



BReef Notes

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Andrew Ryder

As we rush headlong into the end of 2015 I would like to take stock of the year. But before I do there is another concert on our door step. The programme is a thrilling mix that will tickle the tastebuds of all. In particular we are revisiting Beethoven 5, first movement under the direction and creativity of conductor Mark Sheill. One might think I have heard this all before but I can promise you this is something not to be missed. All our musicians were on the edge of their chairs and clinging to their musical technique as they plunged feet first into the depths of the rehearsal with Mark on his last visit a few weeks ago. Still more exciting pieces to surprise and delight you will be set free at this concert.

For the already diminishing past that was 2015 the Orchestra has taken part in several concerts by request. These concerts have exposed a different audience to the talents of BRO and may have secured a new audience not seen at our scheduled performances. These requests seem to be coming in from all directions, not surprisingly we cannot meet them all. On the horizon for 2016 will be our regular trio of concerts and a possible performance at the T150 concert mooted for April next year. Exciting times ahead; see you all in at the next concert and in 2016.

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to the committee for 2015 which continues to drive the BRO organisation forward. Having a functional, motivated and skilled committee travelling with you on the journey always makes for an enjoyable trip. *Seasons greeting to all!!* (If I could sing this bit I would. I will leave it up to your imagination.)

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We wish to thank our benefactors for their generous support:

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The Barrier Reef Orchestra's final concert for 2015 is A Musical Feast—Saturday 7 November at 7.30pm.

The conductor is Mark Shiell making a return visit to Townsville. The concert will include music from many different composers including Bach, Brahms and Strauss and will feature soprano, Julie O'Connor who will sing numbers from Puccini and Dvorak.



Dynamic conductor Mark Shiell's passionate music making invigorates audiences and musicians.

Currently Mark serves as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Zelman Symphony Orchestra, the Ballarat Symphony and the Macquarie Philharmonia.

His love of community and youth music has kept him busy contributing to the growth and development of important initiatives in both of these areas here in Australia. Most recently, Mark developed a Regional Orchestra Weekend for ensembles from across Victoria to meet and perform together, with the aim to make this an annual event.

Shiell is also passionate about the education and training of future conductors, and has been frequently involved as a guest teacher of the Masters of Conducting students at the Melbourne Conservatorium in 2015.

Mark Shiell has guest conducted ensembles including the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, West Australian Symphony, Moscow Symphony Orchestra, State Academic Symphony Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Victorian Opera, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Sinfonia, Melbourne Youth Orchestra, University of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestras of the State Music Camps in Melbourne and Adelaide.



Julie O'Connor – Soprano

Our soloist, Julie O'Connor comes from Young N.S.W. She has performed many lead roles in musical theatre including Mabel in 'The Pirates of Penzance', Laurie 'Oklahoma', Guinevere 'Camelot' and Cosette in Les Misérables. She has worked closely with conductor Mark Shiell on a number of projects in recent years, including as a soloist in Handel's 'Messiah' with the Canberra Concerto Orchestra and in Melbourne's 'Summer Music Series' with the Zelman Symphony Orchestra.

Julie's strengths are in her ability to communicate with her audience and an ability to touch people's emotions. Her versatility is also displayed as she performs in a four part vocal harmony group, singing a wide range of styles including light jazz, gospel, celtic and classical.

Her first operatic role was as Despina in Mozart's 'Cosi Fan Tutte' with the Macquarie Philharmonia and followed it up this year, playing the role of Micaela in the Ballarat Symphony Orchestra's concert production of 'Carmen'. She performed popular Arias at 'Opera At The Dish' in Parkes and toured inland centres of NSW on 'The Bellini To Broadway' tour.

Most recently she appeared at the 'The Symphony of Australia' concert in Mayfield Gardens, Oberon, NSW for Bathurst's 200 year celebration.

2014 Barrier Reef Orchestra Encouragement Award Winners were Olivia Adcock (Double Bass and Flute) and Bianca Bacchiella (Violin and Bassoon).



Olivia (left) and Bianca (right) at the SXS Music School

A condition of the Award was for the winners to tell us how they spent the \$500 awarded to them.

Hello, my name is Olivia Adcock, and I was one of the recipients for a BRO Encouragement Award for 2014. I am very grateful to have received this Encouragement Award from BRO, and am keen to put the money to good use. As I don't currently own my own instrument (I play double bass), I have been saving up for a number of years to purchase my own, and this \$500 will go towards the cost of buying a double bass.

It has given me a great boost in the direction of owning a double bass, and is a great opportunity I am thankful to have been given.

Yours, Olivia Adcock



Ashley and Tania from Southern Cross Soloists with Bianca

I would like to thank the Barrier Reef Orchestra for giving me this Encouragement Award. The Encouragement award was very helpful for me because it allowed me to travel and meet wonderful musicians and also to make friends with similar interests.

The Barrier Reef Orchestra has been not only a great way to spend my Thursday nights, but also a golden opportunity that has helped me experience orchestral music in a way that I otherwise might not have.

The photograph above is of me, Ashley Smith, clarinetist, the Head of Woodwind at the University of Western Australia and a member of the Southern Cross Soloists, who I met at the UWA Summer School in Perth at the end of last year and also at the SXS Music School in Brisbane, and Tania Fraser, oboist and Creative Director of the Southern Cross Soloists who I worked with at the SXS Music School.

Thanks again, Bianca Bacchiella

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REVIEWS.....

World Music was a breath of fresh air to Townsville music lovers who had just about reached classical music saturation following AFCM.

Andrew Ryder poured his expertise and enthusiasm into this opportunity provided through Townsville City Council sponsorship. Andrew developed the concept for the concert; sourced the music which involved him personally arranging some of the music; liaising with the professional performers; and rehearsing and conducting the Barrier Reef Orchestra.

The performance delighted more than one sense through the visual backdrop showing scenery pertinent to the music and the amazing musical sound evoking toe tapping, clapping, singing and sheer enjoyment.

The world tour began with David Hudson on didgeridoo, guitar and vocals synchronising with the visual backdrop to grab the audiences' attention, performing the popular John Williamson ballad Raining on the Rock. The tour continued through Korea and Cuba courtesy of a quality Barrier Reef Orchestral performance. Next, virtuosic Domenico Taraborrelli on piano accordion and vocalist Adam Lopez, supported by the Orchestra, engaged the audience with Latin American pieces. Unfortunately the balance was a little off, with the soloists being much louder.

The second half began with the Barrier Reef Orchestra creating an American theme through Aaron Copland before heading off to Europe with the Orchestra supporting Domenico once again in Italy, John Ferguson on bagpipes with vocalist Cynthia Clark in Scotland and Adam Lopez in Spain.

The tour aptly returned to Australia with all the soloists returning to the stage to present a rousing and emotive performance of I am Australian.

This very enjoyable performance once again demonstrated the talented people choosing to live in Townsville and able to produce such a high class production, equal to anywhere. This was reinforced by the willingness of quality professional musicians to come to Townsville and perform with the Barrier Reef Orchestra. I feel certain if more was known about the concert the Civic Theatre would easily have been at capacity.

Reviewed by Helen Land

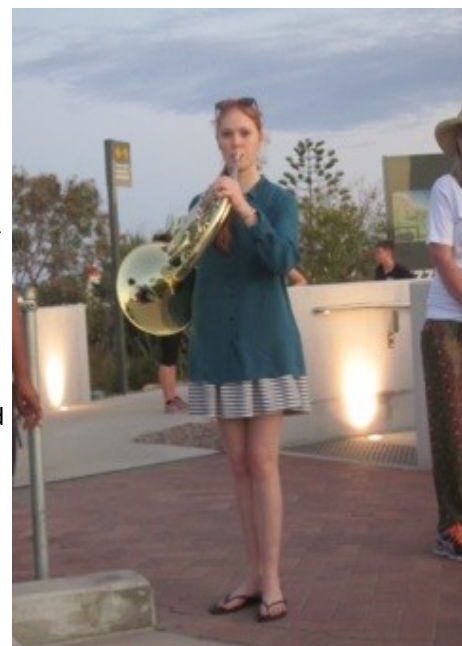


Twilight was a community project to mark the 30th birthday of Dance North. The theme of the performance was sensing sea, sky and earth through connection with place. It involved over 150 performers over more than 14 locations on the beautiful headland at Jezzine. It was a performance in motion with the audience moving from one location to the next shepherded by volunteer guides.



The performance began before sunset and continued while the sun went down and the horizon changed colour. The later stations were lit by candles and lighting concealed in the vegetation.

Performances ranged from the Brass members of the Barrier Reef Orchestra who could be found at several stations, through school dance students, to the Forever Young over 60s. It included Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance and music groups, Kith and Kin, Aquapella, who had just returned from a successful tour to Europe, WASSA, our African drummers and Teepee Parkour who leapt over walls and stairs and were accompanied by Boris doing amazing stunts of his lit up bicycle.



In perhaps a first for Townsville one section of the show involved a mobile phone orchestra. The audience were encouraged to download an app on which original music had been recorded and the audience played this on their phones to accompany a recorder solo.

The finale was with the dancers from Dance North and the BRO Brass playing original music composed by the Musical Director, Ng Chor Guan from Malaysia. Guan had composed almost all the music for the production. The overall Artistic and Creative Direction was in the hands of Cheryl Stock AM who was the founding Artistic Director of Dance North from 1985 to 1996.

Reviewed by Judy Hunter photographs taken by Gai Copeman