

**THE LINCOLN SINGERS 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
ON BEHALF OF CHORAL PRODUCTIONS TASMANIA INC  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021**

Good evening and a warm welcome to this reception to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lincoln Singers.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

To all members here this evening, Don and I offer our congratulations to you for reaching your 25th anniversary as a Tasmanian community choir. You now have a significant body of work; and I am sure plenty to come in the years ahead.

Your founder, Margot Lampkin, noted in a recent communication to us, that some of you have been members for 20 years and, “are still singing like angels”! That’s high praise indeed and fully justified.

Margot noted that you are a choir of about 30. Some of you are trained singers, but most are not.

The Choir had a significant milestone when it produced the first Anzac Day concert in Hobart, in 2009. It was such a success with over 500 people attending, that Margot arranged a concert every second year, which occurred in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017.

In 2018, a Centenary of ANZAC Day Concert was held at the Federation Concert Hall on Armistice Day.

At Easter this year, the Lincoln Singers performed an Easter oratorio, the *Crown of Thorns*, by Charles S. Packer. It was recorded, and the CDs have been sent around the world.

You have recently performed your Irish concert, and now you move into the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert in early December, your 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations starting with this reception tonight.

May we all acknowledge and personally congratulate your founder, Margot Lampkin. It is a measure of the worth of our national Honours system that recognition of an individual may also confer that recognition more broadly. This is the case with Margot's award of the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2019. Her award was for service to choral music. I shall read her citation:

"Choral Productions Tasmania.

- Founder and Director, since 1997
- Musical Director and Conductor, since 1997
- Musical Director, Richmond Singers (Richmond), since 2012
- Founder, Lincoln Singers (Lindisfarne), since 1997
- Founder, Southern Voices (Kingston), since 2000
- Founder, Men in Black (New Town), since 2007."

Margot's Queen's Birthday Investiture took place on Thursday 13 September 2019, here in the Ball Room. And, as it happens, at that ceremony Don received his award in the Office of the Order of Australia, for distinguished service to education. So that's a nice coincidence.

In addition to formal ceremonies such as Investitures, as many of you will know, this beautiful Ball Room has regularly hosted musicians and performers. The historic first ever Ball in May 1859 was hosted by Governor Sir Henry Fox Young and Lady Augusta Young to celebrate the birthday of Queen Victoria.

There were about 350 greatly excited guests from Hobart society. A newspaper account reported that, and I quote:

"The scene presented was truly magnificent. The spacious Ball Room was most brilliantly lighted, three resplendent glass chandeliers, illuminated by more than a myriad jets of gas, shedding a profusion of light ...[and] the attention of the guests was immediately arrested by the startling attractiveness of three mirrors of noble dimensions which graced the wall behind the dais ...

Dancing commenced at a little after nine, and was carried on with great spirit until 12 o'clock, when supper was announced upstairs ...

Dancing resumed in the Ball Room and the early dawn found the dancers still unwearied, and loath to depart. At length, however, the chandeliers shewed unmistakably that morning had arrived, the band struck up 'God Save The Queen' and the still numerous occupants of the Ball Room were forced, in many cases reluctantly, to depart."<sup>1 2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Hobart Town Daily Mercury, Saturday 21 May 1859 page 3.

<sup>2</sup> The Tasmanian Daily News (Hobart), Wednesday 26 May 1858 page 2.

Well, we are about to enjoy music of a quite different form now, after which we'll move through to the Drawing Room for refreshments and I assure you that you will not be "forced reluctantly to depart", but our reception does finish at 7 pm!

Thank you.

David ... [invites Margot Lampkin to the stage to introduce the singers]