



(1959–1980)

PENINSULA CHORISTERS

in concert

to celebrate their

21st ANNIVERSARY

in the

Savio Hall

Lansdowne Road, Lansdowne

Sunday, 2 November 1980

at 8.15 p m

Souvenir brochure

Foreword by
Walter
Swanson,
A.R.A.M.



Mr Walter Swanson at the piano (Photo: Chas Field)

I am grateful to the Peninsula Choristers for asking me to write this short foreword to their publication, on the occasion of their "coming-of-age" because for many years past I have admired their dedication and enthusiasm and the high standard they have maintained both in performance and in their choice of music.

It is no small achievement to have remained together for twenty-one years, inspite of the competition of television and other distractions and I hope they will continue to flourish into the twenty-first century.

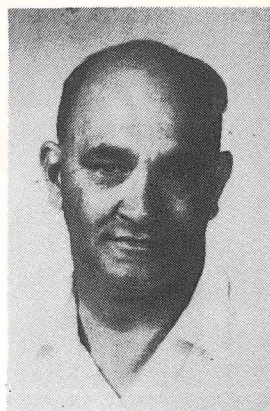
I remember the sterling and sacrificial work done by musicians like Basil de Vries, Ronald Thebus and my own one-time student, Agnes Laboudeuse. They must be gratified today to know that the fruit of their labours is still blossoming.

May I conclude by wishing them "more power to their elbows".

Walter Swanson

A message from the chairman

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I wish to place on record my sincerest thanks and appreciation to the numerous friends, who over the past twenty-one years have stood by the Peninsula Choristers and given them their unstinted support. The Choristers could certainly not have attained the high standard of performance had it not been for the encouragement of friends and the public generally.



E E Hendrickse, Chairman

One of the Choristers' greatest achievements has been the establishment of a Bursary Fund, which has recently supported talented singers and musicians to further their studies overseas.

Many thanks again to all our wellwishers. May we continue to rely on you for many more years to come.

ERNEST E HENDRICKSE
Chairman



While David Samuels looks on, Peter Lewin, chairman of the Bursary Fund, hands the car keys to the winner of Win-a-car Contest.

OUR PIANOFORTE ACCOMPANISTES OVER THE YEARS



Yvonne Laboudeuse



Petal Thompson



Glynis Carolus



Sandra Thomas



Sandra Johannes



Mr Dan Ulster, B A, B Mus

**Heartiest
congratulations,
Peninsula
Choristers!**

It is, indeed, one of the rare, moving experiences in one's life to be able, as a close, personal friend and loyal admirer of an exceptional group of music lovers and musical recreators, such as the Peninsolua Choristers, to say:

Heartiest congratulations on your "coming-of-age"!

My personal short message of congratulations can be formulated as follows:

Only complete dedication to the cause of making music to the BEST OF ONE'S ABILITIES, such as you have done over the past 21 years of your fruitful existence, for those who appreciate those extra qualities of aesthetic and ethereal values in life, is worthy of the sacrifice of time, leisure and talent bestowed on us.

May the untold joy, pleasure and appreciation of good music-making, which thousands of music lovers have experienced through your rendering of everlasting song, be continued for a long time to come!

God bless.

DAN R ULSTER

IN MEMORIAM

"God gave us memory, so that in Life's garden, there may be June roses in December."



Abe Jacobs, died 27 May 1978. A most public-spirited and talented member. Ex-treasurer of Bursary Fund and past chairman of choir. Baritone with a voice of rich quality and a great soloist. Is especially remembered for his songs "Bachelor Gay", "Floral Dance" and "The Road to Mandalay"



David Samuels, died 22 June 1978. Reliable and mellow second tenor. A natural leader and efficient organiser. Past chairman of choir and P R O of Bursary Fund, a position he filled with relish, but also with distinction.



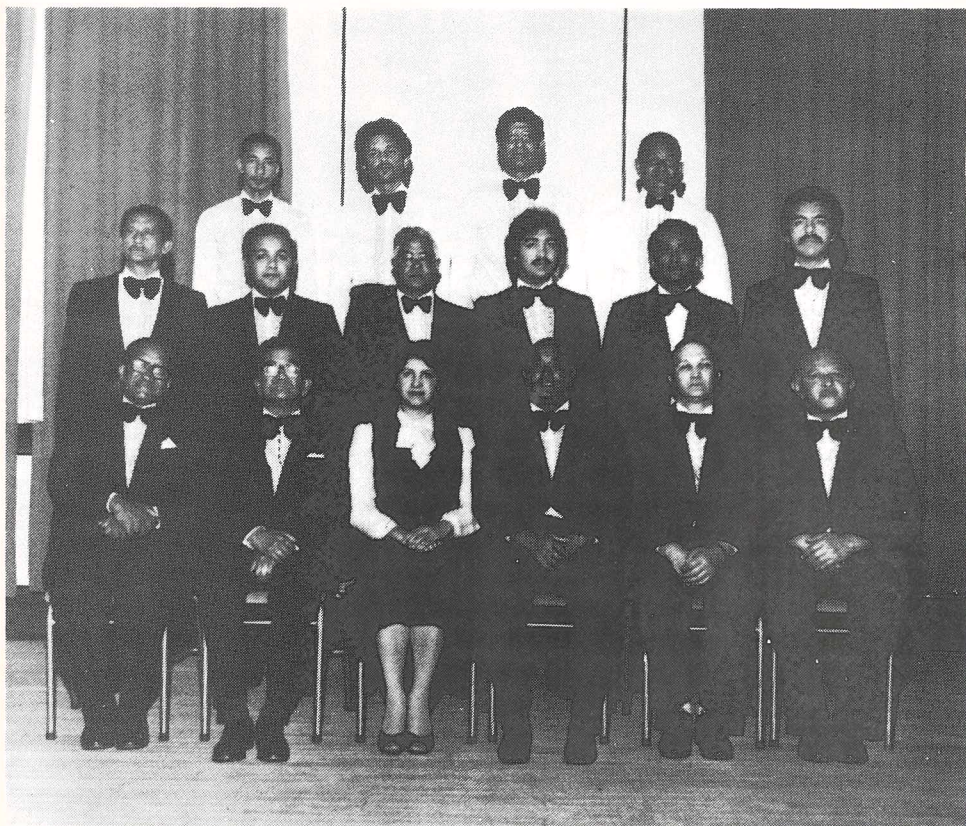
Wilfred van Blerck, died 2 February 1979. Foundation member of the choir and the man with the most prolific repertoire. He was much admired for his amazing ability to remember **all** the words of **all** his many songs.



Peter Adams, died 23 July 1980. He was a most talented musician and a born humorist. Always the life and soul of the party.

PENINSULA CHORISTERS

1980



Back row, standing: Samuel Morris, Basil Snijers, James van Rooyen, Joseph September.

Middle row. Robert Davis, Neil Thomas, Edmund Jacobs, Paul Thebus, Thomas Africa, Roy Smith.

Front row: Peter Lewin (Deputy conductor) Ron Thebus (Conductor) Mrs Sandra Johannes (Accompaniste) Ernest Hendrickse (Chairman) Tory Herman (Secretary) George Voges (Treasurer)

Absent: Franklin Lakay, Basil October, John Smith.

Message from Basil de Vries, our first conductor



The coming-of-age of the Peninsula Choristers is an event that engenders a tremendous amount of satisfaction among adherents of good music. For a very dedicated, small group of persons, it is an occasion of special significance. At no time in its 21 years of existence has this small group exceeded 17 persons. Yet it is a proud fact that in that period the Choristers have brought the joy of good music to hundreds of thousands of people. By their own efforts and in combination with the efforts of other organisations of like nature, they have played a major rôle in distributing thousands of rands to churches, schools and countless charitable organisations. They have also contributed thousands of rands to what members believed to be just and worthy causes of music education.

In virtually all instances the choristers have been awarded with the knowledge that the individuals or organisations benefiting from their efforts have been worthy of their support, matching their spirit of selfless dedication in the highest and most commendable degree.

But the greatness of the Choristers, in the view of one of its members, lies not in the thousands of rands, nor even in the joy it has brought to audiences with its music. It lies in the **modest, ordinary, everyday** manner in which the Choristers have performed. In city halls, town halls, school halls, at eisted-

at funerals, at celebrations, at services of dedication, at memorial services, at gravesides, to the sophisticates of the legal profession, the musicians of world stature, to professors and cognoscenti, or to the carriers of night-soil in the back streets of the poorest and meanest of our pondokkie ghettos. Whether they sang in Oranjezicht or Varkensvlei, in Rondebosch or O'kiep, the Choristers have always honoured their audiences with the best music that they could make. Herein lies the greatness of the Peninsula Choristers. They have always given their music in a spirit of profound dedication, at no time reaping personal benefit, on no occasion asking for reward. One is therefore proud, and justly so, to be associated with the Choristers.

To be asked to send a message on this special occasion is both a privilege and an honour and it is a great pleasure to wish the Choristers many years of joyful and dedicated service to the community at large and in the cause of good music.

In conclusion, please allow me to pay a special tribute to a particular member and personal friend, Peter Lewin, without whose vision and determination the Choristers would not have risen like a phoenix from the ashes of the Aurora Male Voice Choir, who also deserve their share of plaudits. Permit me to pay a glowing tribute to the public at large, to whom the Choristers naturally belong, who give the Choristers a reason for existence.

Finally, kindly allow a tribute to all members, past and present, for their dedicated service.

One remembers especially fondly those who have been called to sing a more perfect music: Wilfred van Blerck, tenor; David ("Da' tje") Samuels, second tenor; Abe Jacobs, baritone, and Peter Adams, baritone/bass — an excellent quartette!

May the Choristers honour the memory of these men, by continuing in the best traditions of service and dedication that they helped to establish.

HAPPY TWENTY—FIRST, AND GOD BLESS!

The following telegram was received from Mr Basil de Vries, our first conductor, now living in Canada:

Congratulations Peninsula Choristers. My hart brand. Keep up the good work. Remember who sings prays twice.

BASIL, COREEN AND FAMILY

*Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.*

*O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.*

AUTOGRAPHS

Members who were unable to be photographed with the group



Basil October



John Smith



DAVID PARKER AND ASSOCIATES

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Arthur Joseph

OUR COMPERE

This publication would be incomplete without the name of that highly talented and most versatile of stage artistes, our compère, Arthur Joseph, being awarded pride of place. Arthur has been collaborating with us in that capacity on countless occasions and in as many places, throughout the Cape Province. We are, indeed, fortunate to have a man who is so richly endowed on our side.



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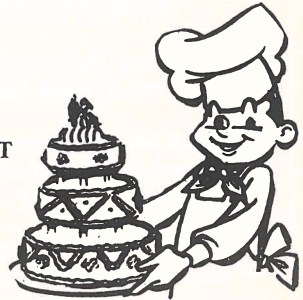
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These chorister chaps

A short, historical account by M P (Peter) Lewin

This male choir group was formed as a result of a genuine and ardent desire on the part of a group of music-loving men to give expression to the urge of music-making.



The writer

The choir had a worthy forerunner in a similar group with headquarters at Retreat, known as the Aurora Male Voice Choir, but when Aurora became defunct in 1959, a few of its members, together with a few others, met and founded what was to become the now well-known Peninsula Choristers. The foundation members of the choir were:

Basil de Vries (the first conductor), Peter Lewin, Robert Davis, Anthony Herman (the present secretary) and his brother, Bernard Herman, Wilfred van Blerck, Ray Smith, Roland Allen, Neil Allen and Yvonne Laboudeuse (the first pianiste). Ron Thebus (the present conductor) joined the group shortly afterwards, as did George Voges (the present treasurer) and stalwart in the bass line and Ernie Hendrickse, (the present chairman).

According to the testimony of many, the Choristers have sung their way into the hearts of the people. It is with a feeling of humility and extreme gratitude that we acknowledge the applause of the public at large. We consider ourselves privileged to have been of service.

We have also had our ups and downs, but every time there has been a crisis, members have rallied.

We are glad to have been able to have brought joy into the lives of others, whether by our singing, by assisting organisations to raise funds, or by assisting deserving students through the Bursary Fund.

In paying tribute to the choir as an institution and in wishing it well for the future, allow me to quote Shelley's immortal words in his poem "To a Skylark"

*Higher still and higher
From the earth thou springest
Like a cloud of fire;
The blue deep thou wingest
And singing still dost soar,
And soaring ever singest.*

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THE MAESTRO SPEAKS

With the presentation of this 21st Birthday Concert, the Peninsula Choristers have reached a milestone in its endeavours for cultural upliftment.

Elsewhere in this brochure appears a brief resumé of the Choir's many and varied activities over the years. However, looking back, one observes with pride and satisfaction, the contributions which we were able to make.



Paramount among the Choir's aims, has always been to provide what the public demanded, without sacrificing standards. While we have succeeded in large measure in this aim, it could be expected that acceptance of our type of performance would never be unanimous, as tastes vary.

With its inception, the Choir was, indeed, fortunate in having had, as its first conductor, the services of Mr Basil de Vries. His natural love and enthusiasm for both choral and instrumental music has been the driving force behind the Choir's gradual progress and eventual success in the sphere of music generally. Under his direction, many musical evenings — still in vogue today — were presented.

An invaluable and unique asset of which the choir can proudly boast, is its knack in always being able to find the highly talented accompanistes whose services it has enjoyed over the years. The unqualified success of the choir was immensely influenced by the contributions of these ladies.

The Choristers have never been able to boast of numerical strength, but what it lacked in numbers it certainly made up in quality — the quality of its members, the quality of its musical numbers and its unflinching discipline.

So, with the conviction that God has been with us in the past, we look with confidence into the future.

RON THEBUS

Looking back over the years

Some of the artistes who have shared programmes with the Peninsula Choristers during the past years

We place on record the following names and, in doing so, we do it with a sense of deep gratitude;

May Abrahams, Miranda Alexander, Alhern Cupido, Leon Dreyer, Winifred DuPlessis, Wilmarc Ellman, Manuel Escorcio, Aubrey Fiegeland, Leona Gordon, Vera Gow, Ruth Goodwin, Reginald Hans, Harvard Group, Keith Janson, Yvonne Jansen, Keith Jeneke, Sylvia Jeftha, Arthur Joseph, Freda Koopman, Fred Martin, Vera Neethling, Reg and Selwyn Norris, Solomon Patience, Anne Smith, S.A.C.C. Band, S.A. Prisons Band, Cecil Tobin, Henry Rousseau, Patricia van Graan, Derek Weber, Suzi van Dijk, Isaac Jacobs.

Organisations:

It has been our happy privilege to collaborate with the following organisations:

Ratepayers' Associations: Retreat, Kalk Bay.

Churches: Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, D.R.C. Mission, Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Calvinist Protestant and Moravian, A.M.E.

Schools: Primary and High Schools throughout the Peninsula and further afield.

Clubs: Dove Club, Beacon Club, Lighthouse Club, Club 62.

Welfare organisations: League of Friends of the Blind, Wynberg Welfare Workers, Nursery Schools, Home for the Aged.

Country places visited:

Friemersheim, George, Great Brak, Heidelberg, Malmesbury, Mossel Bay, Montague, NababEEP, Paarl, Piketberg, Port Elizabeth, Riversdale, Stellenbosch, Suurbraak, Swellendam, Wellington and Worcester.