



## NZMC Notes – Issue No 36 - February 2019

Hello all,

**Welcome** to the first edition of NZMC Notes for 2019.

**Congratulations** to Alby Winiata who became a full member of the New Zealand Male Choir at Art Deco and sang his first concert. Great to have you on board Alby and Alison.

### **In Memoriam.**

**Mark MacDonald** was Choir Accompanist when I joined in 2001. He was the original Accompanist to Wales 2000. A GP from the Waikato. The horse float belonging to Alan Worthing came to be used in the Choir's Tour of the Waikato in 2006. A real perfectionist, Mark generously preferred to use his own Kawai for concerts on that tour - even if it meant transporting it around in the float! A great guy, sadly missed. - Ian Gabites.

**Dave Mandeno:** Dave made a significant contribution to the choir in his short time with us and was a friend to many. A tribute from Tony Clemow (Tony and Liz live near the Mandeno family)

### ***Journey's End***

It's years since I remember when  
in tears I penned a requiem  
to venerate a cherished friend  
who prematurely had to bend  
to slings and arrows cruelly cast  
to leave companions mute, aghast.

Through years of friendly competition  
we shared a stage where our renditions  
earned a gong or apt rebuff,  
delivered spoofs, acts off the cuff

dressed in togas, teased the mobs –  
with daring vocals cheeked the snobs.

**W**ith two decades at Opera North  
Dave grabbed the challenge, journeyed forth  
to join with gathered, practised ranks\* –  
in joy and gladness to give thanks  
that music could assuage his pain –  
soothe the aches that wracked his frame.

**T**his man who touched so many hearts  
with dreadful suddenness departs  
leaving friends and kin downcast  
to dwell on memories from the past.  
Staunch soul-mate and most treasured friend  
your soul now makes its journey's end.

*\*Dave Mandeno joined the New Zealand Male Choir in November 2017 and toured Australia with the NZMC in 2018.*

### **Management matters:**

**Financials:** The Choir is in a healthy financial position with most subscriptions paid in full or by agreed Instalment. Any payments for subs / donations made after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 will not qualify for 2019 donation rebates.

**Facebook:** Marjory Keelty, our new Facebook Administrator has been busy and the posts from the weekend are wonderful to see. Keep up the good work Marjory!

**Copyright:** Ken Brown, Mark von Dadelszen and Ray Seymour worked hard on the vexed issue of music copyright at the end of last year and I hope the plan they have formulated will be explained to us all at the March rehearsals in Wanganui and Nelson. I repeat what I said in the December Notes edition: The Choir have to show 'intent' with regards to observing copyright regulations AND we all have our part to play.



**The Voice of our MD:** We have now done 3 Art Deco weekends and someone said to me over the weekend that I was amazingly calm during the day. Thinking back to 2017 in the Century Theatre Napier I can see that the calm has been generated by the members of the choir.

In 2017 we had approximately 3 hours to get the choir used to singing together, practise getting on and off stage, set up the risers (which were a bigger challenge than the singing) listen to the OSH briefing and prepare ourselves emotionally for the big moment.

People turned up half way through the rehearsal and even for just the last 30 minutes, people argued about where they should stand, many opinions were voiced about how to get on and off stage and a lot of loud talking was done by just about everyone.

This year, we had 4 hours in total and we didn't use it all. We still had to get the choir used to singing together, practise getting on and off stage, (no risers thankfully), listen to the OSH briefing and prepare ourselves emotionally for the big moment.



The difference is, you were all there from the beginning of rehearsal, a suitable volume was maintained when not singing, no-one complained about positioning and the whole thing ran smoothly. Not only has the sound improved but so has the professionalism, thank you.

Joe

### **More on Art Deco 2019:**



The boys were up at 5.30am to put up the marquee in the favoured position. Just as well they got up this early as there were others there at 6.00am taking spots all around them.



What a sight the finished marquee made and it became a key focal and vocal point for the Gatsby picnic.



Sue and Maurie were our wonderful hosts. Kathy got together a team intent (excuse the pun) on setting up an authentic period marquee, with furnishings and food to match. Wow!!



Alex and the Quartet sang, too.

The musical highlights of the afternoon enhanced the ambience they created. Joe directed the Flash Mob and actually encouraged



three men from the crowd to come and sing with us.

Success such as we enjoyed at the Art Deco weekend has to be earned and there is no question whatsoever that you earned it. The dedication and hard work gave me a terrific sense of pride and you also I hope. Moreover, hundreds of festival-goers enjoyed our significant contribution to the Festival.

It simply remains for me to acknowledge your hard work and resultant success. Thank you all and very well done!

**Further highlights to look forward to in 2019:**

Taupo Concert Weekend: May 11/12

Wanganui Concert Weekend: July 13/14

Taranaki Festival: August 10/11

NZMC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and Gala Concert: Nelson Sept. 27 – 29: See Newsletter No.1 from the Organising Committee. (Taffy Davies, Norman Phillips, John Masters, Rob Ord, John Botting)

Waihou Concert Weekend: Oct. 12/13

Kaikoura Mini Concert with Kai Chorus: Nov. 23/24

John Botting  
President  
NZMC