



Upbeat!

Spring 2010

Director's musings:

Dear ORCommunity members,

Welcome to upbeat's final edition for the year...

At this time of the year we're usually heavily involved in planning for the next year - whilst reviewing and evaluating the passing year's efforts.

This year is no exception.

We are far from done with 2010 yet, of course, with preparations under way for the Messiah (Dec. 3&4) and the Farewell 2010 extravaganza (December 11), but we are very mindful of our responsibility for continuous improvement and ongoing development of services and programs.

I'm not going to give too much away now as to the 2011 schedule, that can wait till the Summer edition - but I *will* mention a few things that have come out of our 2010 evaluation sessions.

Firstly, you are (hopefully) aware that the Scholarship auditions are approaching (November 6), with entries closing Friday 22nd October. Something that we tried this year, was to divert a little more of our fee-relief funds to our schools program. Rather than the majority of our fee relief going to one-to-one scholarships, as has been the traditional approach, we diverted funds to subsidise our work in schools. Given the variation in schools' resources, due to size of community, socioeconomic standing, make up of staffing etc. different schools have different needs, and we have found that contributing in this way to sharing our resources has been well received, and most effective.

Having said all of that... We have decided to continue in this vein. Other than awarding specific one-to-one scholarships in senior and junior categories for String (including Classical Guitar), Woodwind, Brass, Keyboard, Voice and

Contemporary studies (Guitar/Bass Guitar/Drums), we will be focusing 2011 fee support on the schools program

The other major initiative to emerge from our 2010 evaluation process is a customer service survey which will be emailed and available via the website in the next couple of weeks (beginning of November). We want to know what you think, what you like and dislike, and just what changes you'd like to see to *your community music resource*...

I know I said I wasn't going to blather on about 2011 yet..., but I will just mention that our 9th season of **Music in the Gardens kicks off on Feb 4**. Thinking about getting a new picnic blanket??? Looks like it's just about time...

And before I sign off... I am thrilled to be able to announce that the first cohort ever of **Associate Degree in Music Education** students have just completed year one of the course. The Associate Degree, a joint initiative of Regional Conservatoriums and Charles Sturt University, is the only studio pedagogy – based tertiary course/qualification of its type; and will, over time, develop into a full Degree qualification.

Delivery is available by distance, and it is aimed at anyone from beginner teachers through to experienced professionals who may never have had pedagogy training. For further information on the course, pick up a brochure at the Con, email me, or check out the following link: www.csu.edu.au/courses/undergraduate/music_education

Cheers,
Graham

String News

Head of Strings and Assistant Director - Andrew Baker

On a sad note, ORC's Double Bass teacher for the past few years, **Lou Ortiz**, is leaving ORC. We are very grateful for Lou's contribution over those years; his teaching and playing have helped develop a very strong Bass department. From all of us...Thankyou Lou!

Double Bass lessons – Paul Laszlo

I am pleased to announce that Paul Laszlo is joining ORC and will teach Double Bass beginning Term 4 2010. He has committed to four dates this term:

- Saturday 17th November
- Saturday 27th November
- Saturday 11th December
- Saturday 18th December

Some of Paul's recent activities include:

- 14 years teaching at Newcastle Conservatorium, double bass tertiary and non-tertiary.
- 3 years at St Aloysius College, teaching double bass and banjo.
- Extensive orchestral experience on double bass and banjo.
- Principal bass for touring companies (English National Ballet, Royal Ballet), arena productions (John Farnham, etc), miscellaneous gigs (Opera in the Vineyards).
- Casual engagements with SSO, AOBO, MSO, Singapore SO and many freelance orchestras.
- Alexander technique studies have given valuable insights into playing an instrument, and studying ballet has given me a strong connection to the stage and a keen attention to balance.
- Students have/are playing in AYO, SSO, MSO, ASO, TSO, SOV,
- Students have gone on to tertiary studies at Newcastle Con, Sydney Con, Canberra School of Music, Adelaide University.

We welcome Paul and trust all students will enjoy working with him. Feel free to contact me regarding lesson arrangements at assistantdirector@orangecon.org.au.

AMEB exams and Eisteddfod. Term 3 really is the 'performance' term in Orange! Over 100 string students performed in an exam or at the eisteddfod as a soloist or in an ensemble. Big pats on the back to all who took part.

Poème – Violin & Piano recital. I am excited to let everyone know that Alina Zborowski and Anne Stevens will present a recital on Friday November 19, 7:30pm at the ORC auditorium. The program, entitled 'Poème', will feature significant works from the violin literature – Bach, Brahms and Chausson. This is an event not to be missed, keep a look out for booking info.

Leo de Kroon instrument Collection – *Launched!*

These unique violins and violas are now available to students. 5 keen students have already taken up the opportunity, playing viola in their string ensembles. These instruments are available upon application at no cost to the student. Feel free to contact me for more information.

Academics, Schools & Keyboard News

Head of Academic Studies and Keyboard - Donna Riles

Our schools programs are blossoming with further opportunities being provided by our staff for teaching via Video Conferencing and development of programs such as the Small Schools Instrumental Program.

Congratulations to all students and staff involved and look out for "Tutors On Tour" coming to a school near you soon. Congratulations also to all piano students for the terrific preparation made for recent AMEB exams. Please take advantage of Wednesday class at 6:00pm every week to hone your skills and overcome performance anxiety.

'Music: Come Together' is another exciting development the ORC has undertaken in conjunction with Musica Viva. This is a program for seniors based around singing for health and well-being, presented each week in the Senior Citizens centre; Tuesday's from 10:00-12:00pm. Come along and join the fun.

Pianists, looking for opportunities to perform in ensembles? Chat to Donna and we'll slot you into a group.

Our Musicianship results have just come in with some very pleasing results. Congratulations to all.

Please consider joining one of our classes on Tuesday or Wednesday-again, if you aren't sure what it's all about, please contact Donna for a chat.

keyboard@orangecon.org.au

Brass News

Head of Brass - Gerry Ramage

There have been some wonderful happenings in the Brass department this term. The achievements of our students have been outstanding, especially in regard to the AMEB examinations and the recent Orange Eisteddfod.

AMEB results were very pleasing for all concerned - lots of A, B+ and B passes in Grades 1 to 7, in all major brass subjects, including Cornet, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn and Tuba. The comments from the examiner, James Blunt, were very encouraging. His final words to me were: "It is very rewarding to come to Orange and have such a well prepared range of students doing so well in their instrumental studies. They are all to be congratulated for their diligence and hard work."

From my point of view, I heartily agree. OK, as teachers, many people regard us as the ones that have managed to get the students through, however, all students only see their teachers for 20 to 30 minutes a week. It's what the students do for the remaining 10,050 minutes per week that really makes the difference! Well done to you all!

The Eisteddfod had many pleasing performances. Brass was involved in the SWE, Brass Ensemble, Big Phat and Junior Jazz Bands, Encore and OYO. Many good placings were achieved and some excellent comments were made by the adjudicator, Dan Williams (expat US trumpeter now living in Sydney). He was particularly impressed by our younger brass players and commented on their sense of musicality, sound and projection. I congratulate all players involved for their hard work and dedication.

TIP OF THE MONTH: When playing music, the goal is to PLAY THE MUSIC! If all else fails, read the instructions (dots on the page, at least!). Work out how the music should sound and make it sing!

Events

POÈME. Violin & Piano Recital by Alina Zborowski and Anne Stevens. Friday 19 November, 7.30pm.

Tickets \$20. Children under 16 FREE and strongly encouraged to attend to experience the beautiful, romantic sounds created by two very talented Orange Con musicians. Tickets available at the door or reserve through alina.zborowski@orangecon.org.au

MESSIAH. Friday 3 and Saturday 4 December 7.30pm. Performance by the Orange Symphony Orchestra, Conducted by Ben Macpherson; with soloists including Graham Sattler and Samantha Bartholomeusz, and the fabulous ORC Symphonic Choir.

Tickets \$25 adult, \$20 concession, \$70 family of four available from Collins Booksellers, Summer Street Orange or at the door.

FAREWELL PROMS CONCERT & ORC OPEN DAY. Saturday 11 December. Performance by all ensembles except the OSO, this year joined by the Small Schools Ensemble and the Symptomatics.

Tickets \$15 adult, \$10 concession, \$40 family of four available from Collins Booksellers, Summer Street Orange or at the door.

NEW COURSES COMMENCING TERM 4 2010

Musicianship 2010 - 2011

What is Musicianship? Musicianship is a qualified and graded course that assists musicians in the understanding of music theory. It involves the study of music notation, harmony, analysis, history, composition and the training of aural skills.

Why do I need Musicianship? The study of Musicianship underlies everything a performer works to achieve.

Students who undergo Musicianship studies feel better about their music studies, examinations and performances. The ORC offers tailor-made HSC support to suit the needs of the student. Do not hesitate to ask.

What are the Prerequisites? Students wishing to achieve AMEB Grade 6 on their chosen instrument must have achieved a Pass in at least Grade 3 Theory / Musicianship or Music Craft. The higher the grade the more necessary the pass in Musicianship, Theory or Music Craft.

When are classes?

Music Craft Preliminary Tuesday 3.30pm – 4.15pm

Music Craft Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4 Tuesday 4.15pm – 5.15pm

Music Craft Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4 Wednesday 4.45pm – 5.45pm

Musicianship Grade 5 Tuesday 4.15pm – 5.15pm

Musicianship Grade 6 & 7 Tuesday 5.15pm – 6.15pm

If the class times are not suitable, enquire about having your own individual lesson with qualified staff.

What is the Cost? Preliminary Music Craft costs \$65.00 per term. All other grades cost \$85.00 per term.

All new musicianship students are entitled to the first term of lessons at the greatly reduced rate of \$20.00.

How do I sign up? Please contact the ORC on 6361 7974 to arrange your free assessment.

More musings...

Become a Volunteer

Our volunteer “Friends” of the ORC are always looking for more helpers to assist with ticketing at concerts, canteen service, distribution of posters etc. If you are looking for a small way to give back to your community then this is it! Contact 6361 7974.

Upcoming events

October

Friday 22nd – Scholarship entry deadline

November

Saturday 6th – Scholarship Auditions

2nd – 12th – Studio concerts

Friday 19th – Poème 7.30pm

December

Friday 3rd – Messiah 7.30pm

Saturday 4th – Messiah 7.30pm

Saturday 11th – Farewell Proms 7.00pm

Friday 18th – ORC closes for Summer break



Admin office 6361 7974

Email: admin@orangecon.org.au

Web: www.orangecon.org.au