

Devonport
Choral Society

Curtain
Call



Devonport Choral Society
PO Box 397, Devonport 7310

March 2016

Newsletter

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From the President

We have a lot to be proud of! At the recent Tasmanian Theatre Awards, A.K.A the Errols, last year's DCS production of *All Shook Up* was nominated in eight different categories! While we didn't take home any gongs, we need to remember that this was state-wide recognition of our work, both collectively and for some individuals that were involved in the show. You will note that members of our creative team were represented in all their categories. It's a shame that there was no category for Best Vocal Director, as I have no doubt that we would have been represented there as well. Congratulations to all of our DCS nominees!



I've always thought of Devonport Choral as a kind of family. In each and every show we form a new little branch within that family and the family tree grows. Once you've done a show with us or have been in the choir, you become part of our extended clan. When a large group of us went to the Errols, we were there to primarily celebrate our nominations for *All Shook Up*, but we also had the opportunity to share in the triumphs of our extended family. Those who have done shows with us in the past, who now have gone on to other projects and successes. I would like to congratulate in particular, Caitlin Hendrey and Danny Gibson for winning their categories.

I was also excited to be part of the North West contingent with representatives there from *Breaker Morant*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Vicar of Dibley*, as well as the crew from *All Shook Up*. I was very proud of the way they each supported the other North West productions. It showed how we are strengthening our Coastal theatre community with support and collaboration. There were many of our members involved in all of these shows, so joining in the celebration wasn't very hard at all. Just as a marriage joins two families, it seems that we are gradually joining our family trees together.

All Shook Up Nominations

Best Production - All Shook Up - Devonport Choral Society

Best Performance in a Leading Role – Female - Laura Gillard for All Shook Up

Best Performance in a Supporting Role – Male - Mike Brooke for All Shook Up

Best Direction - Sid Sidebottom for All Shook Up

Best Musical Direction - Bronwyn Darvell for All Shook Up

Best Choreography - Phoebe Wootton for All Shook Up

Best Technical - Jeff Hockley, Lighting Design for All Shook Up

Best Design - Jennifer Slater, Set Design for All Shook Up



- Maree Brodzinski

Theatre Council of Tasmania Hero of Tasmanian Theatre Nomination

MR SID SIDEBOTTOM

The DCS were proud to nominate Sid Sidebottom this year for the 'Hero of Tasmanian Theatre Award'. This is what we had to say about Sid . . .



Sid Sidebottom's talent and a love for performing was honed in musical theatre long before he took himself to Canberra to represent the region in the Federal political arena. Performing as a young man in local musicals, Sid went on to graduate from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Arts (honours).



As a gifted teacher for over 20 years, Sid Sidebottom influenced the lives of many young people. At Don College, in the State's North West, Sid began some important theatrical traditions by introducing musical theatre to the curriculum, instilling the importance of team work and nurturing young talent.

As Patron of both the Devonport Choral Society and Ulverstone Repertory Theatre Society, Sid has sought to promote theatre within Tasmania and has advocated the importance of community theatre for many years, both in his private life and as a representative of the region.

Since his retirement from political life in 2011, Sid has been able to devote more of his time to the theatre projects he loves. He was rewarded last year at the inaugural Tasmanian Theatre Awards with an impressive haul of awards for his production of *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, including Best Community Theatre Production and Best Director. He is currently directing his 21st production, *The Addams Family*, with the Devonport Choral Society.

Sid is always very positive about theatre in our region, saying . . .

"Where there is the talent and determination, there will be a musical, and on the NW Coast, there is talent to burn!"

In Memory of Don Gay



Some of us more senior members of the Devonport Choral Society will remember the very talented Don Gay. He began his theatrical career with DCS in 1961 in "Maid of the Mountains" and continued with the society playing many lead roles, directing productions and designing and constructing sets until 1981.

He then moved to Hobart to further his career in theatre. He was the artistic director of Mainstage Theatre Company and Polygon Theatre Company.

We are very sad to hear of his passing whilst on holidays. He was on a Mediterranean Cruise and became ill with heart complications (early November 2015) and was hospitalised in Greece. He sadly passed away on Saturday 19th December 2015.

It was a pleasure to work with Don and he will be sadly missed.

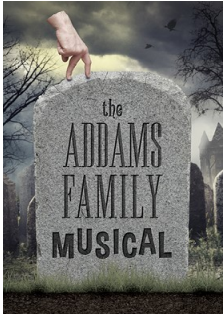
(Helen Sims)

The Addams Family ~ The Musical

Devonport Choral Society Presents

The Addams Family

13 - 28
May
2016



Aaaahh... The intoxicating smell of THE ADDAMS FAMILY!!!

What a talented FAMILY we have – both on- and off-stage.

Things are progressing very well on all fronts of the production, which opens on Friday, 13th of May – absolutely appropriate for such a kooky, spooky, musical comedy about the big questions of life: What is normal? And, how important is family? Oh, and of course, the importance of love, loyalty, romance, truth, and happiness.

Our terrific cast of 22 players have been working hard at song and dance (under the super guidance of Shayne Lowe and her talented musical off-sider, Joseph Petersen, and Elizabeth Viney and choreography off-sider, Hannah Lee-Archer) as well as beginning more intensive characterization sessions under moi. The production team couldn't ask more of this hard-working talented FAMILY.



Meanwhile, back at the FAMILY graveyard, costumes are being collected, made, and sorted by Wendy McCrae, make-up plans orchestrated by Carla Pizzirani-Rand and April Guthrie, a massive set constructed under the watchful eye of Barry Hardy and his team of Rod Viney, Guy Carey, Jim Dennis, Bob Johannsohn, Max Darvell, Mike Rubock, John Lee-Archer, and moi, and painting and designing of the set supervised by Jenny Slater, Belinda Gunson and helpers Julie-Anne Jolly and Wendy Bush.



Gothic properties are being collected and made by Jane Djakic and her team, including Shane Wolfe, and special effects maestro, David (Tiger) Dunn.

Now, there's no Judy without Punch, and playing away at Ulverstone High School at present is our Musical Director David Turner and his 14-piece orchestra, busy tackling the challenging score that is THE ADDAMS FAMILY.

THE FAMILY will be lit by Nick Glen – a former Devonport lighting designer now in Devonport – who will be assisted by Michael Westcott of Show Systems . We look forward to working with these talented supporters of THE FAMILY.

Matt Groom of the DECC will again be responsible for the sound as well as the DECC crew looking after our ticketing. THE FAMILY enjoys working with these good folk and thanks them for everything they do above and beyond the normal.



And overseeing our production is the latest Devonport DIAMOND award winner, our Producer and President, Maree Brodzinski. THE FAMILY congratulates Maree on winning this important community award and thanks her for everything she does for our Company and community.

Finally, if you haven't booked your ticket to THE ADDAMS FAMILY yet, you are naughty!

Cheers and thanks
Sid Addams – Director

Meet some NEWBIES to DCS!



These cast members are first timers to Devonport Choral Society but most of them have performed with other companies or groups.

They were being typically naughty Addams Family and wouldn't behave for their photo—except for Tim and Alex perhaps!



WELCOME!!

I asked them why they chose to audition for The Addams Family Show with Devonport Choral Society and these are the responses . . .

WEDNESDAY (Bronwyn Darvell) Because its quirky and different and that's what attracts me to musicals. I like interesting rather than popular—something fun. *(Last year Bron was the musical director for All Shook Up but this is her first time on stage with DCS.)*

LURCH (Les Van Oosten) Urrgghhhhhh! I haven't done theatre in about 14 years and this was an opportunity I thought I could take on.

(A man of few words—suits his character well).

MAL BEINEKE (Tim Squire) It's all about the people! - It's a great group at Devonport Choral Society and I wanted to be part of it. It took me a little while to decide to audition and I've done many other musicals but now I've really warmed to The Addams Family and its only been one way since then. It's a great show!

INDIAN ANCESTOR (Jessica Blair) I just love the whole story of the The Addams family and the quirkiness of the show and the character and that its Ok to be a bit different. *(You are quite young, do you remember the show on TV?)* No but I have watched the movie of it. I love Morticia—she's my favourite. I've been in 3 different shows and Addams Family is my 4th show but my first with DCS.

AIR HOSTESS ANCESTOR (Sancia West) I wanted a reason to get out of the house and let my husband look after the kids for a while - ha. Its been about 17 years since I've done a production so I thought it was about time I got back out there and have fun.

BRIDE ANCESTOR (Alex Beattie) Well the Addams Family has always been a big thing and everyone knows who they are and when the opportunity came around and I had a little bit more free time from my work I thought I'd love to get back into musicals. I've only done two other musicals but have done a lot of singing. Im loving it and it is an amazing cast.

CONQUISTADOR ANCESTOR(Conor Hendry) I'd like to consult my lawer before I say anything on record! No actually I've been in two other shows but none with DCS. My mum told me it was happening but I'd never really heard of the Addams Family, only vaguely *(cause he's another young one peoples!)* I looked it up and thought that looks kind of cool and it's a pretty good story.

PURITAN ANCESTOR (Ezra Shelverton) Everything is blasphemy to me! Last year was my very ever first show and I've been addicted to musicals ever since *(What production was that?)* It was 'Seussical the Musical' with Don College - it seems to get in your blood—ha *(and you're a bit of a dancer and gymnast?)* Yeah - My Uncle and I used to watch the old episodes of the Addams Family when I was little so as soon as I heard about this show it was like the perfect fit.

Meet The Addams Family

PRINCIPAL PLAYERS

Gomez - Mike Brooke
Morticia - Carolyn Harris
Wednesday - Bronwyn Darvell
Pugsley - Gus Viney
Uncle Fester - John Parry
Grandma - Julie-Anne Jolly
Lucas Beineke - Alastair Yeates
Alice Beineke - Natasha Turner
Mal Beineke - Tim Squire
Lurch - Les Van Oosten

ENSEMBLE PLAYERS

Sancia West
Jessica Blair
Elizabeth Jolly
Alex Beattie
Lana Stokes
Kimbra Westcott
Kamil Douglas
Joel King
Ryan Davey
Conor Hendrey
Ezra Shelverton

BAND

David Turner MD
Violin—David Stephanie Perry
Cello—David Humphries
Reeds 1—Gail Elliott
Flute—Sharon Neilson
Reed 2—Thomas McGee
Keyboard 1—Joseph Peterson
Keyboard 2—Kevin Johnston
Tumpet—Peter Johnston
Trombone—Michael Rubock
Bass—Bob Cox
Drums—Del Polden
Percussion—Stephen Osborne



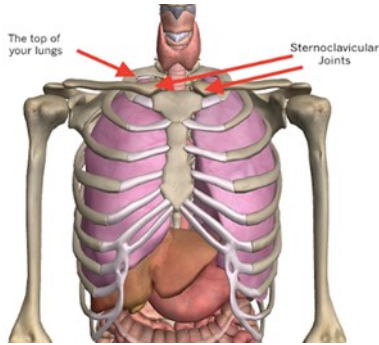
Ensemble & Morticia at rehearsals



Da-da-da dum.
Click! Click!



9 Things Singers Need to Know About Their Bodies



An image showing the top of the lungs in relation to the collarbone.

1.) Your whole body is your instrument, not just your vocal mechanism.

Your voice is part of a total system which includes your mind and your entire body. Any method or technique of singing that doesn't address the total mind-body-voice system has limited applications to developing one's full potential as a singer.

To become a better singer, shift your emphasis from trying to sing well, to using your entire mind-body-voice Self well. Once you discover your innate natural coordination, you will notice a dramatic improvement in all that you do.

2.) The poise of the head on the spine directly affects the quality of sound.

The larynx hangs from the hyoid bone which is slung from the mastoid processes on the skull. If the head is pulled down into the spine, the neck and throat muscles will be tense and the torso will become rigid. Excess tension kills vibrations and will produce a sound that is tight and strained.

Allow the head to move subtly up off the spine which lets the vocal mechanism hang freely and the breathing and support muscles of the torso work effortlessly.

3.) Pain and discomfort is caused by chronic tightening and shortening of muscles.

Muscles have only one function—to pull or contract. If a muscle remains in a state of contraction and is not allowed to release into its full resting length it will become chronically tense and inflamed leading to pain and discomfort.

By learning how to access the deep, support muscles in your body, you can relieve pain and tension by allowing chronically tight superficial muscles to release into greater length and flexibility.

4.) The more you try to control your breathing, the less control you have over it.

Breathing is automatic, reflexive function that regulates itself. By deliberately "taking" a breath we interfere with this natural function and create undue tension causing the breath to work against us.

Investigate the habits that are getting in the way of your natural breathing and learn how to undo those habits. Soon natural breathing will become a powerful ally in your singing and you will discover that you can easily "allow" for a natural, deep full breath that will give you enough fuel for even the longest of phrases.

5.) Gasping for breath indicates tension in the throat and false vocal folds.

The habit of creating a gasping sound on inhalation is an almost universal habit among voice users. Listen to almost any professional recording and you'll most likely hear the singer make an audible sound on the inhalation. This is a sign of undue tension.

Over time this habit will cause stiffness and rigidity leading to a dramatic decrease in vocal function.

Avoid this harmful habit of gasping for breath by allowing the musculature of the neck and torso to release into greater length and width.

6.) We have 24 ribs (12 on each side) and they are designed for movement.

Our ribs are spring loaded and designed for movement. They are attached to the spine via moveable joints. The ribs naturally rise and fall like pail handles if the rest of the torso is not held rigid, as is common in many singers. When we speak the ribs naturally fall at a faster rate than when we sing.

Good 'support' in singing relies on not allowing the rib cage to collapse during exhalation.

7.) The lungs are in the upper torso and the diaphragm sits right below them.

The lungs go as high as the collarbone and down to about the fifth rib. There is more lung tissue in the back than the front and the two-lobed left lung is slightly smaller than the right lung, which has three lobes, to accommodate the heart. Right beneath the lungs sits the diaphragm.

Many singing teachers ask their students to imagine breathing deep into their belly. This can be useful but singers should not be fooled about where the air is actually going when they breathe. It's much higher than you think!

8.) It is impossible to directly control the diaphragm.

The diaphragm has no nerve endings or sensation. Additionally, the diaphragm is primarily a muscle of inspiration and consequently plays very little role in exhalation rendering the idea of 'diaphragmatic support' to be without basis in scientific fact.

It is impossible to exert any direct control over diaphragmatic movement except through the natural act of reflexive breathing and the controlled exhalation of singing.

9.) By cooperating with your design you can find freedom and ease in your singing.

If you are aware, you're halfway there! Heightening self-awareness in combination with learning about the body's natural design can lead to dramatic improvements in vocal production and performance.

Getting clear on the architecture of the total mind-body-voice mechanism can eliminate tension, free your body and liberate your voice



CALENDAR DATES . . .



1—9 April	FAME Junior - Ulverstone Rep
25 April	ROC at ANZAC Day commemorations in Devonport
13—28 May	The Addams Family - DCS
18—24 June	Burnie Eisteddfod
30 June—17 July	Festival of Voices—Hobart
July	Encore Performing Arts Studio presents Disney's Camp Rock
28 July	ROC at Devonport Jazz Gospel Song
13—14 August	Brett Weymark Workshop
1—15 Sept	Devonport Eisteddfod—Music
21 Oct—5 Nov	Wicked - Burnie Musical Society
19 November	ROC Annual Showcase
18 December	ROC at Ulverstone Carols

Well done to Mark Denny who was the winner of our 'Name the DCS Newsletter' competition.

Newsletter items: If anyone has any interesting events or articles they think would be good to share with our DCS Family please email Kimbra Westcott at kimbra.westcott@education.tas.gov.au

DCS COMMITTEE MEMBERS . . .

Maree Brodzinski (President)
John Lee-Archer (Treasurer)
Jennifer Slater (Secretary)
Guy Carey
Mark Denny
Emil Djacic
Jake Jacobson
Helen Rockliff
Sid Sidebottom
Helen Sims
Kimbra Westcott



PATRONS . . .

Mayor Steve Martin
Sid Sidebottom

JOIN 'RIGHT ON CUE' CHOIR . . .

The Devonport Choral Society has a permanent choir under the musical direction of Petrina Jahnz. The choir, known as Right On Cue (ROC), meets every Thursday night from 7.30pm until 9.30pm at the St. Brendan-Shaw College Chapel, Devonport.

ROC focuses mainly on a contemporary repertoire, featuring many numbers from stage and screen as well as other popular pieces. ROC is sought after to perform at many local events in addition to putting on their own concerts.

In an effort to be family friendly, DCS encourages people of all ages to come along and all costs are kept to a minimum. If you enjoy singing great popular music with friendly like-minded people then you are more than welcome to ROC with us!