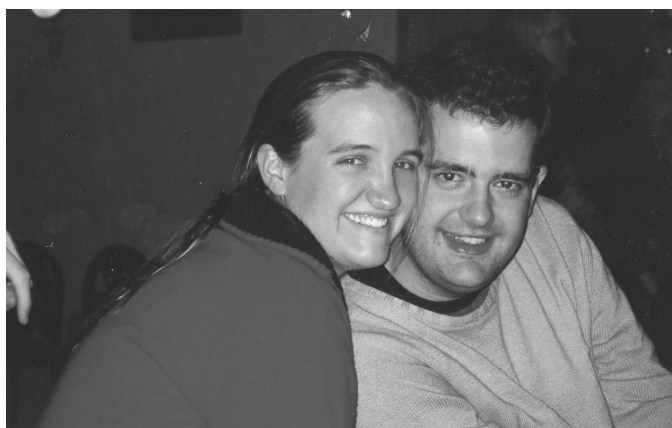




The Choir of Ormond College Newsletter 2003

30th April 2003

Joining the Ormond Choir in the year of a Europe tour is quite a challenge - one which not many people have to face, since it is common to wait until after a tour to leave the Choir (hey, you might as well stay around for one last tour!) Consequently, one does not expect to see many fresh faces in the Ormond Choir in a tour year. Surprisingly, therefore, this year sees seven new Choristers. Having myself joined the Choir in a tour year, I know exactly how daunting this is. Needless to say, all of our new Choristers are up to the task. They introduce themselves later in this newsletter.



Cookie and Steve

Seven Choristers are not all that is new for the Choir this year. As part of the seemingly contin-

uous reshuffling of rooms at Ormond College, the Choir has moved its rehearsals from the New Lecture Theatre to the Newton John Music Room. For the first time in years, we are no longer troubled by Play rehearsals, Smoko preparations and other miscellaneous noise from the JCR. We have been given one of the former Music Tute rooms as a gowns-and-music-storage room, which has forced all of us to keep the new room much tidier. And to top it all off, we're right next to the kitchen, so we have prime position in the food queue for dinner after rehearsals! The College has put in much effort and money to make the room perfect for us, installing everything from a whiteboard and new lights to sound damping panels, for which assistance we are immensely grateful.

Tour this year promises to be as exciting as ever. We have been granted special permission from College to return two days after the College semester formally begins, which frees us to head to Sion, Switzerland, where we will sing in front of the world's oldest operational pipe organ in Sion Cathedral. As well as some new destinations (at least for me, if not for Douglas), we're visiting all our old haunts such as Berlin, Toftlund, Wangen, Sorø and Nördlingen. Recently, we've added Poland to this list, visiting Pelplin and Koszalin for the second time in as many tours.



The choir in Nördlingen

All work and no play makes Ormond a dull choir, and from a glance at the itinerary on the back page, you can see that a concert in Lauingen puts us within €25 range of Legoland Deutschland, and a Lac du Geneve ferry features in the transport arrangements. We have also considerably been left several full days of free time in Geneva and Castelleone, as well as a few free days sprinkled throughout tour.

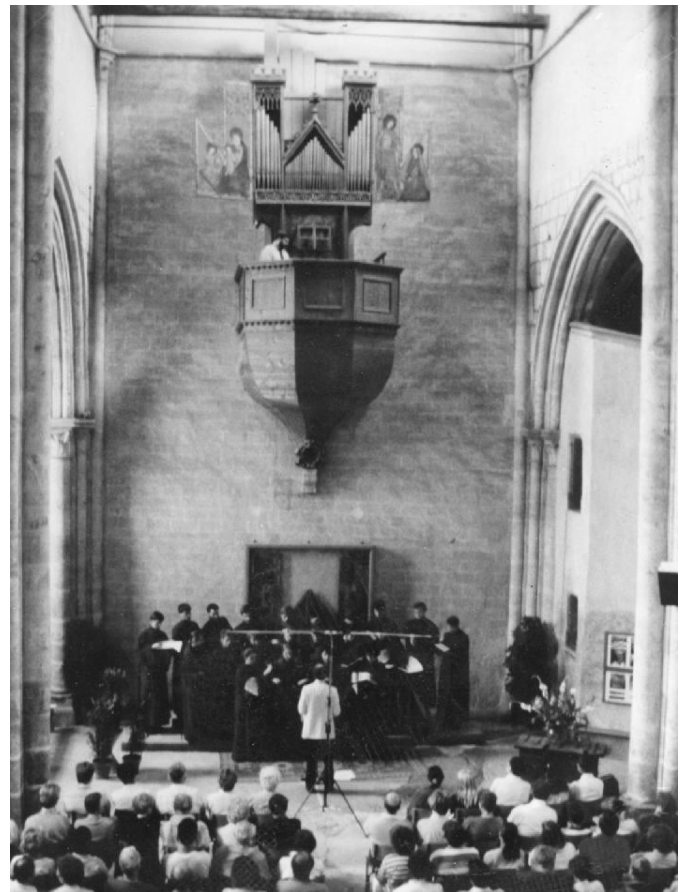
With all the excitement of tour (and hardly a day goes by when I and the other Choristers don't think about it, if not spend most of our time talking about it), it's very easy to forget all the things the Choir does in Australia. Tour years generally see the Choir giving a large number of concerts at home - this year we're giving three for Independent Classics, including a repeat of the very successful "Carols in the Courtyard". Last year we released two CDs - a compilation of live recordings from across the Choir's 21 years, and

a collection of well-known and not-quite-so-well-known Christmas music. And of course there's always Ormond Chapel at 7pm every Sunday during semester.

Having celebrated our 21st birthday last year, this year can be said to be the first of the Choir's "adult" years. Nevertheless, I can't see the Choir going old and grey any time soon.

I wish you a happy and safe 2003 (and hopefully one as exciting as ours!) and I hope to see you at Chapel, any Sunday night during semester at 7pm, or at any of the concerts as advertised later in the Newsletter.

Martin Strauss, Senior Chorister



The choir singing in Sion on our last visit

New Choristers

Bridget Healey

I am a first year Arts student at Melbourne Uni. I play the 'cello, guitar and bass guitar, and enjoy a wide range of music including jazz as well as classical. In 2000, I toured Europe with the Choir of Geelong Grammar School, culminating with the Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, where the Choir came second.

Last year I took a GAP year during which I worked as an assistant at Bromsgrove School in England, and enjoyed long school holidays backpacking around Europe. I was able to tour as a chorister on the Bromsgrove music tour, visiting Salzburg, Interlaaken and Venice, where we performed in St Mark's Cathedral - a definite highlight!

I am loving life at Ormond and very much looking forward to the tour this year.

Alex Murray

This is my first year both at Ormond College and Melbourne University. I am studying Arts, and hope to complete a major in Creative Writing and Politics over the next few years. My home is in Broome in the Kimberley region of WA, where I lived for almost nine years before moving to a boarding house at Carey Baptist Grammar School to complete my VCE. I miss the heat and the mangoes, especially during Melbourne winters in which I tend to hibernate in my room with the thermostat fixed at above 30 degrees. However, I enjoy the city life and attempt to make the most of the many opportunities granted to me. My ambitions are to one day sail in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race and to be in a career position that allows me to work with, and benefit, those in need.

I have played the piano for many years and have recently begun learning both the electric and the acoustic guitar. In Broome I was a singer in the high school band, which toured to Kuala Lumpur in 2000. At Carey, I was a member of two singing groups, and I also sang in a jazz band.

Despite being used to singing, I have found being a member of the Ormond Choir a surprisingly challenging, yet rewarding experience. I am impressed by the talent, dedication and passion of all of its members, and feel privileged to be among them. I am especially excited about the approaching tour to Europe: partly because it will be an unforgettable experience, and partly because I will miss half of winter.

Rosemary Shaw

I have lived all my life on a vineyard just outside Mildura, and, having completed VCE in 2002, this is my first year at Ormond College, and University, where I am studying Arts/Music. My main instrument is the violin, but I also play the piano, as well as having a passion for choral music.

Coming from an isolated rural area (I had to travel to Adelaide to receive violin lessons for the past few years) my musical experience has been somewhat limited. The most significant event in recent years was being part of Gondwana Voices, a national childrens' choir, under the direction of Lyn Williams. Highlights included performing Mahler's Symphony no. 8 at the Superdome as part of the Olympic Arts Festival; touring and working with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Richard Tognetti, Neil Finn, Brett Dean, Paul Healy, John Rodgers and Michael Leunig in their project Parables, Lullabies and Secrets; and singing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Australian Youth Orchestra at events such as Centenary of Federation, Australia day and Christmas.

Being part of the Ormond College Choir promises for an exciting year ahead with lots of new musical and life experiences, such as singing with basses and tenors for the first time, and also my first taste of travelling overseas.

Kathryn Sutherland

I am currently studying first year Arts and a diploma in Creative Arts. I come from Ballarat, where I was Music Captain at Ballarat and Clarendon College. This year I am enjoying life at Ormond college. As well as singing, I also play the piano and cello. I have been studying voice with Constance Coward-Lemke since 1992, and have performed in various eisteddfods around Victoria.

In 2001, I was awarded the "Mars Young Performer of the Year" award, and this year (as a result of my mark in VCE music in 2002) I am performing at the VCAA's "Top Class" concert in the Iwaki Auditorium in the ABC Centre, Southbank.

I also have a passion for drama and musical theatre. I have performed in a variety of musicals including "Les Misérables", "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat", "The Wizard of Oz", "Blitz" and "My Favourite Year".

I am thrilled to be involved in the Ormond Choir and I am very excited to be involved in the Choir's trip to Europe this year.

Zoe Wong

This is my first year as a member of the Choir of Ormond College. I am currently a student at the University of Melbourne, studying Media & Communications and Law. At the moment however, my career aspirations are somewhat dubious.

Whilst the direction of my professional career is yet to be revealed, musically I made my debut as a toddler. I discovered the delights of “music kinder” and enjoyed hopping along on the carpeted footprints to the beat of a song.

After being too disruptive during my elder brother’s violin practices, my parents finally gave in and allowed me to take on lessons and join the Suzuki method. As a chorister I began in the local childrens’ choir. Since then I have been involved with numerous school and community-based choirs, orchestras, string groups and ensembles.

As well as music, I have a passion for Europe - the historical, cultural and culinary wonders that it has to offer. Last year I spent twelve months living, working and travelling in the United Kingdom and the continent. It is with great enthusiasm that I return with the Choir of Ormond College in 2003.

Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer

Born under the sweltering sun of summer, 1985, I was naturally destined to become a moody, emotional Aquarian; an artiste extraordinaire with a world-renowned temperament. Happily for my parents (and the world at large) I grew up essentially good-humoured, and indeed remain so, with the occasional philosophic outburst.

Introduced to music at six, I now play with fervour and often at great length. This, as well as a CD collection featuring such works as Thus Spake Zarathustra, The Rite of Spring, and the Miraculous Mandarin, has made me the bane of my neighbourhood, who may well require institutionalisation the next time they hear the overture to *Götterdämmerung*.

As well as being an enthusiastic piano-player, I am also an aspiring bassoonist, singer, composer, arranger, conductor, violist, student, actor, mathematician, linguist, apiarist, animal trainer, whittler, thespian, graphic artist, computer programmer, typographer, Monty Python fan, and Student For A Free Tibet.

Tim Smith

Tim isn’t really a member of the Ormond College Choir, in fact no one is really sure who Tim is. He just started turning up to rehearsals one day and we haven’t had the heart to tell him to stop. Born in an ancient and mysterious city in the far north of our country, Tim left Brisbane at the tender age of eleven in order to come to Melbourne and prepare for his future career as an international man of mystery. Eight years later, he has only managed to get the international part down, and that was purely by accident. At the moment, he’s desperately working on becoming a man; mystery can wait.

Tim is now studying Biomedical Science at the University of Melbourne, or at least, he’s enrolled in that course. While music is a passion of his, his knowledge of the subject is fairly limited, having pieced it together from his fine collection of fantale wrappers. His other passions include knitting three-armed jumpers and predicting the end of the world. He enjoys long walks along moonlight beaches and romantic candlelit dinners. His starsign is Libra.

Tim attributes his talent to the warped perceptions of others and a scratched Frank Sinatra LP which can play ‘Mack the Knife’ in a mere thirty-three seconds. He would like to thank his first grade teacher for giving him his big break as ‘The Piggy-Wig’ in the class production of ‘The Owl and the Pussycat’, however, his dramatic performance after losing his ring for a mere shilling ensured that Tim would forever more be relegated to the back line of the chorus. As for the Owl, well, he’ll never act again.

Upcoming Events

Voices from the Heavens

Saturday 28 March, 8pm, St Mary's Anglican Church, Cnr Queenberry & Howard Sts, North Melbourne, with the Australian Classical Players

Allegri Miserere
Faure' Requiem

Most will know the Allegri Miserere for its haunting top C, sung by one voice in a small choir, and the sweeping harmony of the larger choir, separated by simple plain chant, also the myths surrounding its performance by the Sistine Chapel Choir. The Faure' Requiem needs no introduction and is surely one of the most uplifting and popular settings of this text.

Baroque Masterpieces

Friday 19 September, 8pm, St Mary Star of the Sea, Howard Street, West Melbourne, with the Australian Classical Players

Bach "Komm, Jesu, Komm"
Vivaldi Gloria
Pergolesi Magnificat

While there is some doubt this Magnificat is Pergolesi's, due to the name of one of Pergolesi's teachers Francesco Durante, being found on some surviving scores, there is no doubt as to the origins of one of the most popular choral works of all time, Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria.

Christmas in the Courtyard

Sunday 14 December, 8pm, Ormond College, University of Melbourne, Royal Parade, Parkville

Now well-established as an Ormond tradition, this carol celebration is a unique and familiar highlight of the Ormond Choir's year. Enjoy the convivial atmosphere and charm of this very special musical gathering. Featuring music inspired by Advent and Christmas.



Choristers waiting for a train in Wangen

Europe Tour 2003 Itinerary

June

19 Depart Melbourne to Hong Kong 1320
Arrive Hong Kong 2040
Depart Hong Kong to London 2355

20 Arrive London 0545
Depart London to Geneva 1050
Arrive Geneva 1335
Public transport to accommodation at the “Bomb Shelter” (sic), Carouge/Geneva

21 Rehearsal/ Free time in Carouge/Geneva

Sun 22 Mass (1) AM and Concert (1) PM in the Catholic Church in Carouge

23

24

25 Eurail 1 to Darmstadt; Concert (2) Pauluskirche, Darmstadt

26

27 Eurail 2 to Berlin. Billets meet us at Epiphaniienkirche, Berlin/Charlottenburg

28 Train to Brandenburg (aprox 30'). Concert (3) Brandenburg Cathedral

Sun 29 Gottesdienst (2) Brandenburg Cathedral. Train to Berlin. Concert (4) Epiphaniienkirche, Berlin/Charlottenburg

30 Train to Torun

July

1 Concert (5) Torun

2 Train to Pelplin. Concert (6) Pelplin

3 Train to Koszalin. Concert (?) Sawno Cathedral. Accommodation at the International Music School, Koszalin

4 Concert (7) Koszalin Cathedral

5 Eurail 3 to Toftlund: Depart Koszalin 08.59. Arrive Vojens 20.09. Billets meet us at the station

Sun 6 Free day in Toftlund

7 Concert (8) Arrild

8 Concert (9) Toftlund

9 Eurail 4 to Sorø: Concert (10) Sorø Abbey Church. By bus after the concert to Accommodation at the Forest Hostel

10 Eurail 5 to Bonn: Concert (11) Bonn Münster

11 Eurail 6 to Ottobeuren

12 Concert (12) Ottobeuren Abbey. Accommodation at the Jugendherberge, Ottobeuren

Sun 13 Bus to Lauingen

14 Bus to Wangen. Concert (13) Wangen, St Martin-skirche. Accommodation Wangen Jugendherberge

15 Bus to Lauingen

16 Concert (14) with Calypso in Lauingen

17 Free day in Lauingen. Excursion to Legoland Deutschland in Günsburg (?) € 25

18 Concert (?) Gundelfingen

19 Train to Nördlingen. Concert (15) St Georgskirche, Nördlingen. Billets

Sun 20 Service (3) St Georgskirche, Nördlingen

21 Eurail 7 to Castelleone Depart Nördlingen Busbahnhof 08.55. Arrive Castelleone 21.26

22

23

24 Concert (16) Santa Maria in Bressanoro

25 Eurail 8 to Sion. Hotel accommodation

26 Concert (17) in Sion Cathedral

Sun 27 Train to Geneva Airport (train to Montreux then Lac du Geneve ferry?)
Depart Geneva to London 1620
Arrive London 1705
Depart London to Hong Kong 2235

27 Arrive Hong Kong 1755
Depart Hong Kong to Melbourne 2340

28 Arrive Melbourne 1045