



BReef Notes

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Andrew Ryder

I write this report the morning after the stunning success of the Orchestra's performance at the AFCM free concert in Queens Gardens on Sunday 2nd of August. Ably assisted by the 1RAR Band and special guests Ben Jacks (Sydney Symphony principal horn), Camerata of St John's Chamber Strings and world renowned soprano Cheryl Barker with guest conductor Nicholas Daniel.

The concert was attended by an audience in excess of 4000 who rose to their feet on the completion of the finale Tchaikovsky *1812 Overture Op.49* in appreciation. This was possibly the first time the BRO has performed outdoors which involved a tremendous amount of logistics and planning. I extend a huge thanks to our logistics team Noel Price, Ben Fixter and Sally Frewen-Lord. This concert was a step up from the usual indoor concert and I am pleased to say they all rose to the occasion. Sally deserves a special mention with her ability to find and corral the musicians to be in the right place at the right time, never an easy task!! To all of our musicians, ably lead by concertmaster Stephen Frewen-Lord, thank you for your sterling efforts which the bedrock of all of our

concerts are built on. I hope you enjoyed the occasion as much as I did.

I spoke with the Mayor of Townsville Jenny Hill and Jeff Jimmeson after the event and they left me with the distinct impression this would not be the last of such an event. Stepping back from the concert itself which is reviewed in this newsletter, it is significant to acknowledge the BRO's continued participation in major events *via* invitation. This is a hallmark of our 15th year anniversary, with the next performance at the Townsville Civic Theatre on Saturday 5th September, a result of the Council requesting a concert in the Civic as part of their 2015 season. I can report we are all working hard to bring this special concert to fruition. Featuring music from around the world and some special guests, Adam Lopez (vocalist), and David Hudson (didgeridoo and vocals) and an accordionist from Brisbane, Domenico Taraborrelli, plus a piper. I hope you are getting a feel for the concert. Hope to see you and your friends at this very special concert. Now for me back to some more score study and rehearsals with our wonderful Orchestra.



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LIFE MEMBERSHIPS ANNOUNCED

AT 2015 AGM

ALAN NIXON

Alan has been Secretary of North Queensland Ensembles Inc. /Barrier Reef Orchestra for eight years.

He is a former Commonwealth Government officer mainly in the Commonwealth Employment Service and prior to retirement he was



the Department's Zone Manager for North Queensland. This expertise has served the Orchestra well as Alan has facilitated North Queensland Ensembles becoming incorporated and was also Secretary at the time when we employed our first Orchestra Manager.

Alan has a background in community service having been a member of both Australian Jaycees and Rotary. He has also had long experience as an actor, producer and Committee member with several little theatre groups across the State.

Photographs: Alan Nixon, Jacinta Payne and Stephen Frewen-Lord receiving their Life Memberships at the May 2015 Annual General Meeting

JACINTA PAYNE

Jacinta has been part of the Orchestra from the beginning when she played 1st Clarinet in the first performance on Sunday, 29th October 2000.



She has been on the management

committee and was a voluntary manager of the Orchestra. Jacinta has had the task of being Rehearsal Conductor on many occasions and conducted a performance in 2004. Over the years, through her teaching she has been able to encourage many players to join the Orchestra and has mentored many young woodwind players.

STEPHEN FREWEN-LORD

Stephen has been involved with the Barrier Reef Orchestra since its inception; having played as concert master in the orchestra's inaugural concert in 2000. Since then, he has missed only a



couple of Barrier Reef Orchestra concerts, and has been concert master for most concerts. When not rehearsing with the BRO, Stephen is involved in a number of ensembles around Townsville. He manages and plays with the *Melaleuca String Quartet*, directed *Strings Non Troppo*, and plays in *Double Play* – a guitar/violin duo. Stephen has had regular involvement with the *Mulkadee Arts Festival*, and performs regularly in community events such as *Eco Fiesta*, *Riverfest*, *Heritage Day* and *Stable on the Strand*.

In his role as concert master over the past 15 years, Stephen has enjoyed many discussions with guest conductors concerning the artistic direction of the orchestra. As a string teacher, he has encouraged many young string players to become regular members of the orchestra. Stephen loves his involvement with the orchestra, and is delighted to be joined by young players who share his passion for music. Stephen is looking forward to passing on the baton to the next BRO concert master!

REVIEW – AFCM 25th Anniversary Celebration Concert—Helen Land

A very pleasant Sunday afternoon in Queens Gardens was attended by approximately four thousand satisfied music lovers. This free concert organised to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the AFCM was also a fitting opportunity for BRO to celebrate its 15th Anniversary with its first ever outdoor public performance.

The tastes of all music lovers was satiated. The concert opened with the ceremonial and pompous Brass composition by Aaron Copland titled Fanfare for the Common Man, followed by the equally ceremonial Imperial March by William Walton. Genuine fun and musical camaraderie emanated from the performance by Camerata of St Johns with their virtuosic classical performance. In addition they ably accompanied Amy Dickson in her flawless saxophone performance with her distinctive tone clearly displaying the reason she is sought after around the world.

1RAR Big Band played to the high standard Townsville with which audiences are familiar. They had the audience tapping their feet to their musical and vocal compositions. Cheryl Barker's powerful soprano rang across the park and most likely was heard on Castle Hill as she sang two arias accompanied by BRO and conducted by UK conductor Nicholas Daniel.

The finale of the afternoon which included musicians from all three ensembles was the 1812 Overture. It was delightful to see the audience enthusiastically participate in this finale. This pleasant afternoon can only be rated as a huge success and may prove to be the first of many performances in years to come.



Helen performing with the BRO in Queens Gardens

Conducting Workshop

At the end of May I did a two day conducting workshop with Raymond Yong. This was my second year taking part in this most amazing course. Not having many conducting skills it was fantastic to be taught from the very basic steps and this year we even ventured into choir. There were about 10 of us doing the course all at various levels.



Workshop presenter Raymond Yong (left) suggests conducting hand movements to Damien Hill with Peter Carmen (Guest Tenor) singing a vocal excerpt. Guest Soprano Kelly Wilson sitting far right waiting her turn to sing.

Some seasoned veterans, and some newbies who had no conducting experience. Raymond gave us all some excerpts from different pieces eg *Beethoven's 5th* and we had to write it out in four parts, we all brought our instruments and each person would take it in turn to conduct.

We learned so much, how to start (always a good thing), how to do pauses, eye contact, dead beats, tempo changes, different time signatures, in fact he did every time signature known to me eg 5/8 going into 7/8 and back to ¾. This year Raymond had a Soprano and a Tenor singing *Comfort Ye* from *Handel's Messiah* and a Recitative from Mozart's *"The Marriage of Figaro"*, that was fun.

At the end of the two days my conducting knowledge was 100% better than it was. I am now looking forward to Celebration of Strings with a lot more confidence and excitement, and hanging out for next year's course.

Carole Radovanovic

Credit for Photographs on page 1—thank you to Noel Anthony of Wild Gravity www.wildgravity.com.au

Conductor Andrew Ryder at AFCM concert with the Barrier Reef Orchestra

NEXT BRO CONCERT

World Music Concert – Saturday 5 September @8pm Townsville Civic Theatre

As you travel the globe one of the standout features of so many different countries is undoubtedly their music. This concert saves on the shoe leather and brings an eclectic mix of music from all over the world to Townsville.

A unique performance conceptualised and developed here in Townsville by the Barrier Reef Orchestra highlighting the stunning diversity of cultural music from around the globe. Featuring the Orchestra and several international artists performing music from Asia, the Americas, the British Isles, Europe and of course Australia. So pack away the passport take the trip of a life time and never leave home. Join Townsville's very own Barrier Reef Orchestra in their 15th year for a World Music Concert.

North Queensland Ensembles Inc BARRIER REEF ORCHESTRA

BENEFACTORS' ROLL

We wish to thank our benefactors for their generous support:

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Become a Orchestra Benefactor and assist Townsville's Community Orchestra with your personal and publicly acknowledged support which encourages others to do the same. For more information see the application form [available on website]

ORCHESTRA MEMBER

What a variety of talent we have in BRO, not only in the music field. A member of the first violins, **Satoshi Shiratsuchi**, was born in 1994 on the Gold Coast. He lived there



for 18 years before leaving his family, including his two older brothers and an identical twin brother, and moving to Townsville in 2012. He first took up learning the violin, with his twin brother learning the cello, while at school on the Gold Coast under their teacher, Helen Hurst, and has now acquired the qualifications of A. MUS.A, ATCL, and Grade 5 Theory. Satoshi joined BRO at the start of 2012, and thoroughly enjoys the experience, particularly when we play his favourite Beethoven.

However, his other love is his study of Marine Biology at JCU, where he has completed his Bachelor Degree (3 years) and is involved in one year of Research. He was greatly thrilled to embark on two months of research on reef fish in PNG. Naturally, his main hobby is Scuba Diving, but he also enjoys rugby league and indoor soccer. He also loves surfing and snowboarding, although these activities are difficult to do in Townsville. Satoshi's greatest music experience has been to be involved in the MOST music camp in Brisbane, with his brother on the cello, lasting 12 days, open to all Queensland Public Schools. The grand finale was playing as an orchestra in QPAC. He also there met many other young musicians from North Queensland who also now play in the BRO.

[Thank you to Ron Piper for his continued contribution and support of the Barrier Reef Orchestra Newsletter]

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