundation Gala, Adelaide Oval
- AdYO Sinfonia, Brighton Secondary School
- Schools Day Tour at Mount Compass Area School, Clapham and Bellevue Heights Primary Schools
- Winter Showcase Concert, Burnside City Uniting Church

Our Day Camp was held at the PSMF office, at Klemzig Primary School, on Saturday March 26. It was well attended and successful, giving students the opportunity to get to know each other and introducing the first semester repertoire. Klemzig proved to be a very suitable venue for the Day Camp.

A strong focus was the Anzac songs, for the long awaited return of the Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Adelaide War Memorial.

A highlight of the first semester was a new partnership formed with the Adelaide Youth Orchestra, which resulted in a highly successful and memorable combined concert with the AdYO Sinfonia, performed in the Brighton Secondary School Music facility. We anticipate this partnership will continue, with a meeting held early in 2023 to discuss the possibilities of future collaboration between AdYo and the SAPPS Choir.

Our **repertoire** for the second semester included:

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|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Festive Alleluia | Absolutely Everybody | Al Shlosa |
| Nothing Else Matters | Charleston | I Got the Music |
| See The Star | The Angel Gabriel | Christmas A Comin' |

Performances in the second semester included:

Guest Artist, Festival of Music, Festival Theatre
Public Education Awards, Adelaide Convention Centre
The Barton Singers, Burnside City Uniting Church
Recording for 2023 Festival of Music resources, Sodypop Studio
International Day of People with Disability, Minda Inc.
Prospect Christmas Carols, Prospect Memorial Gardens
Twilight Christmas Concert, Burnside City Uniting Church

It was decided that current SAPPS Choir students in Year 6 would be offered the opportunity to continue in 2023. Many of our students took up this opportunity.

In November we held auditions with students in Years 5 and 6, increasing our starting numbers for 2023 to 55.

Gaby Freer announced that she would be stepping down as the Assistant Conductor and Stephanie Eaton was appointed and welcomed into this role.

We finished the year with a social event of bowling, which was very well attended.

Throughout the year the choir continued to be supported at rehearsals by Chad Lofts, particularly around vision and IT. A download of the year's events was once again compiled and offered to families.

The Festival team also provided wonderful support to the SAPPS Choir, always willing to support and help in the office, at rehearsals and gigs if required.

We had a small but reliable and supportive Parent group who assisted at performances, organised raffles at both of our concerts, and helped with the music collection and sorting. They were a wonderful support to the choir.

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

Joanne Kay

Administrator

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