

VOCALIZE CHOIR - 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

1. MUSIC DIRECTOR REPORT

Overview

Well, we made it, friends: a whole year of in-person rehearsals! I no longer take this for granted! It hasn't been without its hassles, including COVID check-ins, spacing rules, and of course, mask-wearing. I thank every one of you for your incredible patience in putting up with masked rehearsals all year, despite the implications to breathing, diction and glasses! Unlike many choirs, Vocalize chose to sing with masks amid looser restrictions earlier in the year. This made us unflappable when mask mandates were reinstated, culminating in our Christmas concert just a few weeks ago.

As a committee, we had decided before the year began, that the benefits of group singing far outweighed the hassles of masks. And it's true. Not only did we make harmonies with different voices every week, we worked together to create music. Each rehearsal stretched us a little more as we stepped up to physical and creative challenges. May we maintain this appreciation for the power of music and choral singing!

Highlights

I feel like this year hasn't just been about us, it's been a year of making new connections. We invited Victoria Coxhill to guest conduct a rehearsal earlier in the year, and finished with Victoria as our concert guest artist. Vocalize connected with the Adelaide Choral Network and learned about the plans for 2022 Year of the Choir.

One of my personal highlights was the *Festival of Voices* in July. Not only did our group dodge several COVID curveballs, but we travelled interstate! On a plane! The Hobart weather was crisp-but-sunny every day, allowing us to participate in community singing, choral workshops and sight-seeing. We even surprised **Gavin Lloyd Jones** with a birthday dinner on the last night, which was a real treat!

It was great to work with composer Paul Jarman (who we'll see again next year as we learn his commissioned piece), and meet Jaqueline Larson from Soul Song Choir in QLD. We also made connections with a few Tasmanian choirs who may be interested in doing something with us in the future. So the trip was a huge success. Given enough interest (and admin support), perhaps we could offer the FoV as an official Vocalize trip every few years.

Special thanks to **Renie Walker** for organising our garments, they look amazing. Speaking of pretty things, our 82 new battery-operated candles have been a great addition recently. I'm hoping to be able to make use of these with a Christmas By Candlelight series every few years, amongst other events.

This brings me to my second major highlight, the *Christmas concert* just a few weeks ago. Our formation problems were solved thanks to the risers offered by Christie Anderson and YAV, with whom I'd recently connected. We ploughed on despite the COVID threats of the preceding week, and the burglary during rehearsal, thanks to some quick thinking from our members, and SAPOL Senior Sergeant **Tom Knight**. Despite masks, we presented a polished and interesting program to an appreciative audience. I was very proud of you all.

And of course, it was a huge highlight to celebrate with you all at our *break-up party*. Thank you all for your kind words and birthday wishes, as well as to **Jen** and all those who helped make it a great night.

Thank You

I would like to acknowledge the support and impact of the teams of people around me, and around you as choir members. Firstly, the man you rarely see, but whose arm is twisted on a regular basis to video our

events, take our photos, order gear or fix our website: thank you, **Joel**. Second thanks goes to **Heidi Schutz**. Heidi, you are our rock, as always! Thank you for your calm presence and your skilled playing. I want to acknowledge the choir committee, **Annette Pelling** (Librarian/Chairperson), **Ros Leane** (Secretary), **Jen Burford** (Events Coordinator), and **Graham Boyer** (Treasurer/Lead COVID Marshall). The committee met quite a bit more this year and has navigated some structural changes to take some of the load from me from 2022 onwards. I welcome to the team **Liz Mackenzie** who next year will take over the Secretarial role from Ros, who in turn will step into a new role of Tech Support.

Many thanks to our Section Leader teams for your support of our singers this year, in small and large ways: Soprano SL - **Renie Walker** and **Helen Fehlberg**; Alto SLs - **Vanessa Dewar** and **Sue Howlett**; Tenor SL - **Don Bull**; and Bass SL – **Hans van de Water**. This role continues to be a crucial element of our growing choir to ensure things run smoothly and singers feel connected and confident.

Final Words

I look forward to 2022, our choir camp in March, celebrating our 10th birthday in April, Year of the Choir bits and pieces, as well as just having a chance to enjoy some new repertoire without the pressure of a concert. As we move forward there will be some vaccination conditions to membership, which will be outlined soon. I thank you all very much for your cooperation and support of the committee's decisions this year, which have been made carefully and thoughtfully given the latest health advice, and our desire to safely foster community music-making.

Here's to a new year with exciting possibilities!

Kerrie Polkinghorne

2. SECRETARY REPORT

Following the Zoom year of 2020, we hoped and planned for a return to face to face rehearsals in 2021, albeit with masks. With the COVID space requirements we capped membership at 70 and were pleased to see most people return and take advantage of the "Online Registration Form".

First rehearsal 1st February 2021, saw 60 out of 66 singers, plus Kerrie and Heidi attending. It was wonderful to finally be together.

Basically our membership remained at 68 (including Heidi and Kerrie) for the whole year with some changes to the membership list. There were several members who ceased attending during the year partly due to the difficulties singing in masks. We hope they will be able to resume in the years ahead.

Soprano 22, Alto 25, Tenor 13, Bass 6

With COVID still impacting our choir, we had hoped to be able to make mask wearing optional by fourth term, having allowed time for all to be vaccinated, but government regulations changed following COVID outbreaks during the third term, mandating mask wearing for choirs.

The second half of the year was curtailed early in the third term with the first four weeks in lockdown, and Kerrie providing online resources. From there onwards we were concentrating on a pretty challenging set of songs for our Christmas Concert.

Many thanks to Section Leaders for all your support and help, Kerrie for her outstanding direction and to Heidi for her piano work and dealing with the backing tracks. Thanks to my co-committee members Annette, Jen and Graham and welcome to Liz MacKenzie who is joining for 2022.

Double vaccination will be mandatory for choir members in 2022 and once choirs are allowed to sing unmasked, mask wearing will be optional for vaccinated members. Unvaccinated members who have a valid exemption will be allowed but must take appropriate precautions.

Online registration will be available from 3rd January (check website under 'Join Us').

First rehearsal will be Monday 31st Jan 2022, 7:00pm. Please note rehearsals have been permanently changed to 7-9pm with a 10 min break in the middle.

Looking forward to 2022 and tenth year celebrations.

Ros Leane

3. TREASURER REPORT

Thanks to the success of the Christmas Concert, making over \$2,000, we are in a reasonable financial position. The number of members who joined, in spite of the masks and COVID-19 situation, also helped us to beat our Budget.

Even so, our balance is down on last year and our overheads are increasing so we do need an increase in our annual Membership fee to meet our commitments. Our fees still represent very good value when compared with other Choirs - and we have Kerrie as our MD!

Graham Boyer

Financial Report 17 December 2021						
Westpac Account						
Opening Balance						\$782.78
Income						
Subs		62 full year	\$7,440.00			
		2 x 3 terms (100)	\$200.00			
		1 x 4 terms (\$40)	\$160.00			
		2 x 2 terms (40)	\$160.00			
		1 x1 term (part) 20	\$20.00	\$7,980.00		
Interest			\$0.00	\$0.00		
Xmas Concert	04/12/21	Ticket Sales	\$4,009.74	\$4,009.74		
Xmas Dinner	13/12/21	Ticket Sales	\$2,251.47	\$2,251.47		
FOV		Deposits FOV	\$1,700.00			
		Balance FOV	\$5,625.18			
		FOV Jackets	\$852.30	\$8,177.48		
Donation		Lyndal Evans	\$260.00	\$260.00		
Other Income		Try Booking test	\$1.23	\$1.23		
						\$23,462.70
Expenses						
Honorarium		Kerrie	-\$ 4,000.00			
		Heide	-\$ 1,800.00	-\$ 5,800.00		
Venue Hire	terms 1-4	FLC	-\$1,617.50	-\$1,617.50		
Music	30/04/21	JW Pepper	-\$35.07			
	06/08/21	Sheet Music Plus	-\$1,098.43			
	06/08/21	JW Pepper	-\$36.59			
	28/11/21	Doc wallets	-\$22.40			
	09/11/21	Music Folders	-\$298.72	-\$1,491.21		
Performances Costs	13/01/21	Flick Films Xmas videos	-\$880.00			
	22/04/21	OneMusic fee	-\$137.26			
	14/05/21	ANCA Registration	-\$95.00	-\$1,112.26		

	Xmas Concert	4/12/2021	Expenses	-1883.07	-\$1,887.07
	Xmas Dinner	13/12/2021	Expenses	-\$2,645.15	-\$2,645.15
	Guests	22/06/21	Victoria Coxhill	-\$150.00	-\$150.00
	Gifts	08/02/21	Adrian	-\$28.95	
		29/04/21	5 year awards	-\$56.00	
		26/04/21	Rhiannon baby	-\$25.98	
		13/12/21	Committee	-\$55.00	-\$165.93
	FOV	21/03/21	Freeway Travel deposits	-\$2,380.00	
		25/05/21	EmbroiderMe Deposit	-\$437.80	
		08/06/21	EmbroiderMe Balance	-\$382.80	
		07/06/21	Jacket refund Sally-Ann	-\$30.00	
		20/07/21	baggage fees	-\$50.00	-\$3,280.60
	Covid	31/01/21	Masks	-\$12.00	
		04/02/21	Counter	-\$12.93	
		22/11/21	Plans & Signage	-\$71.11	-\$96.04
	Equipment	19/01/21	Video equipment (grant)	-\$2,663.10	
		30/06/21	SD card	-\$29.00	
		20/07/21	Bag for speaker	-\$20.00	
		23/11/21	Square card reader	-\$98.00	-\$2,810.10
	Insurance	11/06/21	AON public liability	-\$275.00	
		29/07/21	AON property	-\$455.48	-\$730.48
	Internet/IT	30/06/21	VentraIP	-\$131.40	
		09/08/21	VentraIP Domain name	-\$14.75	
		06/08/21	SoundCloud	-\$145.00	-\$291.15
	Other expenses	29/04/21	break up pizza night	-\$97.87	
		25/05/21	ASIC renew Buiness Name	-\$87.00	
		19/06/21	Muzodo	-\$66.89	
		29/10/21	ACN membership	-\$100.00	-\$351.76
					-\$22,429.25
				WestPac Balance	\$1,033.45

			<u>LLL Account</u>			
	Opening Balance	1/01/2021		\$6,696.59	\$6,696.59	
			<u>Income</u>			
	Equipment	18/01/21	Grant - video equipment	\$2,663.10	\$2,663.10	
	Interest	31/05/21	Interest	\$57.75	\$57.75	
						\$9,417.44
			Expenses			
		24/03/21	Freeway Travel FOV	-\$4,688.84		
		30/06/21	Freeway Travel FOV cabs	-\$250.00	-\$4,938.84	
						-\$4,938.84
				LLL Balance		\$4,478.60
				Total Balance on Hand		\$5,512.05