

Two Up, Two Down Community Choir
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16th March 2005

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I'm glad to take this opportunity to elaborate on a recent project undertaken by our local community choir developed from an idea given to us by Perth based choir director Martin Meader, and in doing so highlight some of the traits that makes Martin ideally suited for this sort of work

Our choir grew from a Festival of Perth project in February 2004, which culminated in a performance at the closing of the Kalgoorlie festival activities. At the end of the festival, there was enthusiasm for the choir to continue, but we had very little local musical direction. Thankfully one of the more skilled musicians amongst our ranks took on the role of choir director, and we have had some moderate success throughout the ensuing year.

One year after starting out in fairly tenuous circumstances, we have just performed a sell-out concert to an audience of 600 people at the Goldfields Art Centre, performing a show of 60's and 70's songs in a show developed by Martin's select Perth choir 'The Real Sing'. They travelled to Kalgoorlie to perform the show with us, and under Martin direction we had the experience of a lifetime.

Our project was ambitious, but we decided to take the opportunity offered to us. We spent six months applying for grants and were successful in getting backing of \$15,000, from a combination of government bodies and local mining companies.

Martin travelled to Kalgoorlie for six consecutive weekends. We advertised the workshops widely to anyone who just enjoyed singing, and doubled our choir numbers. We were captivated and entertained by Martin's style of easygoing humour. Many of the people who first came to the workshops had no intention of performing on a stage. They were there on the big night despite these intentions. The music was fun and had the effect of unifying us as a group.

Martin had suggested early in the project that we write a song about our town, and we gained funding to have it arranged into three part harmony. The result was astounding. We recorded it onto CD. One of our members recalls the day of recording as one of the best days of her life.

I hope that this description adequately depicts the qualities in Martin Meader's repertoire which would make me highly recommend him for this work in encouraging people with little musical background to 'Sing from the Heart'. He has the capacity to inspire, encourage and bare one's musical soul. Singing in harmony with a group of people has the capacity to bring people closer together- the harmony experienced is more than just musical. We will relive the experience of last weekend for many years to come.

I am happy to be contacted further if required using contact details as above.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Kirke,
Committee Member
Two Up Two Down Community Choir
Kalgoorlie, Western Australia