



NZMC Notes – Issue No 29 - October 2017

Hello all,

Welcome to the October edition of NZMC Notes.

CONCERTS at LABOUR WEEKEND:

For those of you who were there what a fantastic occasion! On everyone's behalf my sincere thanks to Robin Gunston and Neville Sawyer for all the work they put in to ensure that things ran smoothly. Our audiences were small but appreciative and I think the general consensus is that the NZMC avoid concerts in holiday weekends in the future. Thanks to all participating choristers for your efforts to learn the music – as Ray Seymour so aptly said, "I think we can all be a little satisfied as well as hugely motivated to keep improving."

Ray went on to say, "Seems that long weekends are to be avoided – last week Carol and I went to a 'Manawatu Overtones' (Sweet Adelines), with supporting artists, in the Palmerston North Boy's High auditorium – there would have been about three hundred in the audience. They were all very good but certainly no better than what we produced !!"

LABOUR WEEKEND CONCERTS – our M.D.'s PERSPECTIVE:

The weekend mini tour was an interesting learning curve. I think the choir is singing well and am looking forward to hearing the recording of the Levin Sunday lunchtime performance.

The members who were able to travel for the Friday mini concert were initially reluctant to do warm up exercises as part of the performance but the audience loved it. My thanks for being brave enough to be entertaining and educational. There was at least one member of the audience who expressed a wish to join us **and** came to the Palm Nth concert and I was quizzed by several others about how the choir operates, where rehearsals are etc. so a successful event. We also got a good sized audience in Levin on the Sunday possibly due to this event but also to the great advertising in the local paper, I would have loved to listen to the international choir the paper was talking about.

A big day of rehearsal on Saturday showed up all the usual problems with getting used to new acoustics but again the choir is learning to cope with this and the evening performance was up to scratch.

My main criticism for the weekend was that as you gained in confidence over the 2 days you also began to sing louder which isn't necessarily better. The evening in Feilding was actually too loud for the venue at times particularly the B2 section and I was unable to bring individual members down in volume to maintain the balance. This is something we need to be very aware of as the sections aren't evenly balanced in number. Having said that, the quiet singing was very good and is constantly improving.

Camerata thoroughly enjoyed singing with you and listening to you as did **Shayna** so congratulations and you have finally convinced one of your regular listeners that "The Cloths of Heaven" is a lovely piece and worth doing. Joe

The Treasurer's entreats

At the end of October, the amount of subs and donations overdue was \$4637 of which the Northmen only owed \$1485!!! PLEASE pay your subs NOW.

ART DECO February 2018:

We all heard Maurie Smith and others mention the huge pressure on accommodation in Hawke's Bay over the Art Deco Weekend. If you are singing at Art Deco and have yet to organise your accommodation, hurry along!!

It's a wonderful opportunity for the Choir to earn some money without having to organise the concert(s).

AUSSIE TOUR 2018 – May 31st – June 10th:

Our wonderful Tour Committee were very positive in their feedback to us at Labour Weekend. Joe and Taffy completed a successful reconnaissance and were very pleased with the reception they received from prospective host Choirs. It was also good to hear that the Australian Choirs are keen on the partnership concept which means the NZMC will share the net proceeds of all our concerts.

SILENI FUNDRAISER:

At time of writing the Sileni Estate Wine Fundraiser had been extended to allow more members to purchase wines. It appears that the Choir will make a reasonable amount from this venture. Hopefully I can tell you how much next month!?! Thanks to Maurie for this initiative.

Please enjoy this poem written by one of the choir.

BOWEL SOUNDS

'We won't improve by leaps and bounds
until you've mastered five pure sounds. In
fact, we won't get off the ground to cut it
as a choir renowned...

So... ee — air — ah — o — oo

'Never force it to be vibrant; let your
faucet be a hydrant that constant flows
across the palate — not just random
like a ballot,.

'Try to sing like an Italian not a
ring-in for a stallion for, if we
wish to win medallions we need
to sync as one battalion...

Otherwise we'll miss the boat and
always be below the note. Unless these
sounds are daily honed we'll but
astound with wavering tones...

'fail to flow with verve and richness
jangle nerves with diphthongs pitchless.
Let's face it: we may face some glitches
— but let's not leave patrons in stitches!

'The devil's in the detail here blend
them, level, smooth and clear. An MD
won't abide the few who Satan's made
to slide or slew...

'So... ee — air — ah — o — oo...

intone them in the bath or loo — without
the blast of bowel sounds or harshness
which in vowels abounds.

ee — air — ah — o — oo

Then be ye yokels, bumpkins, townies Joe
'Il hand out peanut brownies to those who
opt to share the gift he's parcelled out to
give us lift.

oo — o — ah — air — ee

At pissoire or in lavatory as you thunder,
as you pee get basic sounds off to a tee
purge your glottal dysentery un-knit Joe's
brow and set him free to mentor us
another three.

Anthony Addverse, 19/08/17

Kind Regards

John Botting - Vice President