

CLASSIC NOTES

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Issue 4

Autumn 2016



Empowering local musicians, this event was proudly supported by WA Classic Sounds and the City of Armadale. The Bringing Back the Magic concerts mark the beginning of a revival of live music to the Armadale District Hall, not experienced in the region for decades.

Celebrating Ten Years

There was a time when the CSO was a little string ensemble who rehearsed fortnightly on a Monday evening,

in the shop at Classic Sounds. Since 2006, this musical concept has grown and filled the hearts of many musicians and appreciative audiences. We now have six thriving ensembles bringing immense joy to more than 70 musicians who all start their week playing music!!

In 2015, with back to back concerts taking place in

June playing with Liam Dekker on the pipe organ in St Mary in the Valley, then in July at the Armadale District Hall for a concert series to be remembered for years to come, the best ever year was experienced.

In celebrating the beauty and tradition of our regional hall, and bringing a touch of glamour to our local

...continued on page 2



Guests arrived through the traditional front entrance of the nostalgic hall and were treated by a red carpet reception.



Patrizia DiGiovanni - Soprano

IN THIS Issue

- 1 Celebrating Ten Years
- 4 Twinkle Stars
- 5 String Orchestra
- 6 Fiddle Group
- 7 String Quartet
- 8 Legends in Mel's Lounge Room
- 10 All things Brass (Crossword)
- 10 Grants & Donations
- 11 2016 CSO Committee
- 11 Personal Note
- 12 Bringing back the Music - Media Release
- 12 Upcoming Events

Bringing back the Magic

...continued from page 1

hub, we transformed the venue with wall drapes, a glitzy backdrop, catering and red carpet reception. The Hall was unrecognizable. Guests were entertained by popular music of the Baroque and Classical eras, with famous tunes from film and theatre, through to modern artists. The event was aptly named, "Bringing Back the Magic."

The City of Armadale was immensely supportive and a number of elected members, as well as the Mayor of Armadale Henry Zelones, were in attendance. The orchestra was inundated with letters and encouragement.

Being particularly congratulated for our vision, delicious feast of music, and high quality presentation,



Mayor of Armadale Cr Henry Zelones gave an opening address at both evening concerts

where do we go from here?

2016 holds fun for members with plans of a camp, and then high profile appearances at the Make Smoking History Kelmscott Show, shortly followed by the Performing Arts Festival that collaborates with six schools on two nights.

The Classic Sounds Orchestra Association is a bit special in its philosophies of sharing music within families, music for all ages, and breaking stigmas



Orchestra members Arabella Grant and Brody Dale performing "Gabriel's Oboe"

Bringing back the Magic



Joshua Mitting, Rachel John, Patrizia DiGiovanni, Tobias Muhafidin.

that surround orchestral tradition. Anything is possible, remembering "great storms announce themselves with a simple breeze." With Twinkle Stars, the String Orchestra, CSO, Fiddle Group, String Quartet, and Brass Ensemble, busily preparing for performances through the year, there is no doubt that the Classic Sounds Orchestra Association is kicking up a storm.



Tobias Muhafidin - Contemporary Vocalist



Dazzled audiences enjoyed revival of live music from CSO at Bringing Back the Magic concerts July 10th and 11th 2015.



Joshua Mitting - Tenor



Classic Sounds String Quartet opened the second half of the show with the Tango, El Choclo

*Don't only practice your art
But force your way into its secrets
For it and knowledge can
Raise men to the divine.
~ Ludvig van Beethoven*

Twinkle Stars

After its inaugural year, the Twinkle Stars class has now established itself as a really fun weekly session for children to learn about music. We sing songs and do actions, listen to different styles of music, learn about rhythm, as well as learn to read music and write words through colourful worksheets. All these fun activities ensure the children are making friends and learning special musical skills that pave the way to become great little musicians. Through activities and using words and phrases we are now playing rhythmic tunes on our violins. "Super cute" is an understatement, and all children leave the session with a bright smile.



Start of rehearsals 2016



First ever performance - Minnowarra Festival May 2015



Heidi John ensuring her violin is in tune



Jade Wilkinson conducting the CSO at the 2015 SmokeFree WA Kelmscott Show



Start of 2016



Hills Heartbeat 2015

String Orchestra

The Hills Heartbeat Festival has become a tradition on our performance calendar. This is always the String Orchestra's first performance for the year, and with few rehearsals behind them, the group completes some amazing fetes to successfully perform new repertoire.

While 2015 was a year of exploring Australian composers, 2016 sees us playing music that is culturally diverse from Japan, across to American Jazz, and all the way back to the Classical and Baroque eras with music from Europe and the UK.



Fiddle Group

This group is having so much fun! Each year, the Fiddle Group delves in to a new book of fiddle music. In 2016, The Celtic Fiddler is being explored for it's diverse range of music from across the British Isles. Not only has it been interesting exploring the subtle difference in music from one region to another, it has been particularly fun sharing this with our audiences.

Research shows there are stimulating benefits of music in elderly people with

both morale and long-term memory. It brought great pleasure to fiddle group musicians to this year share their music with residents at Seaforth Gardens, and then at the high-care branch at Dale Cottages. On this day, we had stacks of fun celebrating Saint Patrick's day.



September 2015 Talk Like a Pirate Day ... "Aarrhrrrrrrh..."



Celebrating Science Week at the Gingin Gravity Centre
August 2015



Harmony Day Festival March 2016



Celebrating Saint Patrick's day with residents at Dale Cottages 17th
March 2016

*A bad teacher can spoil your day
A good teacher can change your life*

String Quartet

Having given performances at CSO concerts, private parties and charity events, In its first year of inception the Classic Sounds String Quartet's popularity has grown. Sam, Rachel, Leanne and Brenda will have the pleasure of being part of the opening weekend of the Armadale Arts Festival, entertaining guests at the Armadale Art Award displays on 3rd April, and then give a groovy and informative concert to local youth on 11th March. Aptly named, Pachelbel to Pink, the String Quartet will be joined by guest performers from CSO to give a concert that takes listeners on a journey through time from Baroque, though to music of today, in the beautiful setting of the Chapel in Minnawarra Park Armadale.



Brenda Chew (Cello), Leanne Crestani (Viola), Samantha Craig (Violin), Rachel John (Violin)



CSO String Quartet at Kelvale Medical Centre, fundraising concert for Oxfam

As part of the City of Armadale's Music in the Mall, on 20th November 2015 and 5th February 2016, the Classic Sounds Orchestra's String Quartet entertained shoppers and lunchtime passers-by. The repertoire was a mix of classical and contemporary from across the world. Most of all though, the girls (Rachel, Sam, Leanne, and Brenda) had a great time sharing the beauty of the combination of their instruments with their audience in an outdoor setting - it was a perfect day.

A thank you is extended to the City of Armadale for the opportunity for local musicians to provide quality music in their own community and to Chris Horgan for the outstanding sound mix.





Derek MacLachlan, Adrian Hawkins, Ian Charlesworth, Mat Outred, Amber Wells, Melissa Rudrum

Legends in Mel's Lounge Room

The Classic Sounds Orchestra Brass Ensemble has 'gone underground!' Each Tuesday evening, these mild-mannered people disguised as regular human beings, converge on Melissa's grannyflat-come-denture-clinic, and transform it in to a modern-day chamber group rehearsal venue!

How much do you love Brass ensemble?

Melissa: I love it immensely, I love the brilliant musicians I play with and the music we are learning so far, I am having so much fun and look forward to our Tuesday night rehearsal every week!!

Amber: After learning music all through my schooling, there were no options to continue it as a hobby after graduating. When I found CSO I found a nostalgic link to my childhood. Brass ensemble is great as it allows our similar instruments to harmonise, and we learn from each other.

Mac: Being a Brass band player from many years ago I prefer the sound of brass

What do you like best about this sort of group?

Adrian: I'd have to say the people are what I like best about the group; our ability to rise up and tackle the challenges of the brass arrangements and discover new depths to our abilities.

Ian: I like the sound of all brass voices, I am enjoying the closer interaction with my fellow brass players and the way they understand the brass specific challenges of playing music. It also prompts me to practice more since a part in a quartet or quintet is so much more exposed than a part in an orchestra.

How have rehearsals been going?

Mac: Rehearsals are fun; despite a few participants missing at times, we are now up and running and sounding good.

Melissa: They have been great, and we all seem to be so comfortable with each other that we have no problems discussing and fixing areas that we are struggling with, we all help each other (I need a lot of help!!).

Ian: Rehearsals have been fun. Sometimes we are not all there so one or more parts are missing, yet this helps us focus on counting and playing our own parts correctly. We have all been getting on amicably and professionally.

Amber: Since joining I have noticed a massive improvement in my diction, sight reading and pitch. We have also become more aware of listening for each others parts and can stay together much better. Without rehearsals weekly I would not have a reason to play, practise or improve as much as I (think I) have.

What sort of music do you play/intend to play?

Matthew: I am a lover of film music - I like music that tells a story. Film composers find interesting ways to show mood, setting or tone and I love the inventiveness that comes with that. Plus, movie music often allows a trombone to be big, bold and brash. I would love to do some John "Star Wars" Williams or James Bond music. Think of the swaggering vibrato!

Ian: We intend to play a variety of music from Baroque to Rock. It all depends on what we can get our hands on and if we are prepared to make our own arrangements. Creating arrangements for this group is something I want to do.

Do you have any special goals or performances in mind?

Adrian: My goals are to improve my Tuba playing and grow our repertoire so we may eventually do some busking and add to the culture of the Armadale area

Melissa: My personal goal is to get more and more confident playing in front of audiences and would be grateful to perform anywhere!

Matthew: I would really love an opportunity as a brass ensemble to tour as a carol group. There's something that just shouts Christmas to me when you hear the mellow sounds of brass instruments working well together. There's a Mr Bean episode where Mr Bean takes over conducting duties of a brass band who are out caroling - that scene has always stuck with me as tremendous fun! I'd also really like to possibly do some big band/swing type music. And all that jazz...

What do you like the most about playing your instrument?

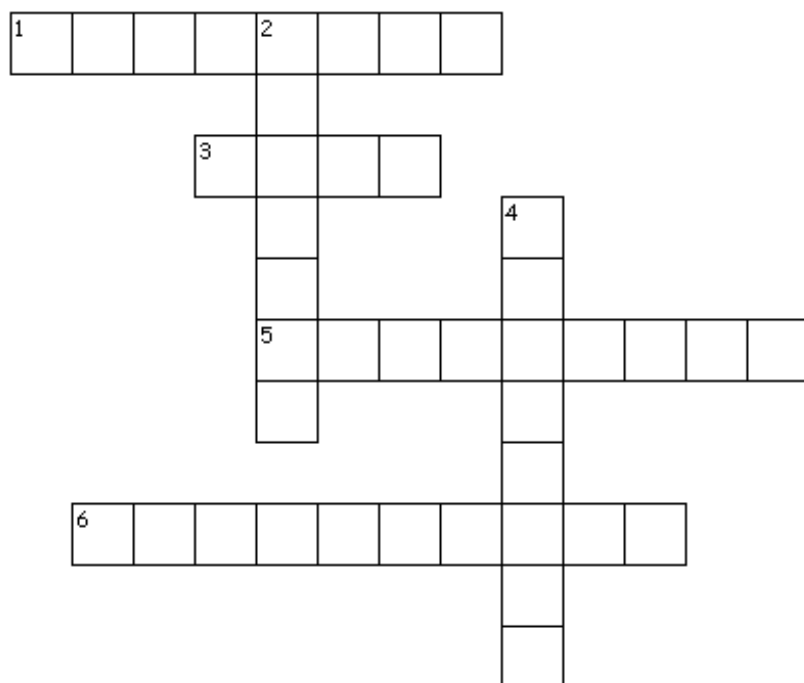
Amber: That I learn something new every time I pick it up! whether it be how to fix/care for it, what keys it can be played in, the history of its origin or different intonation or fingering etc.

Matthew: I really love being able to show off the trombone. I feel it's a unique sounding instrument that can do some really cool tricks. I love that it only sounds good when played with other parts as it gives me goose bumps sometimes by connecting with others around me through sound.

Mac: This is easy at my age, I am just happy to be blowing anything and as I own a trombone that is what I am happy playing.

Adrian: The most enjoyable aspect of playing Tuba is supporting the other musicians with bass harmonies and being a crucial foundation to allow them to play with more confidence. I find bass is a subtle and powerful addition to any ensemble and essential to providing a rich and diverse sound.

All things Brass



Across

1. What instrument is twice the length of a trumpet?
3. Name the biggest member of the brass family, but also the most recently invented
5. In orchestras, it is called a Baritone, but what is its other name?
6. What is the only member of the Brass family to be named after a country? (2 Words)

Down

2. Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis are well known for playing this instrument
4. Once called the Sackbutt, I swing when I'm silly and slide to great effect. What am I?

Grants & Donations

CSO has had the good fortune of beginning 2016 with some much needed administration equipment being donated to us. Two retired filing cabinets from Alcoa's Technology Delivery Group have kindly been donated to us, which now help us to catalogue and locate our music library with ease, and also store some equipment more carefully to improve its longevity. Special thanks are extended to Nick Pearson for organising this. Our storeroom is now looking much tidier!

Also, Nick is in charge of Grant applications for 2016 and is presently working through suitability of the many grants that are available across Australia. These will project the Association with infrastructure and administration, purchase of equipment, improve quality of performances such as amplification equipment, as well as Grants that can assist with funding music camps and tours.



Nick Pearson

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2016 CSO Committee



Troy Stronach (Treasurer, Website Developer), Ian Charlesworth (Secretary), Deborah Skelton (Performing Arts Coordinator), Leanne Crestani (Vice President), Rachael Thompson (Social Media), Adrian Hawkins (Equipment Transport), Jessica Skelton (Fund Raising), John Grant (Librarian), Rachel John (President, Musical Director), Nick Pearson (Grants)

The CSO committee is working toward another superb year of progress with beautiful repertoire, great performances including the performing arts festival, Grant applications, and fun social events. A special thanks is extended to Troy Stronach, Treasurer and Website developer, for his expertise in creating the member-only area of the website. Remember to thank Troy for his amazing job to make our website a great pathway of information that is also so user-friendly.

Personal Note from our Musical Director

Hi everyone, as you can see, the growth of this organisation is exceptional and seems to bustle more and more on an exponential scale!

In 2015 when I lost my baby, the shock hit me like an explosion and has taken many months to bring those pieces back together - still a work in progress. I know this hit you hard too, thanks for giving me some space but also believing in me.

As captain of this big ship, I thank you for your encouragement and enthusiasm, I feed on this! I couldn't ask for a greater crew and teammates. Thank you also for sharing the invigorating passion of putting music in to more peoples' lives.

Rachel

Keen to develop your musical skills?

Look no further than the Classic Sounds Music Shop, School and Service Department for friendly professional advice.



Answers to crossword
Across
1. Baritone
3. Tuba
5. Euphonium
6. French Horn
Down
2. Trumpet
4. Trumbone

Bringing Back the Music Media Release

25 July 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

DAZZLED AUDIENCES ENJOY REVIVAL OF LIVE MUSIC FROM ORCHESTRA

On July 10th and 11th, the Classic Sounds Orchestra invigorated musical life back in to the Armadale District Hall. With three extravagant and glamorous concerts, the CSO presented a variety of music from across the centuries. Audiences enjoyed solo, duo and trio performances from highly talented local singers Joshua Mitting (Tenor), Patrizia DiGiovanni (Soprano) and Tobias Muhafidin (Contemporary Vocalist and 2013 Senior Kelmscott Idol winner). They were also treated to the diverse skills of CSO members who gave performances as a String Quartet, and laid down their instruments for a moment to join together as a choir.

It was a glamorously stunning event when guests arrived through the traditional front entrance of the nostalgic hall and were greeted by a red carpet reception, delicious catering and glitzy hall dressing. The grand pillars were colourfully lit, with a dazzling stage backdrop.

The musical director of the Classic Sounds Orchestra, Rachel John, has been inundated by positive audience feedback. After receiving full-audience standing ovations at all three concerts, the event has been described as "splendid," and "a spectacular evening" leaving guests with a spring in their step after thoroughly enjoying a professional and flawless production. Empowering local musicians, this event was proudly supported by WA Classic Sounds and the City of Armadale. The Bringing Back the Magic concerts mark the beginning of a revival of live music to the Armadale District Hall, not experienced in the region for decades.

Upcoming Events

April

11

Twinke Stars Workshop - Armadale Arts Festival
Armadale District Hall Hall

11

Pachalbel to Pink - Armadale Arts Festival
Minawarra Park Chapel

May

4

Twinkle Stars - Community Capers
Dale Cottages

September

16

Sylvia Pearson's 90 Birthday
Banksia Park

19

Talk like a Pirate Day
TBA

October

15

Make Smoking History Kelmscott Show 2016
Kelmscott Show Groups - Exhibition Hall

24

Performing Arts Festival
Lumen Christi College

25

Performing Arts Festival
Lumen Christi College

November

18

Bendigo Bank Seniors Week
Roleystone Senior Citizens Centre

21

Amaroo Village Gosnells
Nancy Jones Centre