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To encourage young musicians in the pursuit of excellence and enjoyment in orchestral and ensemble performance

LYRE NOTES

Issue 2

August 2007

PATRON: Councillor Bob La Castra

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Message from The President

The various orchestras of GCYO have been busy over the past month rehearsing and preparing for upcoming performances. It has been great to see the progress of the various groups since the beginning of the year. As always, we try to manage the orchestra so that our young musicians can participate fully in the musical programs without distractions. One recent accomplishment is that we have recruited a new conductor for the Chamber Orchestra, Mr David Slater. David has embraced his new role and the Chamber Orchestra members will certainly enjoy his enthusiasm and direction.

Our Christmas in July performance, dinner and dancing evening was a wonderful success. The food was excellent, the table service by several members of our orchestra was superb, and not enough can be said for the entertainment. The Big Band played wonderfully and really made the evening special for all that attended. Special thanks to Malcolm Wood and all the members of the Big Band for their contributions to the evening. The comments from those attending were all positive and complimentary of the musical talents on display. Also special thanks to the many volunteers that made the evening a success.

Those of us that volunteer our time have all enjoyed the challenges of making the Gold Coast Youth Orchestra something special for all of the young people that are involved. Little is said about the parents and volunteers that work tirelessly behind the scenes. Some of these people are in formal positions within the GCYO but many are not. I would like to thank them all for bringing a quality to the GCYO that few youth organizations can boast. We are looking forward with pride and excitement for the remaining performances for this year.

From Barry Henniger

Special Points of Interest

- The GCYO building was completed in 1992
- It was officially opened by Her Excellency Mrs. Leneen Forde, Governor of Queensland on November 29, 1992
- Jointly owned by GCYO and GCCC (although we have all the responsibility for maintenance and repairs) it will 'officially' be ours after 30 years.

A CONCERT CELEBRATING QUEENSLANDS SENIORS WEEK

"The Time of Your Life"

On behalf of the Nerang Branch of National Seniors we are proud to present:

"BRIDGING THE GAP"

Sunday, 19th August 2007

2.00pm to 4.00pm (doors open at 1.30)

Marquis Ballroom

Crowne Plaza Royal Pines Resort

Ross Street, Ashmore

A fine afternoon of classic and popular tunes

Afternoon tea served

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Adults \$10 Kids \$5

Ph: Margaret on 55943771 or Wendy on 0412047701

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
9.00am—1.00pm

Youth Symphony



The Youth Symphony is practicing in earnest for the next concert at Royal Pines on Sunday 19th August. We have had quite a difficult term with illness and School commitments but the Orchestra is sounding really good.

The Christmas In July event was a great success. Our quartet played well, again with illness among its members and others having to step in at very short notice. We are very grateful for their assistance. The Big Band members played brilliantly and are to be congratulated.

Can we remind our members to check their Emails regarding the Eisteddfod and Concert information. If you are unable to attend rehearsals or performances, we need to know as soon as possible so that we can make other arrangements.

Don't forget to submit your Audition forms as soon as you can.

Kay Cabale

Big Band



Well what a fantastic month we had in July. We Started with a very successful performance at the Marriott for Pindara Private Hospital Medical Ball. Then we followed of course with our own Christmas in July, where we were fortunate enough to be able to make a recording of the performance. This CD will not only help the band members to critique their own performances but will be able to be used gain exposure to the public. And not to mention the promotion of the Gold Coast Youth Orchestra as an organisation. This CD will be available in the upcoming months. We finished the month with the performance at Coomera Anglican College Food And Wine Frolic.

For those that Attended the Christmas in July you would have seen that we have discovered some hidden talents and future performances could hold even more surprises!

Mareike Wszola

Wind Ensemble



In Term 2, Wind Ensemble participated in three major events. The first was the "Movie Magic" concert at the Gold Coast Arts Centre, on the afternoon of 3rd June, in which Wind Ensemble combined with Youth Symphony to provide an enthusiastic audience with some great musical entertainment.

Next came a very busy week, beginning on Sunday, June 17th, when Wind Ensemble visited St.Stephen's college at Coomera, for an all-day "Spotlight on Schools", culminating in a combined concert with the St.Stephen's students at 4pm. It was a very action-packed, enjoyable day for all concerned. Two days later, on Tuesday, 19th June, Wind Ensemble was booked to perform at 7:30pm at the Music Excellence Camp, which was being held at the Tallebudgera Outdoor Recreation Centre. Despite the freezing weather, Wind Ensemble produced some hot sounds to delight the primary-school aged budding musicians attending the camp.

Term 3 now sees Wind Ensemble preparing for their appearance in the Open Section of the Gold Coast Eisteddfod on Friday, August 24th, in a bid to retain their status of overall Champion for 2006, and the winner of the section for the previous three years.

Claire, Christine, and Linda

Little Big Band



Little Big Band have been practicing hard and are now bigger than ever. We recently played at Wintersun where we had people dancing in the streets appreciating our music. We then were invited to play down at Club Banora to a packed house in the Panadus Lounge. The motorized wheelchairs cam from far and near to enjoy the energy and swing sounds of our very own Little Big Band.

Judy

Concert Band



We have been working very hard with String Orchestra at or annual camp and then again with them at the Spotlights.

As for performances we played again at the Wintersun festival in early June, we are now a regular spot on the stage for them and its always great to give them a blast in NSW. We are looking forward to playing at the Bridging the Gap concert before we blow you all away at the annual Gala concert.

Senior Chamber Orchestra



Senior Chamber Orchestra spent most of Term 2 perfecting and polishing their repertoire in anticipation of a performance with The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York. The event was held at The Southport RSL and the evening was a success. Our American visitors played well as did SCO and both ensembles combined to finish off the evening. Our members were once again fine ambassadors for The Gold Coast Youth Orchestra, making the Americans feel very welcome and behaving impeccably in a public venue. Well done SCO!

On August 2nd SCO were engaged to play during The Youth at Risk Alliance Inaugural Conference Dinner, held at Crowne Plaza, Royal Pines. Once again our wonderful kids did a great job providing music to dine to! The organizers of the function were very impressed with our group, particularly their professional attitude. One of the delegates commented that it was wonderful to see a group of young people give up their evening for an organization that assists other less fortunate young people.

September 1st will see SCO playing beautiful music at a local hospital manager's wedding at Robina Golf Club; it should be a great gig in a beautiful garden setting and I know SCO will live up to all expectations.

September 16th sees us at the GCYO for a tutorial with Mr Stephen Chin, one of Brisbane's best music educators and composers. Many of our GCYO members have been adjudicated by Stephen at various eisteddfods or have had him as their AMEB examiner. It should be a very interesting and productive tutorial for SCO.

Term 4 will be spent working hard towards a Concert for family and friends and the GCYO Annual Gala Concert in November.

Dawne Morgan

WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

Firstly we do not teach how to play an instrument; in fact the audition form clearly states that to be eligible *applicants must be amateur players, currently and regularly studying with a professional instrument teacher.*

So what do we do? You need to look at our Mission Statement for the answer to that question. It reads: *To encourage young musicians in the pursuit of excellence and enjoyment in orchestral and ensemble performance.* Whatever that means!

The four key words are... *orchestral and ensemble performance.* That's what we are about. We encourage them to excel and enjoy playing in a group.

Chamber Orchestra



We have experienced an exciting time recently with our new conductor, David Slater, coming on board. David presents an impressive list of accomplishment musically as well as having been heavily involved in Youth Orchestral music in New South Wales for many years. David is also a composer and maybe, just maybe he may be able to write something unique for our group to perform! Good times ahead!

Many, many thanks to Ben Singh for his unceasing efforts for Chamber Orchestra this past year. We really appreciate all you did for us Ben.

We are looking forward to performing with the Sing Australia Choir again for the Seniors' Week concert. The mix of instrument and voice produced at our last concert was tremendous – that's why we're doing it again!

Many of our young performers are in the midst of music exams and preparations for eisteddfod performances too – good luck to you all; relax and play to the best of your ability; because after all, you have been practising at least 20 times a day!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cheers
Lauretta

String Orchestra



What an amazing few months our young String Orchestra has had. Starting off with their first performance for parents and friends at the Youth Orchestra Centre in April, where well over 100 people attended. A few stars shone through with their solo performance.

Our annual camp to Lake Ainsworth in May was also a great success. Together with Concert Band all our musicians had a joyous time and learnt a tremendous amount from our guest tutors.

Then in July we had the Spotlight on Music (tutorial & concert) combined with Concert Band. We ended with an afternoon concert where our young musicians showed everyone their amazing talent.

Our next performance will be at the Crowne Plaza Royal Pines Resort for the 'Bridging of the Gap' Concert on August 19. Together with Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band, Little Big Band and Youth Symphony, it is set to be an exciting musical afternoon. Hope to see you there.

Yours in Music
Chrissie



AUDITIONS 2008

Audition Forms are now available from the Youth Orchestra Centre reception.

Closing date is
Friday, 21st September 2007.

Audition dates are
Wind & Brass - 20th October 2007
Strings - 27th & 28th October 2007.

Become a member and enjoy the magic of being a part of the Gold Coast Youth Orchestra.

Wots happenen in GCYO

- 18 Aug** *BIG BAND* playing Circle On Cavill
- 19 Aug** CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT BAND, LITTLE BIG BAND, STRING ORCHESTRA AND YOUTH SYMPHONY play at the 'Bridging the Gap' concert, Crowne Plaza Royal Pines Resort, Ashmore
- 24 Aug** WIND ENSEMBLE and *BIG BAND* compete at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod
- 1 Sept** CAMERATA at RSL for Kokoda Challenge presentation dinner
- SENIOR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA*— Wedding at Colonial Golf Course
- 22 Sept** CAMERATA Crowne Plaza Royal Pines—Young Achievers
- 30 Sept** CAMERATA Maher Hall Burleigh Theatre Organ Society
- 26 Oct** *BIG BAND* at Marriot for St.Lukes Hospice

Conductor Profile: Snr Chamber Orchestra Ben Singh, M.Mus, Grad.Dep (Perf)

Ben Singh began playing violin at an early age, his interest keenly encouraged by his parents and extended family. Solo repertoire, competitions, orchestral playing and music camps kept him busy in this period of his life.

One completion of his senior school studies and being accepted into the Queensland Conservatorium, Ben also gained entry into the Queensland Youth Orchestra No. 1 now known as the Queensland Youth Symphony Orchestra.

During his undergraduate years, Ben was recipient of prizes including "The Ronald Clifford Davis" violin competition and the Queensland Conservatorium "Chamber music prize". He also ran a successful chamber ensemble "the Notables" entertaining guests in a wide spectrum of events.

Ben's specialization into period performance gained him a Masters degree through the Queensland

Conservatorium. Master-classes with Chiara Banchini, Stanley Richie, and Elizabeth Walfisch served as extension experience throughout this period of his study.

Ben spends his time between conducting the Senior Chamber Orchestra of the GCYO and teaching at his Boutique studio on Chevron Island. He has a particular interest in developing primary and secondary string studies on the Gold Coast. Ben encourages students of varying standards and abilities all to attend orchestra: QYO ensembles, GCYO ensembles, School ensembles and private chamber groups.

Ben enjoys working with young musicians especially those of his Snr Chamber Orchestra with the GCYO.

He looks forward to working with future generations of keen musicians enjoying their pursuit of excellence.



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**www.goldcoastyouth
orchestra.org.au
(Under Construction)**