



Newsletter of the Brisbane Concert Orchestra a word from the president

By Des Sanderson

Our biggest night of the year is fast approaching - Thursday 6th September in the Broncos Auditorium, Red Hill at 7:30 PM when we anticipate a full turnout from the orchestra and maximum support from players families, friends and contacts.

The final program is close to crystallisation - we will be doing some of our favourites plus a couple we haven't seen for a while, all with the theme of "water" in their titles.

The Birralee Choir, Resonance, will do two brackets of their own specialities and will join the orchestra and our two guest soloists, young soprano, Morgan Balfour and trombone virtuoso, Adrian Head, in what promises to be a powerful Grand Finale to the night.

Morgan has been absent from our concerts so far this year due to clashes with various contests and Eisteddfod (all of which she won in her category) and, just finished, a chorus role in "Hansel and Gretel." She is in great form having been awarded a bursary each from the Queensland Youth Music Awards and the Brisbane Eist-

eddfod. She also won the Quest Newspapers "Young Star" Award for May/June and will go into the finals later this year.

While Morgan was so busy, Naomi Drogemuller-Bycroft ably graced our last three concerts now that she has recovered from an illness which kept her out of the limelight for some time. Naomi is no slouch either, having won many awards previously and being judged "Champion of Champions" at the recent Queensland Eisteddfod. Due to our forthcoming commitments, it will probably be early 2008 before we see Naomi again.

As you all know, the Gala Concert is our major fund raiser for the year and will help in our music and instrument purchase program, as well as enabling our membership subs to be kept as low as possible (our committee is determined to keep these in the lowest quartile of the current fees of the Brisbane Community Bands and Orchestras). If we can average at least six ticket sales per member, then we will have a financially successful event.

After the Gala Concert, the pressure comes off - we will have a well-earned rest on Tuesdays 25th September and 2nd October for school holidays.

On Saturday 20th October, we will be in the Queen Street Mall, top stage near Myers, at 12 NOON, 1 PM and 2 PM. Tuesday 2nd December will be our last rehearsal for 2007 and our Christmas Concert will be on 9th December in the Geebung Uniting Church at 7 PM.

Although we will probably restart in 2008 on Tuesday 29th January, this has yet to be confirmed with All Hallows - we already have one concert booked for 2008!

Special thanks to everyone helping with the organisation of the Gala Concert - photos, raffles, advertising, sponsorship and promotion, sound and stage management, publicity, programs, tickets etc.

Finally a warm welcome to our newer members, mentioned elsewhere and our best wishes to John Graham for a speedy recovery.

Aqua Notes 2007 bco gala concert

Planning is well underway for our Gala Concert on 6th September at the Broncos Auditorium. Tickets will go on sale on 1st August and I hope that you have all cajoled, bribed or otherwise induced your nearest and dearest to be with us on the night. It will be a fantastic occasion. If you need a little extra sweetener, you may use our raffle - it promises to be bigger than Ben Hur! Jason has been promised many exciting prizes including a dinner concert with 4 MBS which features a work by our own Elaine Seeto, tickets to the UQ Orchestra, beauty therapy voucher, books, CDs, jewelry voucher, pottery, teddy

bears and cushions and that's just for starters!

Many thanks to those who have been so active in securing these prizes and also to those who are investigating sponsorships for the programs. It will

be helpful to have some non-players available to help with the door, raffle tickets etc., so if you have any 'volunteers', could you please let Linda know?

It will be great to be part of this concert!

Out and about news from members

In keeping with a very pleasing trend of ensuring future players for the orchestra (around 2025), our Principal Flute, Cathy Lee, has produced a bouncing baby boy - Oscar David. Our congratulations and very best wishes to Cathy, Oscar, husband Michael and son Nicholas. We look forward to some quartet playing soon!

We were concerned to hear that John Graham had been unexpectedly hospitalised last weekend and has now had a double bypass. News is that he is making good progress and we send him our warmest wishes for a speedy recovery. Come back soon, John - all is forgiven despite the feeble excuse for not being in the concert last Sunday!

During the past year our orchestra has been much enriched by the addition of new members, all enthusiastic and talented amateur players whose day jobs include being exciting engineers, playful physios, serious students, timeless and mindless retirees, terrific teachers, lively librarians, energetic environmental scientists, virtuoso video producers and colossal concert officers!

We welcome Elaine Seeto, Eve Brown, Cassie Matters and Katrina Duncan (Violins); Alkyra Hutchinson-Menzer (Bassoon); Jason Larkin (Oboe); Anne Fitzpatrick and Anna Smith (Flutes); Paul Granville (Trombone); Bob Spiers (Tuba); Faith Lewis

and Peter Pisanko (Clarinets), Matthew Clift (French Horn). Special thanks go to Andrea Grant-Wall who so beautifully covered as Principal Flute for Cathy's maternity leave.

"The trouble with music appreciation in general is that people are taught to have too much respect for music they should be taught to love it instead." - Igor Stravinsky, Russian Composer, 1882-1971

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Player profile patrick harrington

Position: Principal 2nd Violin.

Age started playing: Piano at 7, violin at 9, clarinet & sax at 17.

Reason you chose instrument: Father was a violinist and singer. I now play his 100 years-old, full orchestral violin made in Dresden, Germany. I love its gorgeous tone.

Best thing about playing 2nd violin: You get all the nice harmonies and usually play the rhythmic parts.

Current job: Retired from workforce, Free-lance musician mostly in jazz and dance bands.

Life goals: Play as much music as I can and continually improve my playing abilities on my various instruments.

Current CD: Classical Favourites.

Favourite piece of music you would like to see in the Orchestra's folders: 'Adagio' from Concierto De Aranjuez by Joaquin Rodrigo.

Favourite movie: "Hello, Dolly!" starring Barbra Streisand and Walter Matthau.

Hobbies apart from music: Gardening, writing my memoirs.

Favourite Cartoon Character: Zoot (Muppets saxophonist).

Most famous persons met: Tony Grieg, Tony Fitzgerald.

Most famous jazz musicians performed with: Ike Isaacs (guitarist for Stephan Grappelli's Diz Disley Trio).

First job: Auditor and accounts clerk.

Most admired person: My father (Royal Academy of Music Gold Medallist, Choir-master).