



Upbeat!

Winter 2009

Director's musings:

- exam time approaches
- eisteddfod and the ORC
- funding increase - recognising our value
- new studios - a farewell to Lords Place
- branding – a sign of the times?
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exam time approaches

It is hard to believe that we are now half way through the year. This means that, amongst other things, the AMEB instrumental exam season is approaching. With exams coming just a matter of weeks after the mid-year break, we do need to keep on top of our preparation. Please don't get caught out! Many students have put so much effort into getting through the technical and repertoire requirements, it would be a pity for any of you to lose momentum over the break.

It is certainly far from ideal to have the exams at this time of the year, but unfortunately we have no choice with the timing. The consolation is that some other regional areas have the annual visit from AMEB examiners even earlier!

For those not familiar with the whole AMEB examination issue, this is a nationally recognised examination system that provides an achievement structure for many students, whilst not necessarily suiting everyone's needs and learning process or style.

Our intention is to develop our own curriculum and assessment mechanism for all students over the next couple of years; this structure will compliment the AMEB system for some, and replace it for others. More on that plan, however, at a later time.

For all those students entered in this year's AMEB examination season, all the best!

eisteddfod and the ORC

This year six sections of the City of Orange Eisteddfod will be taking place in the ORC Auditorium. It seems to us, and the Eisteddfod Committee agrees, that the Auditorium is the ideal venue for many of the instrumental and vocal sections of this important community event. Last year we invited the Eisteddfod in for three days, of string, brass and woodwind sections, and this year we have committed to six days.

We have been supporters of the Eisteddfod for many years, and we're proud to be ramping up that support now.

funding increase - recognising our value

I've been banging on about our hopes for an increase in government funding for so long now, it is a real pleasure to be able to tell you that we've finally had a result!

You may well have read about this already, but regardless, it is well worth celebrating...

In this year's State Budget, Regional Conservatoriums have been given a 2.1 million dollar increase in annual funding. This means an increase of a little over 60%. To add a little perspective, we have received no increase since 2001, so this is long overdue.

Having said that, we are thrilled, with the extra money translating to around an extra \$100,000 to the ORC, every year.

This development, in addition to the Auditorium refit and the new studio building, is an indication of heightened government recognition of Regional Conservatoriums as an essential component of the education framework.

new studios – a farewell to Lords Place

All I will say here, is that it has begun! June 29 saw the commencement of construction work, and as I type, I look out at a beautiful soil platform which forms the beginning of the foundations for 8 one-to-one teaching studios and one ensemble room.

Early September is the scheduled finish time, with relocation from Lords Place planned for the commencement of term 4.

branding – a sign of the times?

Hopefully you've noticed a few more logos around the outside of the building. Having some limitations on our Hill street signage, we have been attempting to clarify the identity of the building, where to go, and how to enter. We have another sign or two planned to assist even further with identification and orientation, but if you have an opinion on the "branding" of the building and/or the organisation...please let us know. All opinions and observations are valid... and welcome. This is Conservatorium; let us know what you think!

playerlink – nothing so-so about the SSO

Another testimony to the status and amenity of the ORC is the planned Sydney Symphony Playerlink project, to be held here in September. Every year the SSO takes this mentoring workshop to a regional centre, but never in the history of the scheme have they been to Orange. This year, however, the SSO team have recognised the incredible talent in the Central West, and approached us to partner with them as venue host. So, from September 4 -6 the ORC will resonate to the sound of 70-plus orchestral musicians taking part in one-to-one, sectional and full orchestral rehearsals, led by some of the country's most esteemed symphony orchestra specialists. The workshop will culminate in a public concert on Sunday 6 September at 1.00pm.

ORC national profile

Just a short, closing note, to mention that over the next five days the ORC will be represented at the Australian Society For Music Education national conference in Launceston. I will be presenting a paper on musical understanding through ensemble programs,

. Flying the flag!

Graham Sattler



Auditorium now enjoyed by all

On May 21 the ORC Auditorium was reopened with Friends and members getting a sneak preview before invited guests joined everyone for a special performance. Now the reserved seating has been enjoyed by over 400 people and we look forward to many more visiting us soon.



CSU's Professor Kevin Parton, Dr Christopher Klopper and Graham at the Auditorium re-opening



Karen Fuller, Henry & Helen Baker, Graham & Aline Lugton and Andrew Baker



ORC President Don Martin and wife Denise with Stephen O'Connell, President of Regional Conservatoriums

Adult Ensemble

Friends and family were some of the first to enjoy the new Auditorium seating at the Winter Adult Ensemble in late May.



ORC celebrates ten years

Thanks to the ORC Friends, almost \$1,000 was raised for the ORC community at our birthday fete in early June. With stalls selling second hand books, music, white elephant goods, and refreshments such as Devonshire tea, fresh orange juice and a BBQ, the old fashioned fete attracted long time ORC supporters - and some new faces.

Little Symphony Concerts

Children and parents enjoyed two brilliant performances by ORC ensembles and the cakes made by Sue Betts were a huge hit!



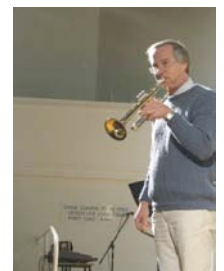
Message from Head of Brass, Gerry Ramage

Welcome to the second edition of Brass Notes for 2009. Many exciting events have taken place this term. Starting with Opera in the Vines at Belgravia, we had a full brass section teaming up with the mighty forces of the Orange Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Choir for an afternoon of operatic excerpts, which when combined with the opera soloists, lead to a memorable day of music.

The recent production of 'Oliver' was also memorable, with a solid commitment by all concerned to making every performance one to be proud of.

More recently, the Brass Department has been preparing for a performance of the magnificent 'Gloria' by renowned English composer, John Rutter. The piece is scored for four trumpets, three trombones, tuba, two percussion, organ and choir. Spiced with intricate rhythmic figures, semi-dissonant chord structures and a wide tonal and dynamic range, students and ensemble members of the ORC threw themselves into some keen rehearsal workshops to prepare for the recent concerts in Orange and Parkes.

I am pleased to say that, under the masterful direction of Ben Macpherson, the concerts were a great success, and a tribute to the hard work put in by all concerned. Specifically, I wish to thank the following players for their efforts: Anya McLeod, Jake Arnold, Natasha Deasey, Paul Dawson, Jackson Griffith-Bankovic, Elissa Jones, Miles Diment-Smith, Leonie Diment, Cameron Cowan, Mitch Davis, Lee Britton and Donna Riles. I am very proud to be associated with, and privileged to teach many of these fine players. I also wish to thank Matilda Davis and Emily McFarland for their contribution to the other works on the programme.



Gerry giving a trumpet demonstration during School Music Week

Tip off the month: Try to have a good idea of what you want to sound like, and what story you are trying to tell when you play BEFORE you put the instrument to our face!

Keep blowing!

Message from Head of Keyboard and School Liaison, Donna Riles

On Friday 19th June, over 500 students, friends and families crammed into the Canobolas High School hall for the ORC's annual Schools Speck Concert. This annual concert showcases the work the ORC undertakes in our district schools and involves choral, instrumental and percussion ensembles. We were pleased to present a variety of performances by our associated schools including: Anson St School, Borenore Public

School, Canobolas Rural Technology High School, Clergate Public School, Errowanbang Public School, Mullion Creek Public School, Orange Anglican Grammar School, Orange Public School, Spring Terrace Public School and St Josephs Primary School.

Prior to this concert, ORC staff including Luis Ortiz (Double Bass), Ana Castillo (Viola and Piano), Andrew Baker (Violin), Prem Love (Flute and Saxophone), Gerry Ramage (Trombone), conducted a concert and instrument demonstration to the year 2 students of Orange Public School as part of NSW Regional Conservatoriums School's Music Week. Please contact Donna Riles, Schools Liaison, if you believe your local school would like to access similar events and resources.

Keyboard News

Students should be aware that AMEB piano exams are approaching and could

likely be conducted within the first 2 weeks of term 3. Now is the time to polish performances by playing for friends and families in informal 'after-dinner' concerts. Students should also be brushing-up on sight-reading and aural skills along with ensuring they have a clear understanding of the general knowledge associated with their pieces. Studio Concerts have been a wonderful success and we thank students and families for embracing these important performance opportunities. Please continue to support Wednesday and Thursday Class as exams and eisteddfod approach.

Don't forget that we are always pleased to welcome pianists in our ORC ensembles and are particularly after senior students who are keen to seek accompanying opportunities. If this is something you are interested in, just call Donna anytime on 63250772. **Vacancy, pianist required for Jazz ensemble.**



Chris Ryan preparing for his Grade 6 piano exam

both for string ensembles and soloists. Congratulations to Katherine Moses (Cello) for winning the opportunity to perform Saint-Saens' Cello concerto with the Orange Youth Orchestra – concert to be held in Orange November 14th and in Parkes November 15th. Special mentions also to ALL the string ensembles for performing so well at the 'Little Symphony' concerts and Adult ensembles concert. The Adult Chamber Orchestra kicked off their career here with a performance of 5 string pieces.

The Violin studio concerts were recently held with many brilliant performances, with special mention to Anthea Basha, Stephen Hayes and Lucy Clarke – Randazzo for much improved playing! Many of these performances were enhanced by the increase in the number of string students attending Performance Classes; these classes have a large impact on on-stage confidence and performance skills.

The violin classes at ORC have grown considerably in recent years, bring all tutors to over-capacity. We're on the prowl for more violin tutors to ease the load & develop numbers further... More info soon!

Lastly, good luck to all AMEB exam students!

Message from Head of Woodwind and Director, Ensembles Program, Prem Love

Term 2 has seen some very fine ensemble performances. Congratulations to the Senior Flute Ensemble for their fine performances on ABC Radio as part of the Biggest Morning Tea. Well done, flutes!

The 'Little Symphony' concerts were a great success. What a fantastic array of ensembles on display, and didn't they sound great. I would like to congratulate all ensemble members for their fine performances in both of the concerts. Also, a big thank you to all ensemble directors for their great work.



Prem Love and Cassandra Bennett show off their flutes during School Music Week

Message from Friends of the ORC

.....89 Friends AND COUNTING

First of all, welcome to all those who are new to Friends. It's fantastic to see so many fresh faces joining our seasoned ORC supporters. We're still aiming for 100 by December 2009!

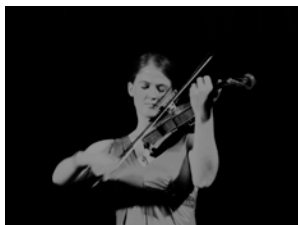
A big thank you to all who have volunteered to help at the various ORC events that have happened over the past few months. After the success of the ten-year anniversary Fete we are now focusing on the next big fundraising event, a Trivia night to be held at the Gladstone Hotel on Friday 14th August. Any inquires are welcome at friends@orangecon.org.au, or contact the ORC for information.

Thanks to the funds raised, there are new chairs and tables in the link for people enjoying refreshments at the newly named CONsumme café. Finally, a big thank you to Loretta Thurtell for donating her painting to raffle.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends, please fill out one of our forms at the office.

Samara returns to Orange

Symphony in Winter soloist Samara Redman has always been passionate about her violin playing. Beginning at six years of age she has enjoyed many excellent teachers. Since studying at Tamworth Regional Conservatorium she has played in many ensembles, completed 8th grade AMEB and was Concertmaster of the Tamworth Regional Youth Orchestra. She has been part of master classes with Richard Gill, Graham Abbott, Goetz Richter and Jennifer Hoy. Her current teacher is Doreen Cumming. January this year saw 18 year old Samara participate in the unforgettable AYO National Music Camp in Adelaide. Last year Samara won the Orange Regional Conservatorium Violin Competition, and was invited to play a solo with the ORC Symphony Orchestra as part of the Symphony in Winter concert series. Samara has returned to Tamworth after the two successful performances and hopes to pursue her passion and make violin playing her career.



Book your tickets now

Frost Fest isn't far away and an amazing concert that will melt the Winter frost is Romance and Rhapsodies, a selective feast from the greatest works written for violin and piano. With reserved seating, it's a good idea to book tickets early at Book City, Summer Street, Orange. The Romance and Rhapsodies concert will be held at the ORC Auditorium at 6.30pm on Friday 31st August.

Events for 2009

July

31st Arts, Health and Wellbeing Symposium (3.00pm) and Romance and Rhapsodies Violin and Piano recital (6.30pm)

August

8th Song Company – Sound and Silence @ ORC
14th Friends Trivia Night @ Gladstone Hotel
28th Hear it on the Grapevine #1

September

4th Slava and Leonard Grigoryan – 7.30pm
4th – 6th SSO Playerlink
11th Adults Ensemble Concert
25th Hear it on the Grapevine #2
26th St.Peters Quartet

October

3rd Mental Health Week opening Concert – Bloomfield Leisure Centre, 7.30pm
11th Mental Health week closing Concert – Bloomfield Leisure Centre, 2.30pm
15th Heavenly Bodies - Galileo and Monteverdi
23rd David Scheel in Concert
24th Orange Swingers Club – step back into the 1930's, the era of swing
30th Hear it on the Grapevine #3 – Purely Piano

November

1st ORC Violin Competition
14th Concerto (OYO) Concert – 7.00pm
15th “ “ Parkes
21st Sweeney Todd in Concert – Orange Civic Theatre

December

5th Farewell 2009 Proms Concert
11th ORC closes for Summer break

We look forward to seeing you at our performances. For more information contact us on 6361 7974, email us at admin@orangecon.org.au or visit www.orangecon.org.au