

ISKIERKI



2000 ~ 2012

Iskierki ("sparks") was formed in 2000 and consisted of a group of talented children with a keen ear for music and singing. The primary aim was for the choir to sing during Polish Mass at various locations around Melbourne. The choir members were also a part of the *Beskidy* folkloric song and dance ensemble and rehearsed weekly for an hour in addition to their dance activities.

Initially, the children regularly sang at St Mary's Church in Dandenong. After a short period of time though, they were asked to sing at parishes across Richmond, Essendon, Geelong, Morwell and for various functions at the Syrena Polish Community Centre in Rowville.

Their first CD was recorded before their first interstate trip to NSW where they sang in Canberra, Bankstown, Ashfield and Marayong. A second CD consisting of Christmas carols followed not long after, with all the proceeds to be used for a very ambitious project - travelling to Poland. Other memorable performances included multicultural festivities, Australia Day, Polish Festival at Federation Square and trips to Tasmania (*Pol-Art*) and Adelaide (*Dozynki*).

The choir evolved as time went by and as the repertoire changed, so did its members. Only two of the original members remained to the end, Ewa Kubik and Karolina Stypa. In total, 36 boys and girls belonged to the choir. As with most things, the ending had to come one day. After almost 12 years of singing around Victoria, interstate and overseas, the choir finished with a commemorative fourth CD in December 2012.

Now, only the memories remain.