



Newsletter of the Brisbane Concert Orchestra a word from the president

By Des Sanderson

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2008! We have been having a great time in rehearsals and performances and are looking forward to a much busier schedule for the latter part of the year. The highlight will be, of course, our concert at the Broncos Leagues Club on 30th August. Our preparations are in full swing as we are preparing a fantastic program of memorable French music. It is a program not to be missed and we hope to see you there!

We only publish our Newsletter once or twice a year, and since our last, we have had the pleasure of welcoming quite a few new players into our "family" – there are more details later – I thought therefore, that it might be appropriate to give a brief history of our orchestra for their benefit.

a little history

In 1966, the State Government engaged the prominent Queensland Conservatorium of Music member, John Curro, to organise a Pro/Am classical orchestra to play in the first of a series of major festivals in Brisbane, named "Warana" – destined to be an annual event for 20 or so years.

Fellow teachers, part time professionals, advanced students

and others were recruited to perform two "All Mozart" Concerts in Warana – a subsequent meeting of players decided to continue as a community orchestra – a Constitution was then adopted, initial Office bearers appointed and funding obtained for a professional conductor, Chris Andrews, then of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

The name, "Concert Society Orchestra" was coined by the Government Department paying our funding. This funding continued until into the early 1990s. At this time the Incorporated Bodies Act was brought in requiring our organisation to comply with new rules and regulations, hence, this became our incorporated name. The more marketable "Brisbane Concert Orchestra" was tried a few times over the years and formally adopted and registered about 4 years ago as our day to day operating name.

Several of our players have been with the orchestra since "day one" and the following is a list of all those with 20 years or more service.

Original members:

- Joan Burge (Viola)
- Alex Howorusz (Trumpet)
- Delyse Sonson (Cello)

Members with 20 years service:

- Leon Hughes (French Horn) 1976
- Eric Knights (Bassoon) 1982
- David Backstrom (Violin) 1985
- Sister Marie Therese (Violin) 1988
- Des Sanderson (Double Bass) 1988

There is a lot of experience here, so if you want to know more about the "BCO" or, need help in any way, please contact one of these senior members.

our committee

Our new committee is listed elsewhere, however, a few words about how we operate might be of interest.

We are governed by the legal requirements of both the "Act", and our own Constitution, requiring the Principal Officers to meet at least every 2 months. We usually include a general committee meeting into most of these, and can call additional sessions as required. Our operating and financial years are "Calendar Years" and we have to have our Annual General Meeting within a set time of year's end – hence we renew memberships and report on the previous year early in the new year.

As an on-going policy we try to keep our membership subscriptions down in the lower quartile of those of other bands and orchestras in our region.

coming events

Our major concert for 2008 is our own **'French Connection'** at the Brisbane Broncos Auditorium on Saturday evening, the 30th August. Many of our repertoire's brightest pieces such as *Orpheus* and *Carmen* are programmed, together with new pieces such as *La Belle Hélène* to make a very interesting programme – we are also looking at a "Cabaret" segment and other attractions, so make sure your friends have this date reserved on their calendars – the Broncos is an excellent place to have dinner first, followed

by our concert which will make for an excellent night out.

Last year was an outstanding success and showed what great team efforts can accomplish. Thanks to all those who helped so willingly and to all those supporting us so generously in the background.

The bottleneck we had at the door last year should be overcome this year. A few of the problems were: offers of help that didn't materialise, bookings being accepted by Broncos without payment causing lots of paperwork on the night, and some guests coming back against the main traffic flow to claim programs when they realised that they were free of charge.

We urgently need help with organising donations, sponsorships and the raffle – if you can help, please see one of the Committee now. Later, we will need help on the

night checking-in, selling tickets, handing out programmes and the like.

Another date – claimer for much later in the year is the "Christmas Lights" engagement on Tuesday 9th December at last year's winning Church in the Annual 4KQ Christmas Light's Competition – St. Gerard Majella Catholic Church at Chermiside West.

musical instruments

Newer members may not be aware that the orchestra has, in storage, a cello and a double bass, which are available to players of reasonable standard to join the orchestra. (*many players reach a good standard at School but are yet to afford their own instrument – perhaps you know someone in this category?*)



Greetings from the musical director

By Bernie Hoesman

Great news! A new year in progress and much music to explore. Musically speaking 2007 was a very satisfying season. In Europe, concert seasons are largely confined to the spring and winter times but here in Queensland we perform all year round. This provides many performance opportunities but also makes yearly repertoire planning essential. Recent library acquisitions include *Carnival of the Animals Suite* by Camille Saint-Saëns and Jacques Offenbach's *Intermezzo and Barcarolle from The Tales of Hoffman*, the haunting *Pavane Op. 50* by Gabriel Fauré. *Zampa Overture* by Herold, the famous *Serenade* by Toselli as well as the light hearted *La Belle Hélène* also by Offenbach. Also *Symphonic Dances from Fiddler on the Roof* and the ever popular *English Folk Songs Suite* by Ralph Vaughn Williams. This is a good selection of music in line with the BCO mission to play music from the light classical to the light hearted.

We continue to attract fine new players in all sections of the orchestra. This not only improves the balance and quality of the orchestral sound but also allows me to choose more varied and interesting and satisfying repertoire. An extra bonus is the making of new friends. I look forward to the continuance of a happy and musical 2008 season with BCO.

Our musicians

We have been fortunate to have been joined by some fine players in all sections of the orchestra:

ELISE (1st Violin) who originally comes from Boston in the USA but has now been in Australia for 2 1/2 years. Apart from music, one of her other hobbies is adventure racing.

CELINE (1st Violin) comes to us from France where she works as a soil scientist and researcher.

Liz (2nd Violin) has returned to playing her violin after a break of 10 years. She is a learning and development manager and also studies psychology.

BEATRICE (Viola) is an optometrist who also plays violin and has recently taken up the alto sax which she plays in a concert band.

RACHEL (Viola) has recently moved up from Melbourne and works as a Speech Pathologist.

JANET (Clarinet) has been playing clarinet for 34 years and teaches sax, clarinet and flute. She has played in BCO previously in '91/92 and has come back to us from Armidale. Her other hobbies include table tennis and reading.

HAYDEN (French Horn) works as the Head of Music at the Moreton Bay Boys College.

BOB (Trumpet) comes to us with a wealth of experience in bands of all kinds - brass, dance, jazz and symphonic. He started playing at 12 and has played in Canada as well as in many local groups.

GRAHAM (Percussion) works as a chemist/scientist for QLD Health Forensic and Scientific Services and has been playing percussion for 9 years.

Our new committee

The AGM held on 18th March elected the following people to guide our operations for the next year:

President:	Des Sanderson
Vice president:	Helen Pennington
Secretary:	Linda Buckham
Treasurer:	Pat Harrington

Committee members:

Rob Boyle, Eve Brown, Karen Pearse, Emilie Fulton (Orchestra leader) & Fred Morton (Librarian) are automatically elected.

We look forward to the challenges of the year ahead and welcome any input, assistance and suggestions.

French Connection 2008 bco gala concert

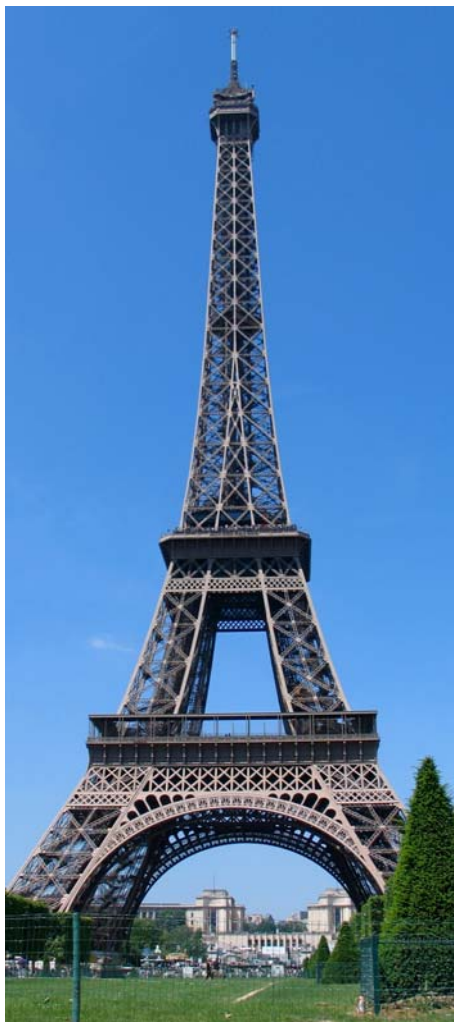
The Brisbane Concert Orchestra brings you a **'French Connection'** featuring popular French music and composers. From the vibrant can-can to the poignant and beautiful selections from *Les Miserables* the program will delight and please music lovers everywhere. As well as universal favourites such as *The Carnival of the Animals Suite* by Camille Saint-Saëns and Jacques Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène* and *Intermezzo* and *Barcarolle* from *The Tales of Hoffman*, we will play *Pavane Op. 50* by Gabriel Fauré. For those who love Paris, Bernie has found *Bouquet de Paris*, a delightful medley of evocative melodies.

Adrian Head will again enthral with his terrific trombone playing and we welcome Sheree Drummond's debut with the Brisbane Concert Orchestra. We eagerly anticipate both these performances.

An extra pleasure will be the presence of a small troupe of Can Can Dancers from the Guys and Dolls Revue based at Sandgate.

As well as conducting, Bernie Hoesman will also comper the evening. Come and enjoy memorable French melodies brought to you by one of Brisbane's finest orchestras!

Photograph by Lauri Koski



Sheree Drummond

Well known Redcliffe City soprano and music educator, Sheree Drummond is one of the guest artists engaged for our French Connection concert at Brisbane Broncos auditorium on Saturday August 30. For those who don't know Sheree, here is some of her background:

Sheree started singing in primary school and at 15 joined the Qld Youth Choir now known as 'Voiceworks'. During her 4 years with the choir, she performed with a variety of performers including Simon Gallaher and Marcia Hines. She subsequently gained bachelor degrees in Music (at Queensland Conservatorium of Music) and Education.

Sheree was awarded Vocal Soloist of the Year at the 2005 Redcliffe Arts and Entertainment Awards and was the 2002 Redcliffe Senior Cultural Award Winner. In 2003, she performed a guest role at Redcliffe's very successful Twilight Opera with the Australian Army Band – Brisbane. Sheree also performs regularly with the Jazz group from the Redcliffe City Orchestra, most recently at their French themed cabaret in 2007.

Sheree has had extensive experience with both children and youth choirs and is currently classroom music and choral coordinator at a north Brisbane Lutheran College. For 12 years, Sheree directed the highly successful Redcliffe and Bayside singing group the Treble Clef Youth Choir. Highlights included performances with Qld Pops Orchestra, the opening of the Goodwill Games and tours of Southeast and Western Queensland.

As well as the community youth choir, Sheree has directed school choirs and adult choirs at various levels.



Focus on our leader

Emilie Fulton has done a great job as Leader of our orchestra for the last four years and has managed to continue in the role while producing and raising her children, Charlie and Phoebe! Emilie grew up on the Sunshine Coast and started playing piano at age 8 and violin at age nine. However, her love of music started at a much younger age as one of her earliest memories is "bashing" the keys of her grandmother's piano as a toddler. Throughout school, she competed in many eisteddfods and was a part of the Sunshine Coast Youth Orchestra. She also worked hard to complete AMEB exams, achieving grade 8 in piano, grade 5 in theory, and grade 4 in violin. During her high school years, she was the leader of the school string ensemble, orchestra and also the pit orchestra in the school musical *Bye, Bye Birdie*. After finishing high school she moved to Brisbane to attend university, where she completed her degree in Medical Radiation Technology and was married in 2000.

Now that her career as a radiographer was underway, it was time to get back into music again. In 2002, she saw an orchestral performance in the Queen Street Mall and this was of course

BCO, then known as Brisbane Musica. Starting out in second violin, it didn't take long to re-ignite her passion for playing music and after several years she became concert leader.

She has also played first violin for several QMT musicals such as *Bitter Sweet* and several Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas, most recently *Yeoman of the Guard*. She also plays for the Redcliffe City Orchestra and has performed with smaller groups at weddings.

She particularly enjoys the opportunity to play string music and has recently joined a string quintet. Although she loves all kinds of music, classical and modern, she especially loves playing baroque music like Bach's Brandenburg Concertos and Concerto for two violins in D minor. Her other favourite composers include Mozart and Chopin.

Emilie currently lives at Brighton and works at Redcliffe Hospital. Her biggest dream is to share her love of music with her kids and to continue playing music for many years to come.

Contact information

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