NZMC ‘NOTES’ April 2023

Welcome to the April ‘Chat’ – sorry about last month but things rather got in the way and suddenly it was mid month before I got my head straight! I have been very fortunate over the past month to be able to attend both the North and South practices. Both a bit different but basically the same. Biggest difference is that in the South the fewer numbers mean that each chorister is much more exposed, so mistakes are heard by the music team a bit more clearly. Very positive in that Joe is able to identify and guide the ‘wrong/different’ individuals and no-one seemed to be offended by his guidance. Hope we can all learn from that as our biggest challenge is to realise when we are wrong – and then not to take offence if we are corrected. However …… much better the guidance is from the music team to the individual rather than another chorister.

Big news of the month is that we now have a new accompanist for our Northern practices. We are extremely fortunate to have **Fiona McCabe** join our **‘Music Team’**. She has a vast experience in the music field both locally and internationally and members in the North (at least) were able to experience just what she has to offer to our Choir. And I might add that she was a little impressed with our singing – once we had got over the ‘Cyclone-lag’ - on the Sunday.

Our Committee organising the **Southern Tour** this year is working very well and things are falling in place well. Looks like we will be in for a great time with enough Choristers to be able to make a very good sound!! However the basses may have to rein the volume in a little so as not to drown out the glorious sounds coming from the other parts. I trust we all have our bookings completed for the occasion and have been able to reply to all the questions asked from the committee..

The **Art Deco Weekend** cancellation was extremely frustrating for us here in the Hawke’s Bay as well as all of you waiting for information on just what was happening – sorry but we had NO way of communicating and you all knew far more about the situation than we did living here in the Bay at the time. The weekend was also supposed to involve a meeting of the European Tour Committee which had to be delayed til last month. At that meeting resolutions were passed to recommend to the Executive Committee that we do not take part in the **World Choral Games** (WGC) and that we survey members as to whether they should investigate the possibility of moving the **European Tour** forward a year to 2024.

Over the past couple of days the Executive Committee has decided not to take part in the WCG and you will all be receiving a mail in the next week to ascertain whether we as a group support the moving of the Tour forward a year. **PLEASE reply** as soon as you can so we can make an informed decision – both at the Tour meeting on the 19th April and the next Exec meeting on the 26th April. The Tour Committee also has to ascertain whether they have the time to put everything in place in what will be a much shorter time frame. If the decision is made to change they will have to work their little butts off! I have just been informed that Sylvana Gotti (the Travel Agent we worked with for the abandoned tour in 2021) will be at Otaki with us on the Sunday morning and she will be able to give us some pointers. Could be interesting!

**From the MD** - Well with the soggy start to the year over, we are now focussed on our **first** concert of 2023 in Otaki. Every time we perform is a chance to give the audience an enjoyable experience, to impress them with our professional approach to performance and to encourage other men to come and join our ranks. So regardless of the town, the venue or the audience size we have to aim for excellence looking and sounding our best. It was a real pleasure to see how the Taupo rehearsal attendees welcomed Fiona and she is keen to be our regular North Island repetiteur, well done.

There is lots to look forward to this year with plans for a Southern Tour, an excursion north of the **really big smoke** and lots more new music to absorb.

Back to me – Probably enough from us at this stage. Only remains to wish all the best with all the practice we will be putting in. Keep healthy and may we look forward to a really successful weekend in Otaki – a really special place for Alby who has really strong family connections to the area.

Cheers

**Ray Seymour**