



**30th ANNIVERSARY BROCHURE
1959 - 1989**

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EDITORIAL

Music is Universal



IN THE STRUGGLE for survival, recognition and acceptance it is essential for those engaged in that struggle, to do so on all fronts: intellectual, political, spiritual and cultural, to mention but a few.

The Peninsula Choristers, like its predecessor, the Aurora Male Voice Choir (1944 - 1959), has consistently persevered in the pursuance of that objective.

To give expression to that inextinguishable love of music is to enjoy an amenity which is as old as mankind itself; an amenity which, over the centuries, has been bequeathed to man as an inalienable heritage, from generation to generation.

It is perhaps opportune to remind ourselves that communication through song is not a medium of communication peculiar to man, for what of the breaking of the waves, the birds of the air, the beasts of the fields and the buzzing of the bees? In other words, music is universal!

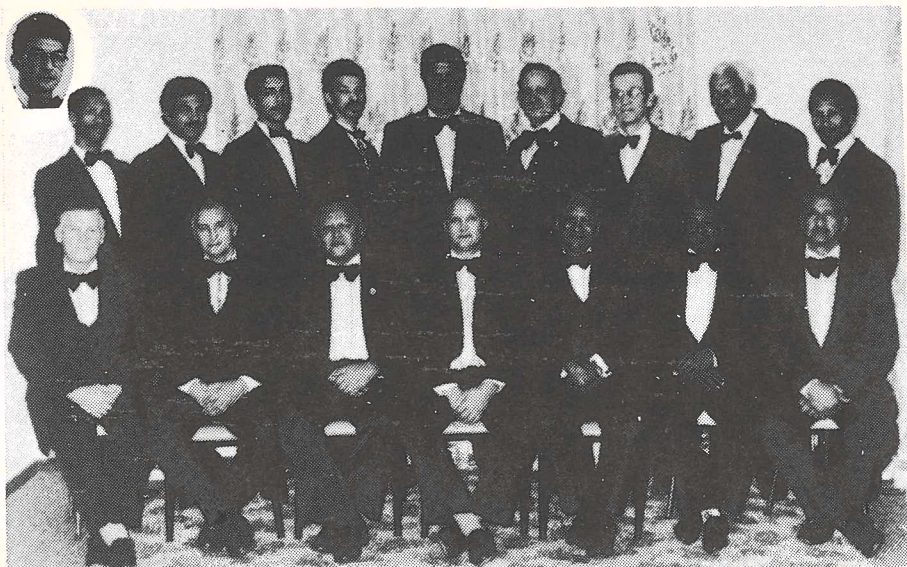
Bearing in mind that the Peninsula Choristers is the immediate successor to the popular Aurora Male Voice Choir of those days, it can be claimed with absolute justification that what is being celebrated this year is not merely the thirty years of Peninsula Choristers' existence but, indeed, the forty-five years of the Aurora-Peninsula Choristers era!

We pay tribute to all members, past and present, who have been in our ranks during this period and, in doing so, we also pay tribute to those loyal souls, the wives and sweethearts (?) of members who have played their parts in different ways. Their sacrifices have not passed unnoticed.

It is with humble gratitude that we reflect that our destiny has been - and will continue to be - in the hands of Almighty God.

"He who sings, prays twice"

PENINSULA CHORISTERS 1989



OUR PREDECESSORS



Aurora Male Voice Choir (1944-1959)



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Message from the Chairman



I have been with the Peninsula Choristers for past twenty nine and-a-half years and I can say with pride that I have never regretted joining the group.

Foremost in the Choristers' philosophy has always been that service, regardless of any other consideration.

Over the years, Monday evenings have always been an appointment never to be missed. This

was largely due to the immense pleasure that choristers derive from their involvement with the group.

Admittedly, we have seen members come and go, but that in itself has proved a process of enrichment for all of us. The incalculable good that we have gained from the camaraderie among ourselves as well as the members of other groups, especially vocal and instrumental artists, is a feature that can hardly be exaggerated.

We pay tribute to the many individuals, organisations and groups in the community that have collaborated with us over the years and have thereby made it possible to bring the joy of music to the people. We are thankful for the service which we have been able to render.

We pause to pay tribute to all members - past and present - who have graced our ranks with their membership. Particularly do we remember with gratitude and affection those members who have passed on and have joined a more perfect choir in the realms above.



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Fraternal Greetings

Rosa Salmon, Musical Director, CAPE WELSH CHOIR

As a relative newcomer to the Cape choral scene, the Cape Welsh Choir, founded in 1982, is extremely grateful for the firm foundation of the appreciation of male choral singing established in the Cape, by the Peninsula Choristers.

We are now proud and grateful to share that firm basis of public recognition and acceptance and look forward to many more years of mutual participation in this evermore popular artform.

Fraternal Greetings

MAY ABRAHAMSE, c/o PACOFS, P.O. BOX 1292, BLOEMFONTEIN

Congratulations on 30 years of music-making.

May you continue to gladden the hearts of music-lovers for many years to come.

May Abrahamse

Goodwill Choristers

CONGRATULATIONS on attaining 30 years of bringing joy, happiness and cultural upliftment to others through song. It is most gratifying to know that there are still caring people in this cold and uncaring world.

May God bless you and grant you the strength and courage to continue your wonderful work.

Cape Town Male Voice Choir

Fraternal greetings to our older brothers in song, on the occasion of your 30th anniversary. We thrill to the sound of male voices raised in song. We enjoy the camaraderie of other male ensembles and we salute the Peninsula Choristers for their 30 years of continuous singing and for upholding the male voice tradition.

May the next thirty years be even more rewarding.

**Just "Keep the whole world singing all day long
Watch goodwill come a'winging, on a song.
Smile the while you are singing, carry your part,
Keep a melody ringing in your heart."**

Roll of Honour



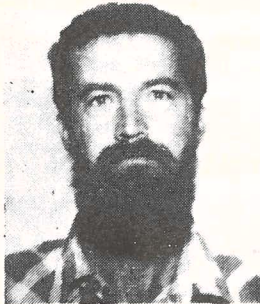
1. ABE JACOBS



2. DAVID SAMUELS



3. WILFRED VAN BLERCK



4. PETER ADAMS



5. RON THEBUS



6. ERNIE HENDRICKSE

For further reference to the above, turn to page 19

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

AND BEST WISHES TO THE

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The Conductor Speaks

SINCE THE INAUGURATION of the choir, the spirit of self-sacrifice and dedication has been a testimony in itself, instilled into the very soul of the choir by its previous musical directors, Messrs. Basil

de Vries and the late Ron Thebus.



To be a chorister is not merely to enjoy membership privileges, because, as the chorister's involvement gradually grows, his participation develops into a very special relationship, a way of life.

As far as we in the Peninsula Choristers are concerned, this spirit of camaraderie has kept the choir alive and vital, and

has proved an important cornerstone of our cultural and welfare activities, contributing substantially to the enrichment of the community's life.

The group's wide repertoire of "evergreens" has been enhanced by what we judge to be a good choice of more modern music and augurs well for the future.

In conclusion, we remember our fallen comrades who have joined the celestial choir and who were, in large measure, responsible for shaping the history of the Peninsula Choristers.

I salute you with a song in my heart!

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I salute you with a song in my heart!

OUR PIANOFORTE ACCOMPANISTES OVER THE YEARS



Yvonne Laboudeuse



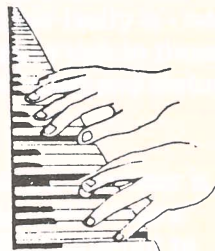
ELAINE GREEN



Petal Thompson



Glynis Carolus



Sandra Johannes



SYBIL HERMAN



Sandra Thomas

Congratulations, Peninsula Choristers!

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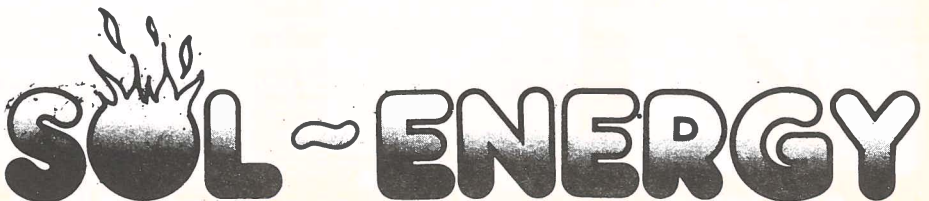
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MIGAël

**SOL-ENERGY**

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM A MEMBER OF THE CHOIR'S YOUTH WING



WHEN I JOINED the Peninsula Choristers as a young student in 1985, I did not quite grasp the depth of the group's love of music, nor the group's dedication to this form of art. Nor could a mere teenager fully appreciate this unique display of comradeship prevalent amongst members.

It was only much later that I dared to indulge in the witticism and jocularly that so often emerge

between rehearsals, but never at the expense of the serious business of rehearsing. It was then that I realised how rich the choir really is - not rich in financial resources, not numerically, but certainly rich in those vintage qualities which the Choristers have allowed to grow and mature over the past years.

It would be an over-simplification to assume that being a Chorister is an exercise to get away from it all, in this stress-torn world of ours. On the contrary, our major objective has always been an attempt to prepare ourselves to go out and share with the world outside those musical gems which we believe they, too, will enjoy.

Those of us who are younger raise our hats to those pioneers who laid the foundations of the Choir and we pledge to endeavour to carry on with this wonderful work for the next thirty years, or longer.



CHORISTERS



(A short song
in tribute to the
Peninsula Choristers
on the occasion of their
30th Anniversary)

by

ADAM SMALL

Song sits in the breast
innately
though innately
resides there like freedom
trapped
and birds must fly we know
or leave unfulfilled
their being
songs must be sung
(for to fly, to sing
- doing -
is the deep truth of all things
living)

and you we salute now
were
(thus are, thus will be
- such after all is history)
accomplice to song's singing
its loosening
from breast's cage
breast's hold
(mere cargo not and never)
party
you are to freedom
no, rather: freedom's reality

sing on, sing on



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.

THEME SONG OF THE

Peninsula Choristers

IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY

If I can help somebody, as I pass along,
If I can cheer somebody with a word or song,
If I can show somebody he is travelling wrong,
Then my living shall not be in vain.

Refrain

Then my living shall not be in vain,
Then my living shall not be in vain,
If I can help somebody as I pass along,
Then my living shall not be in vain.

If I can do my duty as a Christian ought,
If I can bring back beauty to a world upwrought,
If I can spread Love's message that the Master taught
Then my living shall not be in vain !

Refrain



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CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO THE PENINSULA
CHORISTERS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

Greetings from Basil de Vries

CO-FOUNDER AND FIRST CONDUCTOR
(PRESENTLY RESIDING IN CANADA)

THE CELEBRATION OF A CULTURAL ORGANISATION'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY is, indeed, an auspicious event; it becomes gloriously auspicious when that organisation has not only sprung from the loins of the people, but has busied itself continuously and unstintingly in the service of the people.



It is, therefore, with a certain measure of humility, not unmixed with a little pride, that I extend my share of good wishes to the Peninsula Choristers, on the occasion of their 30th anniversary.

The pursuit and performance of good music are acts that bring great satisfaction to the musician. When these acts involve the dedication and self-sacrifice that have become the hallmarks of the Peninsula Choristers, they assume a magical dimension that transcends the mean and the sordid, and the bigotry and prejudice that have for so long bedevilled the South African scene.

All of those who know the Choristers and their work pray for your continued success and for many, many more years of dedicated service in the cause of music, and in the service of the community.



YOUR LAST CHANCE

TO HELP US IS YOUR WILL

The question of your Will is doubtless receiving your thought and attention. May we suggest that when you prepare it, you might remember the Work of THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF THE BLIND.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK

L O F O B

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AT THE END OF THE DAY

At the end of the day just kneel and say
"Thank you, Lord, for my work and play
I've tried to be good, for I know that I should"
That's my prayer at the end of the day.

So when the new dawn begins to break,
Just lift up your eyes, let your heart awake,
Be ready to meet what the day may send
And ready to greet ev'ry man as a friend.
Nobody knows what a power you have found,
So do what you can for the others around;
Carry them high; when they seem to be low,
As on your way you go i

ROLL OF HONOUR

(Continued from page 7)

1. Abe Jacobs : Died 27 May 1978. Past Chairman of the choir and of the bursary fund. Baritone of rare quality and a very popular soloist of the old school.
2. David Samuels : Died 22 June 1978. Reliable and mellow second tenor. Past Chairman of the choir and PRO of the Bursary fund.
3. Wilfred van Blerck : Died 2 February 1979. Foundation member of the choir and soloist with the most prolific repertoire.
4. Peter Adams : Died 23 June 1980. A great humorist and the life and soul of any party. Good baritone.
5. Ron Thebus : Died 30 July 1985. Conductor at the time of his death. Musician with the most amazing range of voice, from top tenor to the deepest bass.
6. Ernie Hendrickse : Died 3 July 1986. Ex-Chairman of choir and a singer endowed with the most beautiful first tenor voice. A great and spontaneous sense of humour.