



**BARRIER REEF
ORCHESTRA**

BReef Notes

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No. 1 FEBRUARY — 2016

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Conductor Mark Sheill with members of the Barrier Reef Orchestra's final concert for 2015 *A Musical Feast* [photographer: Cam Leitch]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Andrew Ryder

Welcome to 2016 which is going to be a stellar year for your Orchestra. Already we have our three major concerts which will include opera, featuring Paul Tabone born in Ingham, but now working the international stage as a tenor based in Italy. Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.2 featuring last year's winner of the instrumental section of the ACVC, Arthur Athan. Our opening performance titled *Dreams and Dances* is sure to have some favourites such as *Afternoon of a Fawn* by Debussy. We are also pleased to be part of the Townsville 150 Concert where we will share the stage with the likes of David Campbell, Luke Kennedy, Bronwyn Douglas and the 1 RAR Band just to name a few of the guests. We will be back to Queens Gardens for a repeat performance as part of AFCM due to the huge popularity of last year's concert. All of these performances are ably managed by our Orchestra Manager, Sally Frewen-Lord and the wonderful team that is your committee.

As we look forward to the next milestone for the Orchestra in 2020 it is worthwhile to reflect on the development and struggles the BRO has endured. It is through the Townsville Council's financial support that started the ball rolling and assisted with seed funding that has allowed BRO to develop to where it is today. Initially, this funding represented the majority of the turnover for BRO. Through the hard work of the committee and the musicians the Council funding is now around 20% of the turnover. In my opinion this is a substantial move forward and shows the Council's support is well founded and supported by the public attendance at our concerts. It is crucial that the support from the Council be maintained into the future to assist BRO to grow. The funding is not taken as a given and we must all do our bit to let the Council know how important it is to continue the development of BRO for Townsville audiences and local musicians. I urge all members to make this point as often and as loudly as you can to ensure the Council knows it is getting value for money and meeting the needs of the community.

Finally, the AGM is soon to be upon us and there will be some vacancies on the committee. My reign of terror will be coming to an end as I will be stepping down, so we will be looking for a new President. I am flagging this now to allow the search to begin for the next President. I can assure any prospective nominees that they will find a willing and dynamic committee at their disposal and a myriad of challenges just waiting to be resolved. I can highly commend this position and would be pleased to speak to anyone considering the position. See you all at the launch.

Barrier Reef Orchestra

2016 Concert Season

Dreams and Dances

Tuesday 8th March 7.30 pm

Townsville Civic Theatre

Conductor: Richard McIntyre

Twilight Classics

Sunday 17th July 5 pm

Townsville Civic Theatre

Conductor: Mario Dobering

Featuring ACVC 2015 Winner Arthur Athan playing
Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.2

Barrier Reef Orchestra goes to the Opera

Saturday 22nd October 7.30 pm

Townsville Civic Theatre

Sunday 30th October 3pm

Ingham Town Hall

Conductor: Lieutenant Colonel Craig Johnson

Featuring Paul Tabone (Ingham, now Italy) and
Friends

Also playing in:

T150 Anniversary Concert

Townsville Civic Theatre, 2nd April 7.30 pm

AFCM Queens Gardens Concert

Queens Gardens, 31st July 3 pm

NORTH QUEENSLAND ENSEMBLES INC.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2015-16

Patron:	Vacant
President:	Andrew Ryder
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Committee:	Gai Copeman Suzanne Darrigan Simon McConnell Helen Land Marg Naylor Ron Piper Noel Price
Orchestra Manager:	Sally Frewen-Lord
Newsletter Editor:	Marg Naylor

Please note the Annual General Meeting of the North Queensland Ensembles Inc. Barrier Reef Orchestra will be held on Saturday 7 May, 2016 followed by a forum. Notice will be sent out to all members in due course.

Congratulations Florence!

Congratulations to Florence Cappler-Shillington (violin) from Pimlico State High School who has won this year's Townsville City Council and AFCM Theodore Kuchar Scholarship worth \$4000. Also a big thank you to all the students who auditioned. The panel of judges were again thrilled at the high standard as well as the musical talents and aspirations of the Townsville students.



ORCHESTRA MEMBER

Why is it that just when we get to know and like some orchestra members, they up and leave us? Such is the case with our principal cellist, **Rachel Lind**, who played in her last concert with us in November. Rachel was born and bred in Aberdeen, Scotland, where she began learning the cello at 7 years old. As well as her local teacher Hilary Cromar, she had the benefit of studying once a month with visiting Professor from London, James Halsey. At 16 she passed her ABRSM Grade 8 with distinction. She developed her orchestral experience with the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland, under the baton of several well-known

names including Garry Walker and Martyn Brabbins, eventually leading the 'cello section of NYOS Senior orchestra. With NYOS she was lucky enough to tour in Europe several times and played at the London Proms in 2003.

Rachel went on to study medicine at Aberdeen University and qualified as a doctor in 2009, moving to Edinburgh to start work as an Intern. In September 2011, she migrated to Townsville to work in the Emergency Department at the Townsville Hospital. She didn't forget music though, joining BRO straight away and also the Australian Doctors' Orchestra. Now after 4 years in tropical Queensland she is moving to Melbourne to continue her training in Emergency Medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital where she will also continue to play with the ADO and the Victorian Medical Orchestra: Corpus Medicorum. As well as music Rachel enjoys staying fit, SCUBA diving, visiting her big brother in Brisbane and spending time with her rescue dog Ruby. Good luck for the future, Rachel.

We will miss you.

Our next performance is —***Dreams and Dances***—Tuesday 8th March at 7.30 pm at the Townsville Civic Theatre.

Richard McIntyre OAM has maintained a long and distinguished career as bassoonist, music educator, conductor and arranger. A Composition graduate from Sydney University, he was appointed Associate Principal Bassoon with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as a 20-year-old in 1968, moving to The Canberra School of Music as a foundation member of the Canberra Wind Soloists in 1978. With this renowned quintet, he recorded and toured internationally during a 30-year period, and gave it a unique repertoire with his virtuoso arrangements of large-scale orchestral works. He was for many years Principal Bassoon with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and appeared on many occasions as guest Principal Bassoon with most of the Symphony Australia Orchestras - also as concerto soloist, and independently as a recitalist. His continuing work as Principal Bassoon with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra dates back to student days of 1965 - 67. If you'd like to hear some of his work as bassoonist, chamber musician, and arranger, you'll find it on YouTube under Canberra Wind Soloists.



Simultaneously, he has sustained a career as one of Australia's most respected bassoon teachers, at all levels from beginner to post-graduate and professional. In addition he has worked tirelessly in the development of orchestral and ensemble skills with students of all instruments, particularly at the advanced tertiary level. He was for many years a regular tutor and conductor at the Australian Youth Orchestra's National Music Camps. He has taught over many years in south-east Asia.

His work as a conductor is well-known, particularly in Canberra. He was Conductor and Musical Director of the Canberra Youth Orchestra from 1980 - 1990, greatly broadening its repertoire and general endeavour, and led it on three highly-successful and widely-acclaimed European tours. His Canberra contribution has included development of and much work with the School of Music Orchestra, Canberra Opera, Canberra Philharmonic Society, thirteen-years as Musical Director of The Llewellyn Choir (with development of its accompanying professional ensemble, The Canberra Chamber Orchestra), and three years as Musical Director of The Oriana Chorale.

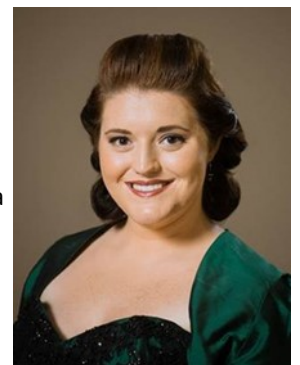
His numerous conducting activities outside of Canberra have included the foundation and development of the Barrier Reef Orchestra, with which he continues his association as Artistic Advisor and frequent conductor.

His 35-year career at the Canberra (now ANU) School of Music played a significant part in the creation of its erstwhile international reputation. Awards have included 1986 Canberran of the Year, *Advance Australia*, *Sounds Australian*, and *National Critics' Circle* awards. In 1992 he was granted an Order of Australia Medal, for services to Music and Music Education, particularly for his work with the Canberra Youth Orchestra. In 2013, he was elected President of the Australian Double Reed Society.

Bronwyn Douglass to perform at Townsville 150 Concert

Bronwyn is a Mezzo-soprano who comes from Milton on the coast of NSW. She is currently the holder of the Amelia Joscelyne Memorial Schoarship with the Dame Nellie Melba Trust. Bronwyn graduated with a Masters in Operatic Performance from the Queensland Conservatorium in 2014, also receiving an award for Academic Excellence and the Wagner Society Encouragement Award. She attended the Lisa Gasteen National Opera School from 2013 – 2015 as well as undertaking the Mediterranean Opera Studio Programme held in Caltagirone in Sicily.

Bronwyn has performed many operatic roles in Queensland and New South Wales. She has also performed as the Alto Soloist for the Queensland Symphony Orchestra for their 2015 Performance of the Messiah and in Vivaldi's Gloria for the 4MBS Festival of classics in 2014. Bronwyn has received many awards, a Finalist in the Sun aria in 2015, winner of the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Aria in 2015. She has also been placed in several competitions. In 2015 she was awarded the Champion of Champions Vocal Soloist at the North Queensland Eisteddfod and that year also won the Open Vocal Solo at the Australian Concerto and Vocal Competition. As part of that award she is here with us at the T150 Concert to sing with the Barrier Reef Orchestra.



Review: *A Musical Feast* 7th November 2015 Townsville Civic Theatre

A musical feast was somewhat of a fabulous dinner dance with four lively dances of the Slavonic and Hungarian kind included.

The opening *Slavonic Dances Numbers 1 and 8* by Anton Dvorak were an indication of the feast to follow. The rhythm and exuberance was conveyed so well we didn't need to actually see the dancers performing those tricky steps. Brahms Hungarian dances which lead the second part of the program were similarly very lively and invigorating; Brahms used folk songs extensively in these pieces and while being no expert I felt quite a bit of gypsy music infiltrated them.

N.S.W Soprano, Julie O'Connor sang four of the most beautiful songs in the repertoire. Her voice was pure and very versatile in the range of notes required. She also had the best facial and hand gestures I have seen which really enhances the enjoyment of the music. Many singers, whilst having a great voice, tend to be wooden in gesture and stance. The Orchestra was very much part of the song, never intruding but always asserting its contribution to the overall beauty of the music.

In this 150 anniversary year of Sibelius *Finlandia* was a joy to hear again. This became Finland's unofficial anthem during the independence war against Russia (played under a variety of names so as to not to antagonise the aggressors) in the 1890's and is very stirring.

My friend commented that "The BRO's interpretation under Mark Shiell's baton was crisp, and the move from the dark, atmospheric mood to the lighter song or hymn seemed startling, this was done so beautifully and effortlessly. As a non musician, I loved it"

A musical feast without Beethoven and Bach would be like food without salt. We were privileged to hear Bach's *Double Violin Concerto's* 1st movement with two of the many talented young players from the orchestra, Julia Ramsbotham and Florence Cappler-Shillington, masterfully playing the double solo and the orchestra's string section ably accompanying them. Beethoven's 5th *Symphony's* first movement was slightly different as Conductor Mark Shiell's research showed that Ludwig Van originally meant it to be at a different tempo to what we are now accustomed to hear. The Orchestra certainly showed how right he was, every note could be heard and every note added up to a most beautiful piece of music which was over too soon.

For me the piece de resistance of the concert was Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, the first part with the cellos and double basses was sublime then I found I just didn't want the storm to finish but when the Trumpets heralded the more familiar part I was carried along with the galloping music – it was great music played very well.

For that little bit of extra chocolate we were treated to a repeat of the Hungarian Dance No 5.

So Bravo Mark, Bravo Musicians, Bravo everyone who contributed - as I say after almost every concert – This has been the best concert yet. **LGM**

North Queensland Ensembles Inc BARRIER REEF ORCHESTRA BENEFACTORS' ROLL

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