

ERATO

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EDITORIAL SQUAWK

If this is late, it's definitely all my fault. Off my own bat I decided to put the date of publication forward to April 30th, thinking that everyone would have more news by then. I then discovered, which I should have found out before, that A.U.S. has converted to a small printing press and that they're absolutely flat out with their own work, let alone our little bits and pieces. Also that distribution might be a problem. So I'm sorry. Don't shoot me mister - it wasn't done a-purpose!

Thanks to those who sent me copies of 'O Vos Omnes' and 'Viva Voce'. I got a very interesting copy of 'O Vos Omnes' written by Ruth Miller (last years readers will doubtless remember her inimitable style) but after the fuss last year I'm not game to reprint any of it. Sorry.

See you at I.V. if I last that long. Dates for the next copy of Erato will be decided there. Please don't hold the appropriate meeting till I get there.

Love,

Jane.

OBITUARY

AUCS' conductor for the past three years, Mr. Phillip Britton, has died, after an illness of several months. He left behind him in the society a feeling for the pure, wholehearted enjoyment of choral music such as cannot be revallied by anyone else. He maintained that AUCS was primarily a choral society, and only secondly a choir, which was not to the detriment of the music we sang. In fact, it led to a keener enjoyment and thus a better awareness of the music, for which reason we sang better, because we wanted to.

This, to me at any rate, is more than careful technical coaching can do. This influence is still very much a driving force behind AUCS. At any party or gathering of the society there will inevitably, sooner or later, be a unanimous launching into the works we have sung in concert under Mr. Britton; the Hayden Te Deum, the Vivaldi Gloria, the Bartok Hymn to King Stephen ... and all the rest. And the influence will never die out. There has been something infused into the Members who knew Mr. Britton that they can readily pass on to others. And it will go on.

Marta Pongracz.
AUCS.

AUCS

Late News: 20-4-71

AUCS has had a satisfactory intake of Freshers this year, with some quite good voices among them.

Mr. Bill Harrison is our new conductor. He has, of course, a completely different but nonetheless capable approach to choral singing and we look forward to a new experience under his direction.

We are currently working on Ben Britten's glorious "Hymn to Saint Cecilia" (Did you know that Britten was born on Saint Cecilia's feast day? For those who fail to see the significance - she is the patron saint of music and musicians - like Grove's, only better. Don't tell me it's coincidence...!!).

The piece was chosen by a subversive entity called the Revolutionary Music Triumvirate which actually consists of four people, one of whom is a hopeless conservative Fascist reactionary, believed to be in league with the committee (SHAME...)

The less said about all this the better, I think. Let it suffice to say that everyone thoroughly approves the choice of "Saint Cecilia".

At this stage all that remains to be said is not important....

See you all in the Mozart C Minor Mass. (What a magnificent choice!)

Marta Pongracz.

NUMS

"Hail to thee, blithe spirit(s)"
Behold we come to you, fresh from those "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" and bursting to begin the new year.

Orientation Week brought plenty of new faces, a number of whom have since shown interest in our existence. Prominent was (Adelaide, take note!) Roland Seidle who already has become involved in various ways around the campus.

At the end of last year, our conductor had to resign due to family commitments. The position was soon filled. However, since then, calamity has once again struck, the second conductor having been shifted out of the area. Hence, there is again a vacancy (Anyone interested, please apply in writing). Until we find someone, President Allan is struggling on gamely.

Despite the hazards which surround us, NUMS is in the throes of preparing for another of its "famous" concerts. To be held on 13th May at 8 p.m. in the New Common Room, it will open dramatically with "Fanfare" by Shaw (organ, trumpet and choir). The programme will include a Bad cantata also the "Flower Songs" by Benjamin Britten (Op 47). To prepare for this, there's to be a camp on 1st and 2nd May. According to the organisers, "a good time is ensured for all".

Already our social life is well on the way. Our '71 inaugural party was held at Vincia's place on 3rd April (a little late but still lot's of fun) and there's to be a record party at Barb's on 17th April. No further particulars are yet available.

I.V. is looming close - only about five weeks according to my calculations. At present, I've no idea how many NUMS-ites are going to help in the invasion of Canberra but never fear, we'll be there in some form or another.

You'll all be happy to hear that at long last NUMS has joined the sweat-shirt set. We have been able to arrange for ours complete with our own special emblem but I'm not sure when they'll be ready. The emblem is a beauty so keep your eyes open at I.V.

Obituary:-

Unfortunately this year we have lost a couple of our best singers, in particular, Erica Davidson whom being the dutiful wife, followed husband John to Tasmania where he's now a lecturer. As far as I know, Erica is continuing her studies "down south" so Tasmanians, keep your ears open.

Best wishes to everyone for '71 and keep up the good singing.

Marie Hill.

QUMS

Last October, Q.U.M.S. packed a picnic lunch and set off for a delightfully domesticated day at lovely Ormiston on the Bay. Full of tea, bikkies, family pies, ants etc., we rose and rendered the Haydn 'Teresa Mass' in celebration of St. Teresa. They loved us (of course) and after swamping us with yet more tea and bikkies, they gave us prayer cards in appreciation and escorted us off the premises.

Christmas-now what did we do for Christmas? Nothing much really. The small group warbled a few carols but the rest of Q.U.M.S. was in such chaos that we didn't know if we were coming or going (if you'll pardon the expression). The deposition of a conductor, combined with a committee who threatened to resign en masse left Q.U.M.S. in a typical Q.U.M.S. pickle. However, we are now resolved, have a new conductor in David (hold your music up, girls, I can't see your legs) McFarlane, a contented committee and a membership of anything between 50 and 100.

Our music for the year includes-wait for it - Battle Hymn of the Republic and 'Zadok the Priest' for Graduation on April 27th. We then go from strength to strength with Vaughn Williams for I.V. We hope to exceed last year's contingent, people, so be warned and lay on plenty of XXXX. You know what Q.U.M.S. is like in force. To continue; Our concert on June 26th consists of Vivaldi 'Gloria', items from the Smaller (also sadder and wiser) Group and God (and possibly Garry) knows what else.

Speaking of our beloved President and our Vice-President, Louise, they are now living together - pause for a scandalized silence at the Commune, a big old house which has become the meeting place for many weary Q.U.M.S. There are 5 Communers, 4 of whom are Q.U.M.S. ters, and innumerable visitors. A real little den of sin.

Speaking of sin, who could ever forget March Camp? We had a meagre roll up but made up for it. On Friday night, or was it Saturday morning, Tallebudgera Creek was invaded by a few uninhibited souls. While most of the camp was fast asleep, there four enterprising individuals (you know them all from I.V. so I won't divulge their names) shed their clothes for a midnight, nude swim, and then had the gall to present Morals Awards to the innocent people who stayed in their huts.

I.V.72 preparations proceed with fevered meetings of the committee behind closed. It is only with great reluctance that Penman reveals the plans to an outsider but it all sounds rather good.

Finally, on a personal note, John and Robyn Bennett have fled the country. They left for England at the end of March. Q.U.M.S. misses their voices and company sorely. (please add violins for the last sentence). The other news is the Q.U.M.S. wedding of the year coming up soon. No more information as yet available.

Work hard and sing hard and always remember the conductor is really your friend.

Jennifer Winten.

SCUNA

Hello, folks of world, here shrieketh the dread SCUNA from its loathsome pit! And once again we are fa-la-laaing it for all it is worth (\$4.50). The summer was a drought musically, with the resident SCUNA population being reduced to about six at one stage. However, there was the occasional bright spot, e.g. we sent ten people to SUMS' Otford Camp and Carol Fest; also we provided most of the chorus for Menotti's all-leather opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors", known also as "Jim and the 3 Nurglers". The rumour is that the Jim in question is Mr. J. Cotterell who played the fool and harpy in the orchestra.

Some of the most exciting events of the summer have been matrimonial in nature. First there was the Val-Julian link-up, which was celebrated with much drunken hilarity in early December, then we passed on to the marriage of Jill Newman and Chris Vine in January - another dread affair, consisting mainly of an all afternoon grog-on. It has been decided that the first SCUNA progeny will be named Smaug if male and Shelob, if female. Jill and Chris have gone to Melbourne and joined MUCS. Another departure is Richard Hartley, who amidst mournful wails of "Nurgle me Rogers" departed for Sydney, by horse drawn zeppelin.

If you haven't heard already, I.V. is pretty-well planned by now; - dates - May 14th - 28th, place - Mittagong - Frensham School, concerts (2 with the Canberra Syph. and Individual Items on the middle Saturday), music (Mozart C Minor Mass and Berger's Brazilian Psalm), and just about everything else as well. Both works are being sent to all societies as rapidly as possible.

This term, as well as taking a running jump at the I.V. works, SCUNA will be performing a Rubbra Mass, plus various Schutz motets and sundry other works. Recruiting this year has been good after a decent O-week concert and considerable publicity effort.

So bear all these things in mind, Dearie, and next time you hear the greater hairy twit-bird nurgling on your door-step, open it (the door) and say to it "\$4.50, Jim!"

Mark Hyman.

TUCS

T.U.C.S. is again functioning despite "The Music Man" a perverted attempt on Hobarts cultural life, aided and abetted by the entire T.U.C.S. committee minus the absent, yours Truly, and the culturally superior President.

T.U.C.Sers had the pleasure (?) of meeting up with two SCUNA's at a promenade concert here in Hobart. They were pale and worn suffering from heat and very slow starvation, but due to an over whelming generosity and sympathy soon recovered.

I.V. news up to now seems vague - remember we Tasmanian's have to cross the strait, so hurry and inform us of the dates.

Once more we have a new conductor Noel Ancell, formerly of Adelaide and our accompanist is to be the incredible Ian Burk who many will doubtless remember from I.V.'68. We intend ploughing our way through the Vaughan Williams Mass in G Minor, Purcell's "come ye sons of Art" and Sculthorpe's "Sun Music II".

Nothing more to say except - Hurry SCUNA and send the I.V. particulars.

Virginia Burley.

UNCS

Dear Erato Readers,

As part of its continuing plan to regain some of its former glory, U.N.C.S. is at present busily engaged in its First Session Concert (yes folks, the University of New South Wales no longer has terms). The Committee under Bevan Leviston plans to hold the inaugural concert in the big new Sir John Clancy auditorium on Thursday May 13th. People coming to IV via Sydney will not wish to miss out on the rare treat which we have prepared. Under our professional conductor Michael Goodwin we will sing the Haydn "Mass in Time of War" and the Australian Premiere of Vivaldi's oratoris "Juditha Triumphans". There is a very impressive group of soloists, Lesley Stender, Helga Willis, Kenneth Cornish and Phillip Langshaw.

U.N.C.S. started practices early this year so we were able to present an Orientation Week concert. We did the Gibbons' "London Street Cries" some motets and the ever popular Bartok Slovak Folksongs. At another of our Orientation Week activities which we called a "Tune In" Ross Worrall showed the Melbourne I.V. film. The freshers declared it to be a fake and an insult to their intelligences; nevertheless we recruited many new people so that oldies are out-numbered in our present chorus.

This year U.N.C.S. seem very anxious to take part in IV activities, recently a band of us attended a N.U.M.S. pre IV party met a few AUCS there, downed a few schooners and had quite a good time. However, as for Canberra, it is going to be difficult for us as we are no longer geared to the term system. Nevertheless, we think at least eleven of us can make it for the first week.

An interesting feature of U.N.C.S. social life is that for every week this year someone has volunteered a house or a flat for the whole choir to chat and enjoy alfalfa tea after practice.

Quinta Parte.
i.e. John Cunningham.

MUCS

Well, here we are again, mostly present and sometimes correct. Unfortunately a large chunk of our older members have decided to decamp en masse, but to balance that we have a perfectly beautiful influx of new members, many of whom have quite good voices, which we need. At the moment we are working on the Faure "Requiem" (which seems to have been very popular of late with the various Choral Societies) and the C.P.E. Bach "Magnificat". This last is quite amazing - would you believe about 26 pages of Amen? If you're all very good we might sing it for you in Canberra; i.e. you'll have a job stopping us! All full of lovely runs and twiddles for all and sundry. However, you will be relieved to hear that we are not attempting to sing the trills that are written in for all parts! Also for the first term concert J.C. is going to play harp duets with Julie Raines. The only thing that upsets him is that she gets to bang on her harp in one piece and he doesn't. Oh well, you can't be president, accompanist (benevolent dictator) and expect to be allowed to bang on your harp.

Apart from that everything is proceeding in its usual nitwitted fashion. Flick Hooper is collecting houses in which to have parties. As Leck says, when she gets there, she gets a hotel. We have had several parties, of which (fortunately) few details have survived, and we're going to have a camp on May 7 - 9, to which all are looking forward with mingled feelings of apprehension (it's so cold in the Dandenongs at night) and delight (it's close to a good pub). (Gummy, what a sentence!) On the subject of pubbing, we've made concession to those who don't drink this year, and some of us are now regular customers after rehearsals at a coffee lounge in Carlton. The Toast House has a beaut proprietor who does his to feed the ravening hordes that descent on him every Tuesday night, but he's battling.

Our basses continue to decorate their roll with all manner of bawdy rhymes and comments. They censored it a couple of weeks ago by the simple process of tearing off all but the names. The said it was in consideration of the naive who come between them and me, but I believe that they just ran out of ideas and didn't like to admit it.

One gentleman (Krow) has submitted a notice which he thinks is worth reprinting, even if you have heard it before.

WANTED

Evangelical Vicar in want of a portable second hand font
Would dispose of the same for a portrait (in frame) of the
Bishop Elect of Vermont.

Apply St. Pauls, City.

Our Father (Carolane) continues as usual. Dialogue heard at the
O-week rehearsal:-

David: Are you a tenor?

Freshette (shyly): No, I'm a soprano.

David: Oh! Sorry! I thought you were a bloke!

REALLY!

So apart from that, we'll see you all at I.V. Good luck till then.

Jane Philcox.

MUCS.

P.S. We flatly refuse to call our baby either Smaug or Shelob, SCUNA, and I rather think that we've pinched your first. (Do I get the impression that Mark has been reading "The Lord of the Rings" lately?) We also resent the nasturtiums cast at our beloved president, J.C. (Even if he is a benevolent dictator).