

Melbournaires Harmony Chorus

Young Singers in Harmony School Event September 2014

Report on Event for BHA Youth

Introduction

The Young Singers in Harmony Schools Event was conducted in Melbourne schools between 1 and 19 September 2014. It was sponsored by Melbournaires Harmony Chorus with the support of a grant from Barbershop Harmony Australia, Youth Department. The program was led by Alex Morris and the Mellow Diners quartet.

Outcomes

The event was advertised through an email message to more than 250 schools with limited success and through the contacts with schools that Melbournaires had with far greater response. Now that the program has been successfully conducted in a few schools, we are hoping that the program will begin to become better known by schools. We found that many schools were running productions at this time of the year and the large Catholic colleges were conducting a major inter school concert during the time that our program was running. We therefore could not attract any Catholic schools (mostly boys' schools) to our program.



The program was conducted in three schools with a total of approximately 100 students and 6 music educators. The program was extremely well received in schools with a good degree of excitement from students. Teachers were very welcoming of our team and appreciative of the input we were able to make in their programs. The success of the program was largely due to the skilful and entertaining way in which the Mellow Diners conducted the program and the manner in which they related to the music staff and students. They were entirely professional while

at the same time absolute fun for the students. They built the confidence of the students and made sure students had a memorable learning experience. We hope that the way they touched the students' musical potential will pay dividends in the students' musical lives in the future. We realise that the generous donation of the Mellow Diners' time was costly to them in terms of work and study and we appreciated their unstinting commitment.

Alex Morris's leadership and encyclopaedic knowledge of harmony singing proved yet again to be wonderfully demonstrated to hosts of young people and to talented

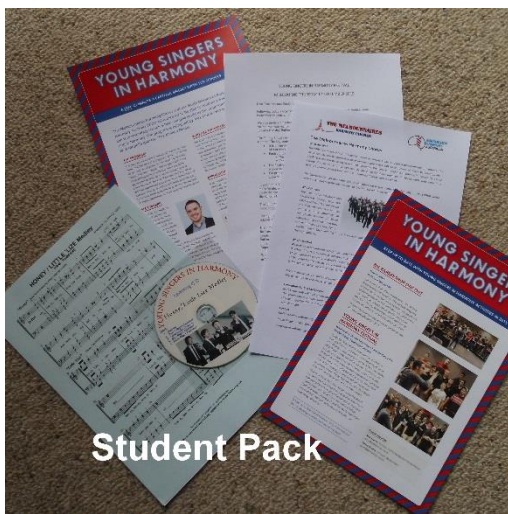


music professionals. We really appreciated the generous use of his time and talents for the sake of barbershop singing.

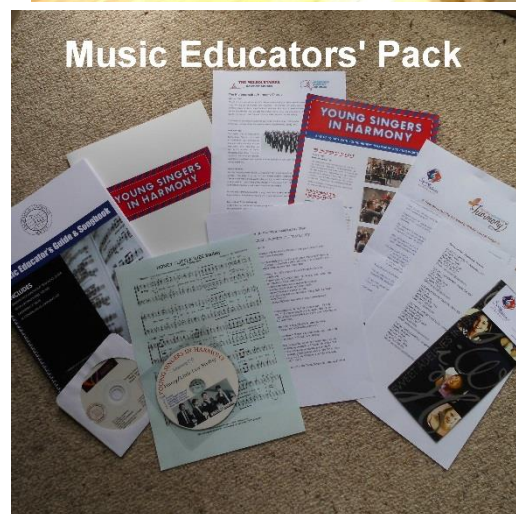
Budget

The costs for the program included flyer design (2), printing, toner ink, folders and labels, bottled water, Mellow Diners' expenses and presentation folders.

Because the program was not as extensive as we had initially hoped, we have student and music educator packs available to be ready for use in Stage 2 of the YSIH schools program at the beginning of 2015 (see below).



Student Pack



Music Educators' Pack

Future Events

The limited event times that we were able to offer to schools in this YSIH program has meant that a number of schools were not able to avail themselves of the opportunity to experience the YSIH event. We have had specific written requests for the program to be conducted in early 2015 at the following schools. There are other schools that have made enquiries too. Each of these schools has an excellent music program. We discussed the possibility of offering Stage 2 of the YSIH schools program on three dates in March or April next year (a Monday, Tuesday and a Wednesday, each one approximately a week apart) to at least two schools per day and preferably to senior students. We are currently considering the actual dates when this follow up YSIH in schools can be offered.

The Mellow Diners as well as the Sweet Adeline metropolitan choruses have also been approached to cooperate in an anticipated Big Barbershop Day Out in around May next year as a forerunner to the youth section of the 2015 BHA Convention in Melbourne in September.

Conclusion

The YHIH program for schools in 2014 was most successful. We have learnt much about the conduct of this kind of program from the experience this year. We also have commenced a good relationship with the music educators in a number of secondary schools and the Melbournaires will offer support and resources to these music educators in the future.

Peter Waterworth

Youth Development Coordinator

Melbournaires Harmony Chorus

