

# Devonport Choral Society

# Curtain Call



# Newsletter

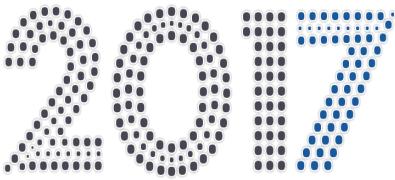
SEPTEMBER  
2016

DEVONPORT CHORAL SOCIETY  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

What an exciting year we have had so far! *The Addams Family* was hugely successful in May and now we are going in to a season of another great show, *A Slice of Saturday Night*. It's not often that we do two shows in the same year. In fact the last time we did it was ten years ago, when we produced *A Slice of Saturday Night* at the Latrobe Memorial Hall. Obviously it's a sentimental favourite, and this time we are taking *Slice* to other side of Devonport, to Pier01 in Ulverstone.



We are also gearing up for an Andrew Lloyd Webber show next year, *Whistle Down the Wind*. Auditions aren't far off and there are some great opportunities for all ages. There are lots of chances to be part of our upcoming shows – in the audience, in the cast, helping out back stage or in the front of house.

If you want to have a bit more involvement in one of the most dynamic and successful theatre groups along the Coast, our AGM is coming up in October and we are currently looking for members to join the Committee. So if you're new to the Society or have been part of the family for years, but would like to be even more involved, let us know at [dev\\_choral@hotmail.com](mailto:dev_choral@hotmail.com).

**GET INVOLVED!**

- Maree Brodzinski

## FAREWELL TO 'THE ADDAMS FAMILY'

The Addams Family was a huge success ~ on and off-stage. DCS would like to thank the very many people who helped to produce this most memorable production. A special thank you in particular to our generous sponsors.

After a sell-out season, THE FAMILY gathered for a final time to celebrate the show and to say farewell. And what a way to go!

A huge thanks to Michael Tokarski for putting together a memorable FAMILY ALBUM for us to complement the wonderful photographs taken by Jake Jacobson. Thank you to all those who organized our FINAL FAMILY NIGHT.

THE FAMILY greatly challenged our Society to seamlessly bring lighting, set construction, sound, costumes, music, characterization, and staging to another level. This was largely driven by the technical demands of the musical AND the weight of audience 'expectation' which such an iconic subject brings.

I would like to thank DCS for taking up this challenge so enthusiastically and succeeding so well. The Society was also able to welcome many talented newcomers to our production – on and off-stage – and we thank them for this. They are now members of two families ~ THE ADDAMS FAMILY and THE DCS FAMILY!

Finally, DCS and THE FAMILY Production Team say 'farewell and a huge thanks' to Shayne Lowe (Life Member and Vocal Director for THE FAMILY) and her girls as they move to the mainland. We wish them every happiness and success.

- Sid Sidebottom  
Director

Photos on back pages.



## **WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND - What you need to know**

Based on the 1961 film of the same name, *Whistle Down the Wind* revolves around the time and place where the word teenager was invented. The show follows the fortunes of a fugitive caught between the prejudice of adults and the innocence of the young.

Swallow, a 15 year-old-girl growing up in America's deep South in the fifties, discovers a mysterious man hiding out in a barn. When she asks who he is and the first words he utters are "Jesus Christ", it's as if all her prayers have been answered. Swallow and the town's other children vow to protect the stranger from the world that waits outside – the townspeople who are determined to catch a fugitive hiding in their midst. As fantasy and reality collide, Swallow is torn between the two and begins to discover who she is and where she is going.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's emotive score combines hauntingly beautiful love songs and explosive rock music with lyrics by acclaimed rock'n'roll songwriter Jim Steinman.

**Information evening – Friday 11 November 7pm @ Uniting Church Hall, Steele Street**

### **Audition Notice**

**Auditions – 25 – 27 November 2016**

**Rehearsals – From Sunday 12 February 2017**

**Season – 12 – 27 May 2017 @ Devonport Entertainment Centre**

**Cast ages – 8 to Adult**

Production Team:

Director – Emil Djakic

Musical Director – Petrina Jahnz

Choreographer – Ruby Doherty

Assistant Director – Jake Jacobson

Producer – Maree Brodzinski



# IT'S ALL GO-GO FOR A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT

SLICE is our second production for 2016 and celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Tasmanian premiere by DCS in 2006.

The original production was staged in a modified Latrobe Town Hall and this time it will travel to PIER 01 in Ulverstone.

Working with Matty Waller and his team, PIER 01 is being converted into THE CLUB A GO-GO, with all the bells and whistles associated with the Club scene in London in 1964.

This SLICE features two old hands from 2006 (Liz Viney and Sid Sidebottom) and a very talented group of new Clubbers including Mike Brooke, Alastair Yeates, Sancia West, Ryan Davey, and Lana Stokes from THE ADDAMS FAMILY cast, and Laura Gillard who starred as Natalie in ALL SHOOK UP (2015).

And what a band we have to set the scene ~ The Go-Go's ~ led by Bonnie Darvell (Wednesday Addams) on keyboards, Ariel Pascoe (ALL SHOOK UP) on bass; and introducing the 60's guitar specialist Sammy Brooke on lead guitar; and none other than the former drummer of THE HONEY-COMBES himself, MR Peter Jermy on drums!

This song-packed musical theatre comedy will make you laugh and bring back a lot of memories if you knew the 60's, love the 60's, or just love having a good time.

Many thanks to our hardworking producers Maree Brodzinski and Kimbra Westcott, to our dedicated construction team headed by Bobby Johannsohn, to our set designer and painter, Belinda Gunson and helpers.

We thank Forth Primary School for the use of their facilities for our rehearsals. We look forward to working with Michael Westcott and Theo Viney (Lights), and Dave Kirkwood (Sound) to bring this 60's treasure to life at PIER 01 from **October 14 to 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Finally, our 2016 SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT is dedicated to the memory of our friend and talented drummer from our premiere production, Mr. Richard (Dickie) Beaton.

- Sid Sidebottom  
Producer

## DEVONPORT CHORAL SOCIETY WITH PIER01

DIRECTED BY SiD SiDEBOTTOM, BRONWYN DARVELL AND ELIZABETH ViNEY

THE HiT MUSICAL COMEDY

# A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY THE HEATHER BROTHERS

7.30 FOR 8PM

14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 & 29 OCTOBER

PIER01 RESTAURANT

3 WHARF ROAD, ULVERSTONE

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE  
UNTIL 5PM ON THE DAY OF PERFORMANCE  
LIMITED DOOR SALES, CASH ONLY

DRESS UP FOR A TOTAL 60s EXPERIENCE

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## DIRECTORS WANTED - FOR 2018

The Devonport Choral Society invites Expressions of Interest from Directors for our 2018 musical production/s. Your Expression of Interest should include the following:

- Proposed Show – show title, brief synopsis, casting requirements, music requirements, and licensee if known.
- Artistic Vision - how do you see your production being staged?
- Benefits – what can this show offer in the way of benefits to the Society, to local performers and audiences?
- Any other production personnel that you can bring to the production. This is not essential but is appreciated.

Submissions are requested by **Friday 7 October 2016**.

For enquiries, contact us at [dev\\_choral@hotmail.com](mailto:dev_choral@hotmail.com)

Please send your Expression of Interest to:

M: Devonport Choral Society Inc, PO Box 397, Devonport 7310

E: [dev\\_choral@hotmail.com](mailto:dev_choral@hotmail.com)



## ROC UPDATE - 'Right On Cue' Choir

ROC has been very active during the past few months. We are still rehearsing Thursday nights and meeting at Rob and Lisa Hopwood's house monthly for a rehearsal, followed by a supper night.

June saw us compete at the Burnie Eisteddfod where we took out first place and won the perpetual trophy. July began with us being invited to perform at Festival of Voices. This was a great weekend where we performed twice over the weekend. We received wonderful feedback from both spectators and organisers, so we are looking at making it bigger and better next year. It also proved to be a good chance for people to socialise and enjoy the offerings that Hobart and the Festival provided.

Gospel Song was late in July and once again ROC represented the Choral Society performing 2 songs. This was a great night and a credit to the organisers.

Our annual Brett Weymark workshop was moved to August this year and once again proved to be a fantastic success. We had over 50 participants for the weekend, with 13 coming from outside ROC. It is interesting to note that none of the extra participants were from the Choral Society, but in fact mainly from Burnie and surrounds. The amount of information shared by Brett was once again wonderful and the weekend culminated with Petrina and John being guided through a variety of conducting techniques in front of the choir. Brett mentioned, at the end of the weekend, how much the choir has improved.



The end of August saw our first Trivia fun night for the Choir with over 30 members attending. This was a great night and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

We have recently competed in the Devonport Eisteddfod in a non-competitive section. Although it was non-competitive, we were given a glowing critique from the adjudicator.

Thanks to the Choir committee for all their hard work over the year so far.  
And to all the members of ROC – Sternums out!!

- Jake Jacobson

# THE ADDAMS FAMILY PHOTOS

Photo Credit - Jake Jacobson





# PREPARING TO SING



## Tips on how to prepare for a singing audition

- Be prepared! This seems really obvious but make sure that you know what's expected of you. Show up early and be prepared to sing straight away.
- Be in good voice. If you haven't sung in a while, you can't expect to go into a singing audition and perform well. Singing every day is essential for keeping your voice healthy and strong.
- Know the Show. In musical theatre, there's no excuse for not being familiar with the show you're auditioning for. When preparing your audition material never sing something from the show you're auditioning for, unless you're specifically asked to. On the other hand, choose a song that's similar in style and range to the character you're auditioning for.
- Always give yourself plenty of time to learn your audition material. Rehearse with a pianist and don't solely rely on learning from a recording since that version may be considerably different from the sheet music you have. Never audition without the music! If you make a mistake while singing, do not stop! An audition is like a performance; just keep going and do not let your face or body language reveal the fact that you've made a mistake. Oh, and never glare at the pianist!
- Never sing a Capella. Don't choose a song that's notoriously difficult for a pianist to play. Know your lyrics and your music; do not hold a cheat sheet or the sheet music, and don't look over the pianist's shoulder. Although this may seem obvious, choose a song that suits you. Many singers do not.
- Have properly prepared sheet music. Make sure it's written out in the right key, and that any tempo changes, and change in musical directions are all clearly marked. Never give a pianist sheet music in the form of a music book. That makes it too difficult to turn the pages. Make a photocopy of your song, and tape the edges together accordion fashion. When you hand the pianist your music, make sure you smile and say hello. Give them a good idea of the tempo by singing a few bars quietly for them. If there are tempo changes or the like, point them out.
- Enter the audition with confidence – first impressions are key here. Keep good posture and walk with confidence, even if you're terrified!
- Don't apologise. Not for any reason. Make no excuses. Always be professional.
- Dress for an audition in a smart/casual way. Don't wear uncomfortable shoes, or something that's too tight. Be friendly but don't be overly talkative. Smile and be personable.
- When you sing, just stand there and sing. Never do choreography or blocking to accompany your song. Don't wander around. But do use hand and arm movements providing they are natural. This is no time to be shy, so sing out and give a performance.
- Never Snap your fingers or clap your hands at the pianist. Even if you're just trying to help them with the tempo. Keep your hands out of your pockets.

Good luck! The more you can audition the easier it gets.

## Preparing to sing (not only in a singing audition)

- Breathe in through the nose and out through the mouth. This gives the air a chance to warm and moisturise before hitting your larynx and lungs.
- Do not lose body heat. 70-80% of body heat-loss happens through the neck and head so wear a hat and scarf even in mildly cool weather. This helps keep your vocal muscles warm.
- Drink plenty of water. Both outside cold air and indoor heating and cooling systems can be very drying on the voice. If your throat is dry keep the fluids up, take a long warm shower (or even better a visit to a steam room) and do not talk. This will reduce any swelling to the vocal chords.
- A warm drink will help warm areas around the larynx, but remember that caffeine is a diuretic and can dry you out.
- Warm up wisely. It's advisable to begin every day with some humming and light vocal exercises (it's like stretching muscles before a gym workout). Ask your singing teacher or vocal coach to record a vocal warm up tailored to your needs.

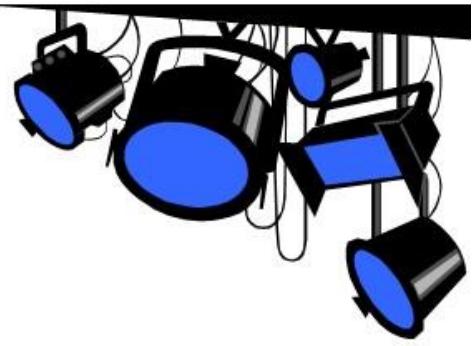
## Singing in public

- Choose the right song and make it work. In order to connect with your audience you're going to need to connect with the song itself. Be sure to select something that you enjoy singing, and equally important – understand what the song is about. The next layer to add is your own interpretation to the song and what exactly it is you want to say.
- Posture and body language. Remember that your posture can increase or decrease the quality of your vocal production and your body language (especially your facial expressions) enhances the story you want to tell, so use these to your advantage. If you are not sure how you come across when you sing, then this is something to work on with your vocal coach and then practise in front of the mirror and family and friends! It's all part of the performance. Keep your shoulders down and relax your jaw and breathe!

**SAVE THE DATE**

## **COMING UP**

## **CALENDAR DATES . . .**



- 20 – 25 Sept      Slipstream Circus – When I Grow Up at the Leven Theatre
- Oct 14 - 29      DCS – A Slice of Saturday Night at Pier01
- 21 Oct – 5 Nov    Burnie Musical Society – Wicked at Burnie Arts & Function Centre
- 3,4,11,12 Nov     Ulverstone High – The Pirate Queen at the Leven Theatre Nov 3,4,11,12
- 11 Nov            DCS – Whistle Down the Wind Info Session at the Uniting Church hall, Steele Street Devonport
- 25 – 27 Nov      DCS – Whistle Down the Wind Auditions at the Uniting Church hall, Steele Street Devonport

**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](mailto:kimbra.westcott@education.tas.gov.au)

## **DCS COMMITTEE MEMBERS . . .**

Maree Brodzinski (President)

John Lee-Archer (Treasurer)

Jennifer Slater (Secretary)

Guy Carey

Mark Denny

Emil Djakic

Jake Jacobson

Sid Sidebottom

Helen Sims

Kimbra Westcott

## **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!

