

LYRE NOTES



.. encouragement
.. enjoyment
.. excellence

Issue 1

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March 2008

OUR PATRON
Councillor Bob La Castra

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Interesting Facts

In 2007 the GCYO ensembles played to a total audience of 19,000 people. What a brilliant achievement.



Office Hours
Tuesday to Thursday
9.00am - 2.00pm

Gold Coast Youth Orchestra Presents

'Beethoven and Beyond'

30th March 2pm at the
Gold Coast Arts Centre

Featuring

Chamber Orchestra
Senior Chamber Orchestra
& Youth Symphony

Tickets available from
GCAC Box Office
5588 4000

Adults \$15.00
Concessions, Children & Students \$10.00
Under 5's FREE

Where better to begin this journey through time visiting popular classics than with the master himself Beethoven.

Once again our talented young musicians have prepared a feast for your enjoyment. So sit back, relax and take your fill of this outstanding collection of classic delights.

*PLEASE DONT FORGET TO BUY A TICKET FOR THIS CONCERT
THE KIDS HAVE WORKED SO HARD & SOUND ABSOLUTELY AMAZING
THEY DESERVE TO PLAY TO A PACKED HOUSE*

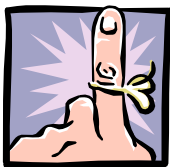
Editor Notes:

The Gold Coast Youth Orchestra has made some changes within the past 6 months.

The first was a brand new logo. After many months of researching and a competition among its members the 2007 President, Barry Henniger and the committee finally agreed on the one you see here today. This logo represents youth, vitality and the Gold Coast. It has certainly taken the GCYO well into the 21st century.

Secondly, our new website was completed and is now up & running. It is a wealth of information to its members, parents, potential members and the community. However, I would like to ask that if you have any pictures available for publication please pass it onto your GA. We need more current pics.




Finally, if you have any ideas on articles to put into the Lyre Notes, I am open to suggestions. Email me on cph09809@bigpond.net.au. Your input is needed.



Forthcoming Events

DATE


WHAT & WHERE

- March 21-24  **EASTER.** There will be **no** Friday night or Saturday morning **rehearsals**
- March 29 Chamber Orchestra pre-concert rehearsal commencing at 4pm
- March 30 *'Beethoven and Beyond'* - Chamber Orchestra, Senior Chamber Orchestra and Youth Symphony will feature in the 1st performance of this year's Concert Series at the GCAC commencing at 2pm
- April 5, 11 & 12  **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.** There will be **no rehearsals** on these days.
- April 20 Big Band together with Little Big Band will be entertaining audiences in the Paradise room at the GCAC.
- April 25  **ANZAC DAY.** There will be **no** Friday night **rehearsals**.
- May 3 Senior Chamber Orchestra Quartet playing a Wedding at Robina Golf Club
- May 10 Chamber Orchestra playing at Earle Haven Retirement Village commencing at 10.30pm
- May 10 Big Band's evening performance at Club Banora
- May 18 *'Spotlight on Schools'* - String Orchestra & Concert Band will have an intensive day of tutorials & rehearsals together with outside young musicians at St. Stephen's College, Coomera

2007 Annual Gala Concert

The Annual Gala Concert held on 3rd November 2007 at the Gold Coast Arts Centre was, once again an enormous success. Our patron, Councillor Bob La Castra was the MC to a full house of family, friends and official dignitaries.

Our young musicians enthusiastically entertained the audience with a variety of music ranging from the classics to big band favourites.

The recipients of the 2008 Bursary Awards  went to:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Aya Shimizu (YS) | Christine Smith MP Excellence Bursary |
| Healthier Skidmore (WE) | GCYO Excellence Bursary |
| Jay-Louise Clark (BB) | GCYO Excellence Bursary |
| Yasmin Loumoli (CB) | Palm Beach/Currumbin Lion's Club Bursary |
| Sophie Mulhall (SCO) | GCYO Excellence Bursary |
| Oasis Nip (CO) | GCYO Excellence Bursary |
| Lorraine Norris (SO) | Southport Lions Club Bursary |

These awards are given to one existing member from each group. The GCYO rewards these outstanding young musicians for their improved musical skills, reliability, good attendance, caring towards others and most of all being a conscientious musician who enjoys rehearsals and loves music.

Congratulations to all winners and we wish them luck in 2008.

Youth Orchestra Centre Opening Times

If you drop off your child for rehearsals, they may have to wait outside **ALONE**, as the building may be closed!

Be advised that the YOC is **NOT** open prior to 4:15pm Friday, 7:45am Saturday & 4:45pm Tuesday.

BE AWARE: Our building is often open but it may be occupied by one of our rehearsal room hirer's. A representative from GCYO is not always present to care for your child.

We care about your young musician. Please read and heed this notice to ensure it is safe to leave your child at the Youth Orchestra Centre building.

General News

Annual General Meeting

The AGM for 2008 was held on Monday, 10th March with the usual regulars attending plus one new parent. It was a relatively short meeting concluding at 8.15pm.

During this time, it was discussed that more members & parents need to become pro-active with the GCYO. Remember that all Office Bearers and Group Administrators are volunteers to the organisation and as the old saying goes 'many hands make light work'. So, if you can help in any way what so ever please put your hand up. We'd love to hear from you.

The 2008 committee was elected and are as follows:

Office Bearers:

President - Mareike Wszola
 Vice President - Jim Hancock
 Treasurer - Dawne Morgan
 Secretary - Lauretta Crepin

Administrators:

Music Director - Bruce Davidson
 Co-ordinator - Wendy Lyon
 Building Mgr/Librarian - Jim Hancock
 Auditor - Peter Wilde

Group Administrators:

Youth Symphony - Kay Cabale
 Wind Ensemble - Abby Foster
 Big Band - Mareike Wszola
 Little Big Band - Judi Grimes
 Concert Band - Kim Morgan
 Snr Chamber Orchestra - Karen Gee
 Chamber Orchestra - Chrissie Phillips
 String Orchestra - Natasha Castelijjn

With the new committee on board we are planning to have a very successful year.

Onto a sad note, one of our longest serving GA's, Christine Boland will no longer be on the committee. She was recruited by Janette Hancock in 1989 when the GCYO was located at Lawson St, Southport. Christine began as Concert Band GA and three years later moved to Wind Ensemble. She had been in that capacity ever since and has never missed a rehearsal. She has seen numerous changes in her time. Many members and committees come and went but her devotion and commitment to the Gold Coast Youth Orchestra is second to none. On behalf of the organisation and all those young musicians she encouraged over the years,



Words from our Music Director

The year of 2007 saw many exciting and important performances and a few changes as well. With the departure of Nicole Spargo and Brie Swindley from String Orchestra we were in a difficult position searching for a replacement. Fortunately Asher Yaniv took on the position with excellent results. Ben Singh kindly stepped into the dual role of conducting Chamber Orchestra and the newly formed Senior Chamber Orchestra until a new conductor was found in the guise of David Slater. As the year drew to a close we learned of the departure of Claire Petherick from Wind Ensemble. We thank Claire for her input into the lives of our young musicians and wish her well for the future. Matthew Armstrong has moved into that position for 2008 and also continues to work with Little Big Band.

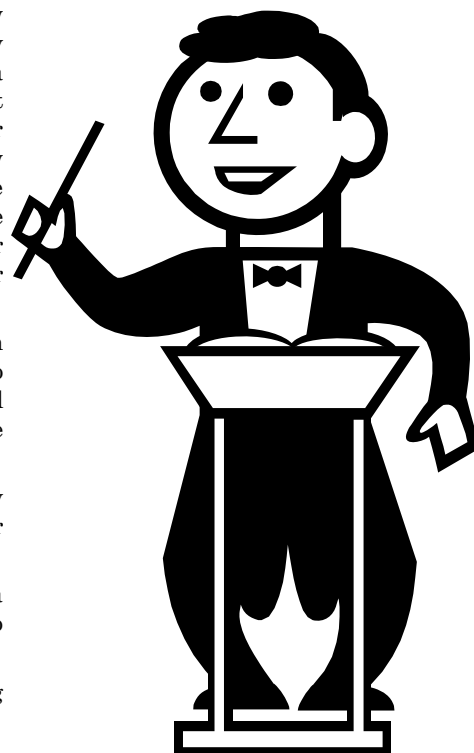
Many performances all over the Gold Coast and beyond could leave no one in doubt as to the vitality and dedication that typifies the young musicians who participate in our programme. A successful "Concert Series" was held throughout the year and laid the foundation for continuing success in the years to come. This "series" included performances by YS, SCO, CO and WE.

Seniors Week was another success story and the response has been very positive to the groups that performed. "Christmas in July" was also another well run event with Big Band performing to a healthy crowd.

Last but not least was the Annual Concert at GCAC where we played to a full audience. This in itself is a great confidence booster and a testament to the increasing popularity of the Gold Coast Youth Orchestra.

With the high calibre of musicians who auditioned for 2008 I am looking forward to an extremely enjoyable and fruitful year.

Bruce Davidson
 (B Mus ATCL)





Youth Symphony

Conductor: Bruce Davidson

Bruce & I are absolutely DELIGHTED with the progress of this years Youth Symphony. We had a great rehearsal at our 'In House' camp and are now well into Beethoven's 1st Symphony in preparation for the March 30 concert.

Attendance is pretty good at present with all members informing us if they are not able to come to rehearsals (great effort Symphony).

We are looking forward to a very successful year of Music.

Kay



Big Band

Conductor: Malcolm Wood

Big Band has so far had very productive at rehearsals mainly due to the fact we have had to have guest bass and drum players. Fortunately it looks as though we have secured a permanent drummer. We have certainly been putting him through rigorous rehearsals.

The gig bookings are starting to come in and we are also promoting LBB as well. Several Big Band members were keen to act as tutors at the LBB workshop; this is a fantastic opportunity for both bands and hopefully it will be the first of many.

We are still discussing entry into the Gold Coast Eisteddfod.

Mareike



Little Big Band

Conductor: Matthew Armstrong

LBB have a total of 28 very keen members who regularly attend practice every Saturday morning. They have music and enthusiasm coming out of their ears and they love every moment of it.

We had a tutorial session on 1st March where members of the Big Band lead the LBB members towards excellence.

On the 16th March a storm was brewing and the masses flocked from far and wide to see our very own LBB perform a repertoire of Jazz at the Pandanus Lounge, Club Banora. The 10.30 performance was warmed up by the singing delights of Ms Danielle Goulet. She then handed over the stage singing a parody of Alexanders Rag Time Band (changed to Matt's Gold Coast Little Big Band). The room was full as our power house jazz rockers wowed their captivated audience with a 45 minute set. This included solos from Julian on saxophone, Thomas on tenor saxophone, William on trumpet and Lucas on Trombone. Some of the members stayed back after the performance for lunch at the club and were continually being approached from audience members with accolades and words of encouragement. Matt was proud of his mini musicians, and so he should be, they sounded great. This is both a credit to him and the guidance from their dedicated big band mentors tutelage.

Our next exciting gig, together with Big Band is on 20th April at GCAC in the Paradise Room. Hope to see you all there.

Judi



Wind Ensemble

Conductor: Matthew Armstrong

This year's Wind Ensemble is an extremely young group with only a handful of experienced members. It will take us a little bit longer, than past years, to be ready for performances but I am confident that the group will excite audiences next term.

The Beenleigh and Gold Coast Eisteddfods are on our agenda, which is really promising.

Our rehearsals have been going well and we are all looking forward to a successful year in 2008.

Christine




Concert Band

As the weeks fly by, the members of Concert Band are steadily improving and becoming a cohesive group. This is in large, partly due to the camp held at Lake Ainsworth, in which the String and Chamber Orchestras also attended. The wonderful sound produced by the three groups on the Sunday was testament to the hard work put in by the young musicians, conductors and tutors in rehearsal and tutorial sessions.


Despite all the hard work, there was playtime with beach games, morning beach walks, swimming and a video night. Well done to all involved in organising and assisting with the camp.

If the enthusiasm of members at the camp is any indicator, then I look forward to an exciting year ahead of hard work and great results under the guiding hand of our conductor, Jamie for 2008.

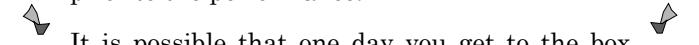
Kim Morgan




WHY WAIT!



 If you intend to go to the 'Beethoven & Beyond' concert why have the angst of queuing at the Box Office just before it is due to start? You know you don't have to suffer this anguish as bookings can be made by phone direct with the Arts Centre and the tickets can be collected on the day. The box office is also open 2 hours prior to the performance.



 It is possible that one day you get to the box office with minutes to spare only to discover we are sold out! This notion may seem far fetches, however we are developing a strong loyal following, and with every performance this following grows. It grows through word of mouth because, as you already know, our young musicians are FANTASTIC. So please do not take the chance of missing your child perform, get in early and reserve the best seats in the house.





Senior Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Ben Singh

Senior Chamber Orchestra has spent this first term working extremely hard on their piece for the *'Beethoven & Beyond'* concert at the Gold Coast Arts Centre on 30th March. Their Beethoven selection is "Romance" with Ben Singh playing Violin solo and Bruce Davidson conducting. To make sure their performance will be perfect extra rehearsals were held earlier this month. Nicole Spargo was invited to work with the Cello & Brass sections.

SCO has been asked to supply a quartet for a wedding in May at the Colonial Gold Club, Robina. This enquiry came through our new website. This is great news.

I have stepped down as GA this year to take on the role as Treasurer for the GCYO and it gives me great delight to welcome Karen Gee as the Group Administrator for 2008. Karen has 2 sons, Daniel & Mathew, who have been involved in the GCYO for many years, so she knows how we operate.

There are a few activities planned for the next couple of terms and any help from parents would be appreciated. Please let Karen know if you are able to assist her.

Dawne



Snr Chamber Rehearsal



String Orchestra

The String Orchestra has finally started to settle in with 74% of the group being new members to the GCYO. This is great to see!

Unfortunately, we did lose a few members due to increased school commitments or the unhappiness of orchestral placement. Perhaps there are some young musicians who would still like to join? It is not too late. So if you know of a string player who might like to become a member, please get them to phone the office now.

The annual camp held at Lake Ainsworth on the weekend of 22-24 February was a terrific introduction to the year. Strings together with Chamber Orchestra and Concert Band all had an intensive weekend of rehearsals & tutorials but still had heaps of time for fun, which certainly brought everyone together.

Natasha Castelijn has stepped into the role as SO Group Administrator for 2008 as I have now moved over to Chamber Orchestra. She will be a great asset to the group.

Chrissie



Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: David Slater

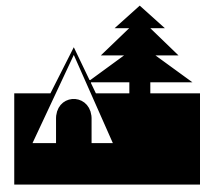
The musicians from Chamber started the year a bit shaky but after joining Concert Band and String Orchestra to the Lake Ainsworth camp they have come together beautifully. They are busily rehearsing for the 1st concert series at the GCAC which should prove to be an exciting afternoon.

I have stepped down as GA this year to take on the role as Secretary for the GCYO. Chrissie Phillips, who was String Orchestra GA for 2007 has now moved into this position.

We have some unfortunate news in that our Conductor, David Slater will be leaving the Gold Coast due to family reasons. The GCYO family thanks David for his contribution and wishes him all the best in his future endeavours.

This will be a little unsettling for the group but I am sure our new conductor will see the year through without a hiccup.

Lauretta



LAKE AINSWORTH CAMP

This year's music camp to Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (just south of Byron Bay) was an **"absolutely awesome"** weekend. Taking kids between the ages of 8-16 yrs from String Orchestra, Concert Band and, for the first time, Chamber Orchestra was certainly a challenging experience for the GA's and parental chaperones. Our young musicians started out as strangers on Friday night and ended up being great friends by Sunday afternoon.

The music side of the camp was quite intensive and the hot weather did not help but a few hours in the pool Saturday afternoon certainly cooled everyone down. The GA's had a terrific support team of parents chaperoning, who, without them we couldn't have achieved such a successful afternoon or for that fact the entire weekend.

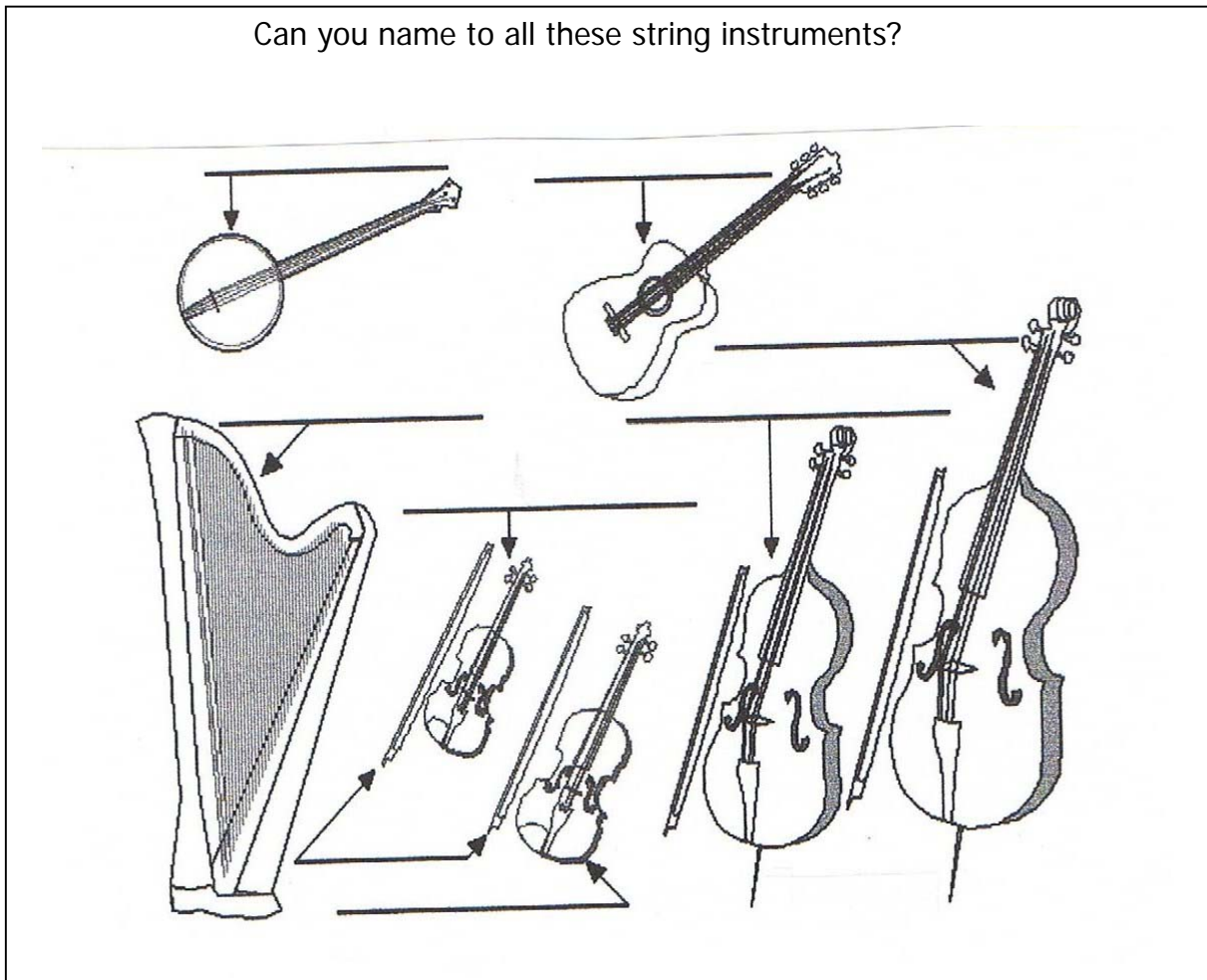
Saturday night was video night with the feature film being "Ratatouille", although many tired musicians did not make it to the end of the film.

Early Sunday morning was spent at the beach playing games which included beach cricket, football, hula hooping and an excellent sand castle competition. I never realised we had so many potential sculptures and artists.

The final rehearsal prior to leaving the campsite was quite moving, especially when all the groups combined to play some overwhelming music. It was then I realised that many parents missed out on such a beautiful event.

It was terrific seeing the kids come home with a huge smile on their face telling their parents, how much of a great time they had and that they can't wait till next year's camp.

Fun & Games



JOKES OF THE MONTH:

Q: Why did Mozart get rid of his chickens?

A: They kept saying "Bach, Bach"!

Q: What type of music are balloons scared of?

A: Pop Music!

Gold Coast Youth Orchestra Sponsors & Supporters:



Christine Smith MP



Southport & Palm Beach/Currumbin