



Upbeat!

Winter 2010

Director's musings:

Dear ORCommunity members,

As I'm currently sitting in a café in Townsville, taking refuge from the challenging 26° temperature, it's a little hard to be thinking about winter – but I'll do my darndest!

Relax, I'm not on holiday, I've been attending the Australia New Zealand Research in Music Education conference at James Cook University, presenting a paper, and generally contributing to discussions on the state of and future for music education in the current political and cultural climate. (Did I mention that it's 26 °..?) I will actually be pleased to be back in the Central West, back to the coalface, where planning for the remainder of 2010 and 2011 is well underway.

The future is, as always, full of exciting projects, programs and collaborations..... (*Look out, particularly, for PROGENY- an exciting ORC cross-artform project*) but this mid-year hiatus is also a very important time for reflection and assessment of the medium and immediate past period.

On a positive note, all events this past term have been well attended and artistically successful. All bar one. In fact, the attendance numbers for *Grapevine* (no.1), *Winter's Eve*, and *Symphony in Winter* exceeded past figures for these regular events. Guest artist events – like the Matt Baker and 7 Harps concerts, also sold well.

I have to say that Belinda Quince, Events and Promotions Officer, has to be praised for her efforts in her first 3 months with us. She has been, in no small way, responsible for the successful attendance numbers.

The only real issue in terms of event attendances this term was with the *Little Symphony Concerts*. The disappointing attendance for these concerts is a significant issue, and one I would welcome all suggestions on. We try hard to make every ORC event a relevant one, and I believe that this concert is certainly that; as the major end of term performance opportunity for all our student ensembles it is critical to our core business.

And the performance standard was terrific this year!

Having said that, any feedback you may have on format or presentation is most welcome. We are here to serve the community, and we are determined to 'get it right' at every possible level.

As part of the necessary process of review and ongoing assessment, we will be making the following changes to our student programs from this term:

*Performance class will now take place on Wednesday evenings only; with students still needing to register on the sheet prior to the class (southern noticeboard). This is due to a change in keyboard staffing, and the past utilisation trends of the two-session model.

*Canteen will operate for Concert events only

*Wednesday evening will have a greater focus on adult recreational ensemble activities, with Adult Chamber Orchestra and Encore both rehearsing, one after the other.

You will already be aware of the changes to one-to-one fees, as announced in the Autumn Newsletter, and in separate correspondence at the end of term 2

Before signing off, I want to make special mention here of the success of the Schools Program(s).

Thank you to all staff involved – you are contributing tremendously to this essential part of our role in the education arena.

And Donna Riles, as we knew she would, is coordinating and liaising with energy, passion and great skill.

And my final words before I start my trek south, are in relation to Friends of the ORC and their efforts:

The recent Raffle of Loretta Blake's beautiful painting raised \$1316 **and was won by Doreen Cumming!** Proceeds will be used towards new music stands.

Looking forward to a great term 3

With thanks

Graham Sattler

String News

Head of Strings and Artistic Director - Andrew Baker

The Leo de Kroon instrument collection: After recently settling in Orange, esteemed Dutch violin maker and artist has donated four of his own hand made violins to ORC. He crafts these violins out of various non-traditional woods, giving them all a very independent sound qualities. Thanks to this generous donation, our students will be able to broaden their experiences and techniques.

We had the privilege of showcasing some of his instruments in the 'Winter's Eve' concert, with Doreen Cumming performing a concerto, accompanied by the Adult Chamber Orchestra, on one of Leo's 'Jacaranda' Violas. Thankyou Leo, this is a truly unique gift!

Alina Zborowski - Concerto soloist in 'Winter Symphony'.

Congratulations and a big thank you to Alina for performing Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4 with the Orange Symphony Orchestra in July. This concerto represents the pinnacle of the classical concerto repertoire, and provided the orchestra and audience with a memorable experience.

School Speck Strings

This year has seen the largest increase in school-based string programs. 7 string groups from St Mary's, Orange Grammar, Errowenbang Public School and the Small Schools string group performed in June's School Speck concert. Thank you to all staff, students and parents for your hard work.

Academics, Schools & Keyboard News

Head of Academic Studies and Keyboard - Donna Riles

As I write, the AMEB exams are approaching! Students are encouraged to ensure that their technical work is well prepared. Take your time to listen to the examiners request for scales, think, prepare and commence confidently. Ensure pieces demonstrate a good understanding of the style and all dynamics and expression marks are carefully executed. Finally, go over your general knowledge and be confident that you are familiar with the terms, key changes, compositional devices used, structure and history as required for the grade. GOOD LUCK.

On top of these exams is the Orange Eisteddfod, so all the best to students entered in that too.

Piano students, friends and families are reminded to put aside Sunday afternoon 26th September for return of Russian pianist Tatiana Kolesova. Tatiana has been the runner up in the Sydney Piano Competition and "wowed" her audiences last time she performed here at the ORC. This concert is a must for all.

Exam Accompaniment

Students requiring accompaniment for their exam or the eisteddfod need to inform Admin ASAP. You will be allocated an accompanist who will call to arrange practises. Sessions may be 20, 30, 45 or 60 minutes depending on exam level. Please ensure a copy of the music is also handed to Admin one week before your rehearsal so your accompanist can be prepared.



Pianists Anne Stevens, Meriel Owen, Kyle Manning, Donna Riles, Alexandra Raspopova and Ana Castillo (seated) after the 'Grand Opening' Grapevine Concert Friday 25 June.

Thank you to Lolli Redini, Prince of Orange Wines and Mayfield Vineyard for co-hosting a very successful Grapevine 1.

Woodwind News

Head of Woodwind - Prem Love

A very big congratulations goes out to Leonie Pringle as the winner of the Orange Youth Concerto Competition, 2010. Leonie gave an excellent performance of Malcolm Arnold's Concerto for Flute and Strings, performing with the OSO at the Winter Symphony Concert on the 2nd July.

Also performing in that same concert, were Chris Gogala, Paige Howarth, Isobel McLeod and Leonie Pringle, all playing in the woodwind section of the OSO for their first time. Well done to each of you and the entire woodwind section.

As of Term 3, 2010, I will no longer be overseeing the ORC Ensembles, as Director of Ensembles Program. It has been my great pleasure to fulfil this role.

During the years in this role, it has been my pleasure to see a tremendous growth in the quality and standard of the ensembles, growth in the size of many of the groups and the number of ensembles that the ORC offers.

It has been a pleasure to see the creation of the Junior Flute, Junior Clarinet, Senior Flute, Senior Clarinet, Saxophone, Senior String, Adult String and Symphonic Wind Ensembles, the Junior Jazz Band and The Big Phat Jazz Band.

It was also my great pleasure to see the establishment of the annual OYO Concerto Concert and the Orange Youth Concerto Competition.

I wish all performers the best for their performances in both the AMEB exams and the Orange City Eisteddfod.

Brass News

Head of Brass - Gerry Ramage

The Brass department has had a very busy and productive term. Events including the Little Symphony concerts, the Winter Symphony and our own Brass Studio concert have kept us all hopping throughout the last few months.

The ORC Brass Ensemble performed an arrangement by Anya McLeod, of the murder scene from the Hitchcock movie 'Psycho' at the Little Symphony concert. It was full of brass 'stab' chords and was very effective. Thank you Anya, your talents are greatly appreciated.

The Brass Ensemble was also actively involved in the Orange Symphony Orchestra Winter Symphony concert. Music for brass, choir and organ, by Gabrelli, Anton Bruchner and Wraith Vaughan-Williams was performed in the auditorium, with the brass on the rear balcony and choir on stage. This gave the audience a true 'surround sound' and a sense of a cathedral like performance, rarely heard in Orange before.

The Carl Vine 2nd Symphony was another highlight of the concert, with some rhythmically and harmonically complex passages in challenging time signatures being played. I was particularly proud of the brass in this piece due to the focus and concentration demonstrated by all concerned. Special thanks go to Matilda Davis, Colin Thompson, Andrew Hulme and Miles Diment-Smith for their contribution to a memorable concert. The recent Brass Studio Concert was very enjoyable, with students of all levels giving fine performances in front of their peers. It is encouraging to see so many students playing such a variety of brass instruments so well.

Words for your new dictionary:

brassicle: a very cold brass instrument.

tromberg: a very cold trombone of titanic proportions.

Tip of the month:

In cold weather, empty your water key/spit valve/popcorn as often as possible, as cold air can't hold moisture as well as warm air.

ORC Ensembles

Join an ORC ensemble - free trial for new members

Always wanted to join an ORC Ensemble? Now's the time!

ORC is pleased to offer a No-cost-No-obligation trial for new members for the first 3 weeks of term 3 2010.

Whether it's a choir, string group, jazz band or percussion ensemble, we have ensembles to cater for all instruments, standards and ages.

Choose from our diverse menu:

Adult Chamber Orchestra

Brass Ensemble

Chamber Choir

Clarinet Choir Junior

Contemporary

Encore Orchestra (Adults)

Ensemble Mystique

Jazz Band

Junior Flute Ensemble

Junior Jazz Band

Junior Strings

Off Beat

Orange Youth Orchestra (Oyo)

Saxophone Ensemble

Senior Clarinet Ensemble

Senior Flute Ensemble

Senior String Orchestra

Symphonic Choir

Symphonic Wind Ensemble

Youth Choir Junior

All you need to do is call Natalie or Gwen on 6361 7974 to register.

Events

Grapevine. Following a very successful Grapevine 1, be sure to join us for more wine, food and music on **Friday 30 July**, 6pm – 7.30pm. Grapevine 2 also doubles as the host to Taste Orange's Frost Fest, and we welcome co-host vineyards Angullong and Ross Hill. A great way to unwind on a Friday evening with friends. Tickets: Adults \$25, Concession \$15 available at the door.

Peter Cousens. The renowned Peter Cousens is performing at the ORC on **31 July, 8.00pm**. Tickets: Adults \$35, Concession \$25 available at Collins Booksellers or the door.

Progeny. A unique cross-artform event is coming up at the Con. Spread over three stages ORC musicians will perform several works live in front of four renowned regional artists who are to capture the musical works in art form. Attendees at Stage 1 Progeny will get a sneak peak into the often private process of artists capturing their first ideas in response to music, live at the ORC. Stage 2 is the revealing of the final artwork arising from Stage 1 performance. Stage 3 involves a semi-spontaneous musical response to the final work of art by our original performing musicians. **13 August, 10 September, 25 September.** Progeny 1: Adults \$25, Concession \$15, Child under 12 \$10, Family of four \$65. Ticket price includes the 3 series.

Nick Parnell. One man, 50 instruments! A fantastic display of percussionist mastery performing works from Bach to Brazil. Nick is also offering a 50 min Workshop for drummers, percussionists and pianists. Workshop bookings essential \$15, \$8 concession 4pm Friday 1 October Ph 6361 7974. Tickets \$25, \$20 concession, \$70 family of four 7.30pm Friday 1 October, available at the door.

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.

Trivia Night

Friends of the ORC are holding a fund-raising trivia night on Friday 20th August 2010 at the Gladstone Hotel, Hill St. 7pm for a 7.30 start. 10 tables of 8, tickets are \$15 each (i.e. \$120 a table). Bring along your own food, but not alcohol - bar facilities will be provided. Michael Milston will be the MC - a fun night is guaranteed. Tickets will be on sale from early July - please book early, as it sold out quickly last year.

To obtain tickets and for any other information please contact Lee Britton on 6362 4206 or email britton1946@hotmail.com.

Schedule of Events for 2010

July

- 30 Grapevine #2
Official Opening of FrostFest
- 31 Peter Cousens Concert

August

- 13 Progeny Stage 1 – cross artform musician/artists performance
- 20 Friends - Trivia Night
- 27 Grapevine #3

September

- 10 Progeny Stage 2 – the hanging
- 25 Progeny Stage 3 – musical response
- 26 Tatiana Kolesova – piano recital

October

- 1 Nick Parnell Bach to Brazil – percussion workshop and performance
- 10 Mental Health Week opening Concert – Bloomfield Leisure Centre, 7.30pm
- 17 Mental Health week closing Concert – Bloomfield Leisure Centre, 2.30pm

November

- 12 Concerto (OYO) Concert

December

- 3, 4 Messiah
- 11 Farewell 2010 Proms Concert and Friends Fete

Find out more about the ORC, or become a Friend of the ORC at www.orangecon.org.au