



March 2012 Newsletter

Congratulations and Thanks

Congratulations to those YVM members who were successful in their auditions to be part of Opera Australia's 2012 Melbourne productions of Turandot & The Magic Flute. (Four that I have heard from). We also have five singers who will be performing with the Australian National Academy of Music orchestra in their opening concert of the year on March 2. Great to see our singers taking advantage of these opportunities.

Thanks to those parents who attended choir camp a few weeks ago to assist with supervision. Your support is very much appreciated. And thanks to those who have volunteered to come on Senior Training Choir camp very soon.

Medical Forms for 2012 - urgent!

There are still some people who have not returned medical forms as requested in the December and February Newsletters. The care of your child is compromised if we do not have this information, so please get these to us. Forms are available at choir or on the YVM web site as part of the December 2011 Newsletter.

New Date for Junior and Senior Training Choirs - Sunday 22nd April

Junior and Senior Training Choirs have been invited to lend their voices to the launch of the Hearts in Harmony Foundation at BMW Edge at Federation square. This foundation will foster the development of happy and healthy communities through music. We anticipate we will be required from 12.00noon until 2.30pm, and more details will be available in due course. Let us know right now if your child is unavailable.

Other New Dates on the Calendar

Please check the calendar for new dates and changes to details of some events. Please let us know in the next few days if you cannot attend any YVM performance on the calendar. Late apologies are unfair and unacceptable, so please be organised and let us know right now if you have any clashes.

Senior Training Choir Camp March 2 - 4

Senior Training Choir will be heading off to camp at Candlebark Farm on the weekend of 2nd - 4th March. Details have been emailed and posted out as part of the February Newsletter, but let us know if you need another form. Don't forget to bring a plate of cake/slice to share so we can have fabulous morning and afternoon teas! (Please bring nut-free goodies.)

Main Choir Performance Sunday 11th March

I am very pleased at how many families have made the effort to be available for this performance on the long weekend. Your support is appreciated. Full details are now on the attached March Calendar.

Adelaide Tour September 29 - October 7: Deposit Due 1st March

We have planned a wonderful tour for main Choir in September featuring performances at the Kodaly National Conference in Adelaide in October, and a visit to Hall Gap and Hamilton on the way, and Kangaroo Island on the way back. This will be a great tour with great music making, people to meet and places to see!

• **tour deposit of \$200 is due by Thursday 1st March. (Full amount of \$600 is welcome also).**

(Continued over the page)

Lost your spectacles?

We have two pairs of glasses left at the Iwaki auditorium after the Christmas Concert last year. One has purple frames and the other brown. Are they yours?

Choral@Montsalvat Video 2011

A choir grandma is keen to get hold of a video of this performance. Can anyone help?

Uniform Check - have you grown?

JTC, STC and Choir all have performances this term or early next term, so please check your child's uniform (pants and shirts - both long and short sleeved for choir people) to make sure they still fit.

If they don't, let Mrs O (Barbara) know right now so that she can order in what you need. Our uniforms need to be specially ordered, so please do not leave this until the last minute. You can contact Mrs O at choir on Mondays and Thursdays or on 95961244 and jb.oleary@bigpond.com.

Do YVM members need to do any work at home?

All YVM members need to do some work at home to make the best contribution they can to the choir, and to take best advantage of the music education we provide.

Beginning and Junior Training Choir Members

Beginning and Junior Training Choir members will greatly benefit from revising at home the things they have done in each week's rehearsal. This might mean practising solfa and handsign exercises, singing songs in solfa and looking at writing and music reading sheets worked on in rehearsals.

There will also be times before concerts when BTC and JTC members will need to do some work at home memorising the words for songs.

Senior Training Choir

Senior Training Choir members will also need to memorise songs for concerts, and this may well need to be done at home (especially if you have missed a rehearsal or two).

More importantly they will need to work each week on the sheets in their sight-reading Training Program Book. Singers work at their own pace through these books, but should pass at least one sheet each week. (This really is a minimum, and more work at home will result in better progress.) Each singer is allocated a tutor who hears these sheets, but it is the singer's responsibility to maintain progress and bring prepared work to rehearsal each week.

Progress in the training program is one of the things we look at when deciding when a singer should move from the Senior Training Choir to Choir. We look at both the number of sheets passed, and the speed of progress. (As well as age, maturity, rehearsal focus, performance skills and vocal readiness.)

Choir

All choir members who attend Tuesday small group sessions need to practice their Training Program materials at home to make satisfactory progress. Singers should pass a minimum of 2 sheets at each session, although many singers choose to pass more sheets than this (and they make better progress).

From time to time Choir members will also need to spend time at home learning repertoire for forthcoming performances. This is particularly the case for singers who are new to main Choir. We provide recordings to help with this where possible and there is lots of help available on youtube as well.

At the moment, all choir members should make sure that they have learned from memory the following songs for the performance on March 11:

Las Amarillas	Waltzing Matilda	Hotaru koi	Bring me Lil Water Silvy
Tshosholosa	Sesere eeye	Auld Lang syne	

Let Mark know if you have not yet received a learning Cd, or need any special assistance.

Bringing Music Bags to Rehearsals

All choir members should make every effort to bring their music bags to every rehearsal. Failing to do so on a regular basis will effect your child's learning.

March 2012 Calendar

CHOIR = main choir members
SMALL GROUP = small group of
main choir members (to be advised)



BTC = Beginning Training Choir
JTC = Junior Training Choir
STC = Senior Training Choir

PLEASE NOTE: All choir members are expected to attend all choir concerts. However, if it is impossible for you to attend please make a written apology, at least one month prior to the concert. This is essential for our concert planning, as missing persons may necessitate us changing the repertoire for concerts, arranging replacement singers etc.

2nd - 4th March	Senior Training Choir Camp, Candlebark Farm, Healesville STC Leave Caulfield Friday 6.15pm and Return Sunday 3.15pm Don't forget to have your evening meal before we leave on Friday and bring some (nut-free) cake, slice, biscuits for morning teas.
Monday 5th March	All training choir rehearsals are on as usual. (Including STC)
Sunday 11th March NEW DETAILS	Choir performance for Melbourne Rotary Convention CHOIR When: Arrival 2.30pm. Finished 4.45pm Where: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 2 Clarendon St South Wharf. Southern Cross Station is a short walk away up Spencer St (which over the river becomes Clarendon St) Meet: Main entrance in Clarendon Street Wear: Short sleeve black performance shirt, black choir pants and shoes.
Monday 12th March	Public Holiday - no rehearsals
Saturday 17th March	Thursday Small Group Performance at Get Vocal Festival When: Arrival 6pm. Concert 7pm THURS SMALL GROUP Where: Chapel off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel Street, Prahran Wear: Your own clothes (red and black) What: Concert as part of Get Vocal 2012: Melbourne A Cappella Festival with other vocal ensembles Ginger and Tonic, CandyStripes, Tongue and Groove and The Fifth Suit Bookings: http://getvocalfestival.com/ and mention YVM when booking on the web site (and book the right 7pm concert, there are 2 on at once!)
Friday 30th March	End Term 1
Monday 16th April	Start Term 2
Sunday 22nd April NEW DATE	Performance for Junior and Senior Training Choirs JTC and STC Launch of the Hearts in Harmony Foundation, BMW Edge (Fed Square) When: 12.00noon - 2.30pm Wear: Performance uniform (red YVM Tshirts, black choir pants, black socks and shoes)
Saturday 19th May CHANGED TIMES	Choir Performance and workshop at CHOIR Kodaly Autumn Seminar, St Alfred's Anglican Church corner of Springfield and Koonung Roads, Blackburn Arrival: 11am for workshop with Hungarian conductor Lilla Gabor Concert: 12.30pm Parents Welcome. Finish 1.00pm Wear: Long sleeved black performance uniform.
Saturday 26th May NEW DATE	Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance THURS SMALL GROUP for Organ Donors and Recipients Venue: to be advised - When: 1pm - 3.15 Wear: Long sleeved black unif.
Sunday 3rd June	Choral Cafe Concert (Glen Eira Arts Complex) EVERYONE Afternoon
Friday 29th June	End Term 2
Monday 23rd July	Start Term 3
29th September - 7th October	Choir Tour to Adelaide, via Halls Gap, Hamilton and KI CHOIR
Sunday 14th October	Training Choirs Concert - afternoon (St Johns Southgate) BTC, JTC, STC
Sunday 2nd December	Young Voices of Melbourne Christmas Celebration EVERYONE Iwaki Auditorium, ABC Centre, Southbank. 7pm.
Sunday 9th December	Christmas Concert with YVM & Exaudi Youth Choir CHOIR (St John's Southgate)