

Wendy Louza

1945-2004

North Metro Chorus members joined family and other friends at a graveside service on May 21, 2004 to say goodbye to our dear friend and chorus sister Wendy, who recently passed away at the age of 59. As in all things, Wendy's courage and tenacity had enabled her to fight a determined battle against breast cancer for many years before finally succumbing at home on May 19, 2004.

Wendy's love of her chorus was surpassed only by her joy in performing in a Quartet, and many of you in Region 16 will remember her well as a member of both Quasar and Viva! After many, many years with North Metro, it was with great sadness that Wendy, a Harmony Award winner in 1988, had to resign from the chorus to concentrate on fighting her illness.

Wendy's biggest weapon in her battle with cancer, besides her tremendous courage, was her sense of humour. One could not be around her for more than a minute before being overcome with laughter. Assistant Director Sadie Moore, Wendy, and I performed comic songs and poems for North Metro for many years. It was often difficult to get Wendy out of our rehearsal room – a fancy title for the nearest loo - in order to perform for the chorus, as she was usually so convulsed with laughter she couldn't walk. She used to say that she was sure we had more fun preparing the skits than anyone else had watching them.

Many of you will no doubt remember Wendy's terrific performance as Fagin in our outgoing "Oliver" package! She was delighted when someone approached her and said they hadn't realised men were allowed in an SAI performance.

I well remember our first International Gold Medal win – when we performed "Newsies." Wendy could not believe the reception we received upon entering the auditorium after the performance. As 14,000 people stood and cheered, she grabbed my arm and said, "My Gosh! I think this is for us! Let's run through and come back in again – I want this to last forever!"

As well as her husband Marcel, her four children, and beloved grandchildren, Wendy left behind a bright and shining legacy of courage, determination, fun and laughter – all of which WILL last forever!

Doreen Pooley , North Metro Chorus