

Symphonia Jubilate Annual Report 2014



Orchestra Context

Symphonia Jubilate, a dynamic youth and community orchestra established in 2013, draws its membership from public school students aged 8–18 years who live in inner-western Sydney. Invited community musicians are also a part of this orchestra. Their role is to mentor the young musicians to help them achieve higher standards of musicianship and performance.

The major aim of the orchestra is to promote musical performance through community involvement. Tutors, parents and teachers volunteer their time and support at the monthly Saturday rehearsals held at Marie Bashir Public School hall. The conductors are paid from Symphonia Jubilate (SJ) funds. The orchestra is non-profit and volunteer-based.

This year, Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, has honoured our orchestra by agreeing to act as our patron.

Professor Bashir was highly respected, hard-working and popular as Governor of New South Wales, from March 2001 until October 1st, 2014.

Professor Bashir has a strong interest in music. She studied at the NSW Conservatorium of Music playing the violin in the student orchestra and in chamber music classes. She is patron of the Sydney Symphony and Opera Australia. She has spoken to Symphonia Jubilate students about her love of music and her favourite composer, Bach.

To the delight of the community, Professor Bashir attended Symphonia Jubilate's end-of-year concert to publically accept her role as patron of Symphonia Jubilate.

At the beginning of 2014, it became necessary to form two orchestras because of the increasing size of the orchestra. These orchestras are called *Symphonia Jubilate Primo* and *Symphonia Jubilate Secondo*.

SJ Primo's members are high school students and adult mentors.

SJ Secondo's members are primary school students and adult mentors.

Both orchestras are led by local conductors, Tracy Burjan and Luke Wallace. The conductors were supported by trainee conductor, Daniel Parkee, pictured below. This was Daniel's second year as a trainee conductor.



Local school principals from Mortlake Public School, Belmore South Public School, Burwood Public School, Concord West Public School, Homebush West Public School, Marie Bashir Public School, Strathfield Girls High and Homebush Boys High support the orchestra by:

- donating an affiliation fee;
- attending the monthly Saturday rehearsals as supervisors;
- allowing the orchestra to use Marie Bashir PS hall; and
- publicising the orchestra within their schools.

The orchestra is supported by Veronica Kapsimali, the Director of Public Schools NSW, Strathfield Network.



Veronica Kapsimali, Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC, KStJ, OBE, Jacqui Attard, (Principal Marie Bashir PS), and Gulian Vaccari, (Mayor Of Strathfield), share a happy moment at the SJ Family Concert.

Financial summary

The host school for the financial management of the SJ orchestra is Homebush West Public School. The school holds the orchestra's funds in a trust account. Funds in and out of this account can be easily tracked and are bound by the strict accounting and auditing policies of the Department of Education and Communities (DEC).

From 01/12/13 to 30/11/14	
INCOME	Amount
Enrolment fees and uniforms	\$13,268.50
Concerts	\$7,428.90
Donations	\$3,150.00
Fundraising cake stalls	\$1,141.45
School affiliation fees	\$4,400.00
TOTAL	\$29,388.85
EXPENDITURE	Amount
Sponsorship	\$2,250.00
SJ T-shirts	\$1,714.02
SJ badges	\$2,172.50
Conductors' fees	\$4,800.00
Instruments	\$11,072.75
Music	\$855.92
Lighting, sound, video, staging	\$2,436.91
Stationery	\$318.60
Medical supplies	\$105.50
Band festival entry fee	\$140.00
Website	\$595.00
TOTAL	\$26,461.20

Please note, the income and expenditure shown in this report are from the 1st January 2013 to the 30th November 2013. (This is in accordance with the DEC financial management procedures).

There were funds received in December 2013, particularly the generous grant of \$3000 from Strathfield Rotary Club.

A full copy of Homebush West PS's 2014 financial statement which includes Symphonia Jubilate's financial records, can be obtained by contacting the school.

Symphonia Jubilate's Achievements

Our Repertoire

Symphonia Jubilate performed the following pieces of music in 2014:

Primo

- Moon River, H.Mancini and J.Mercer (arr. Burjan)
- Themes from Scheherazade, Rimsky-Korsakov (arr. Meyer)
- Egmont Overture, Beethoven (arr. Meyer)
- Happy, Pharrell Williams
- Dance Giocoso, T. Burjan
- Adiemus, Karl Jenkins
- Divertimento aan het IJ, Hans Scheepers
- Here Comes the Sun, George Harrison (arr. Burjan)

Secondo

- Trepak, P. Tchaikovsky (arr. Meyer)
- Horatio Hornblower's Hornpipe, T. Burjan
- Findlandia, J.Sibelius (arr. Meyer)
- Radetzky March Johann Strauss Snr. (arr. Meyer)
- Jupiter Bringer of Jollity, G. Holst (arr. Leidig)

Our Performances

Fun Fair

On Saturday 10th May, *Symphonia Jubilate Primo* performed in Strathfield Square at The Fun Fair, organised by the Strathfield Chamber of Commerce. Strathfield Chamber of Commerce kindly donated \$100 to our orchestra.

Strathfield Music Festival

On Saturday 24th May, *Symphonia Jubilate Primo* took part in Strathfield Rotary Club's Music Festival, held in the grounds of the Australian Catholic University, Strathfield Campus.



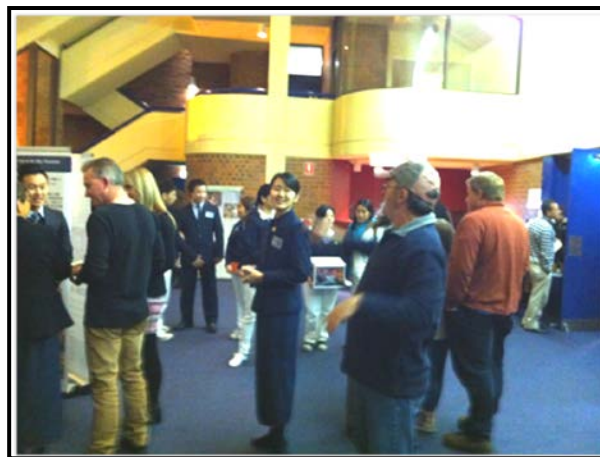
Bushfire Relief Fundraising concert

Symphonia Jubilate held its mid-year concert, a night of classical music and fundraising, on Saturday 16th June in the Marie Bashir PS hall.



Symphonia Jubilate fundraisers, selling food in the foyer before the concert.

With the strong support of the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation Sydney, who alerted Symphonia jubilate members to the plight of some Blue Mountains' schools, Symphonia Jubilate raised money for schools whose communities were affected by bushfires.



The foyer of Marie Bashir PS hall, set up with fundraising displays, supported by staff of the Tzu Chi Foundation.

Rob Hutchinson, Principal Ellison Public School, Katrina Middlebrook, Principal Winmalee High School and Mark Myles, Principal Winmalee Public School, were presented with a cheque for \$3 500 from Symphonia Jubilate and the Tzu Chi Foundation at this concert. This money will be used to provide counselling to affected students.



Katrina Middlebrook (left), our conductors, Luke and Tracy (middle) and Mark Myles (right).

Also taking part in the Bushfire Concert, were students from the "Highly Strung" String Ensemble from the Southern Highlands,

accompanied by conductor and tutor, Alexandra Zachary. Some students from Bega High School also joined with us on this night to perform in the "Happy" item.

Inviting country students to perform with Symphonia Jubilate students was a goal of the Symphonia Jubilate conductors. It is a wonderful experience for both the city and the country students.

A future direction is to expand opportunities for performance for Southern Highlands' students and to enhance the links made at this concert.



Inner West Band Festival

On Sunday 27th July, *Symphonia Jubilate Primo* and *Symphonia Jubilate Secondo* entered the Inner West Band Festival's "String Ensembles and Orchestra" competition.



The adjudicator's comments were highly complementary for both orchestras' performances.

String Workshop

Symphonia Jubilate conductors organised a workshop for advanced string players in August.

Visiting Dutch violinists, Karen Segal, from Amsterdam Sinfonietta and Michiel Eekhof, from The Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, led the workshop.

It was an amazing experience for all involved.



Karen Segal conducting SJ's string section.



Michiel Eekhof showing how it's done.

Future Directions for workshops

This string workshop was so successful, it was decided to hold more workshops in 2015. Percussion and woodwind workshops are being planned.

Symphonia Jubilate students tour China

The DEC Arts Unit arranged a twelve day Public Schools NSW orchestral tour of China in September. *Symphonia Jubilate Primo* students were a part of this exciting tour. Together with students from SSE Symphonic Winds, Merrylands High School Dance Ensemble and the Public Schools NSW Recorder Ensemble they toured Shanghai, Yangzhou, Nanjing and Beijing.

This article below appeared in the Inner West Courier before they went on tour.



Some SJ Primo performers in their "China Tour" performance uniforms.



An item being performed at the Shanghai No 3 Ladies High School.

The following article is a report on the China experience, by *Symphonia Jubilate Primo* student, I Teng Tong.

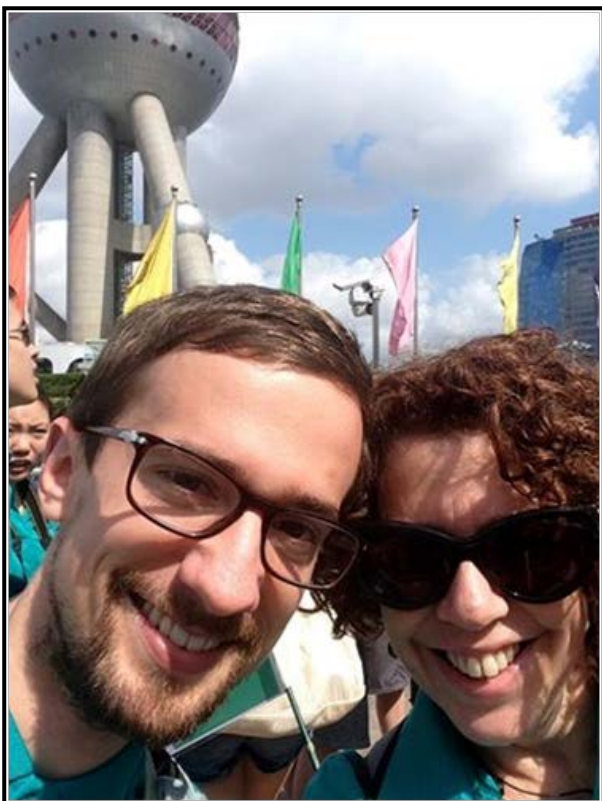
The purpose of this tour was to allow students to experience their love of music in another country; the destination of the trip was China. Everyone was nervous in the beginning, but as the time progressed, friendships were made, along with many unforgettable memories. These students spent countless hours rehearsing and giving up their weekends so that they were able to pull off the perfect performance in China.

On Sunday 12th of September, just before take-off, students waved goodbye to their beloved parents and had their last meal of McDonalds at the Sydney airport. Whilst entering the entrance of the plane, caring flight attendants aided us the directions of our seats. I wouldn't say my position was as luxurious as a first class flight but the conditions that accommodated us were reasonable, not to mention that some turbulences were experienced. After watching quite a few movies and having what I like to call my luxurious meals I dozed off to sleep in an awkward and uncomfortable position.

Upon our arrival in Shanghai, we were lead to our hotel room without delay but of course the bus trip from the airport was quite a while, so during that time I stared out the bus window to do some night sightseeing. Although I was a bit dizzy, the view of Shanghai was absolutely amazing with millions of lights gleaming in the dark - no wonder .. it's called the city that never goes to sleep! By the time we arrived at the hotel rooms we were hot and sweaty; all the students were allocated roommates.

We spent a large amount of time sightseeing, not just in Shanghai but also in Beijing and Nanjing. If you think sightseeing was boring, we also went shopping!





However, in the end it was a music tour. We put on some amazing performances and the time given up to rehearse was certainly worth it as the Chinese students seemed extremely entertained.

Symphonia Jubilate did a wonderful job ramping up the vibe with lively music. The amount of dedication and perseverance shown could not have happened if not for our wonderful teachers. Ms Lyris, Ms Maharaj and Ms Fong showed a tremendous amount of contribution and support along with the other teachers and mentors.

This China trip - agreed by everyone - is one that we will never forget!!!

I Teng Tong Year 8 Strathfield Girls HS

Our Family Concert

This year's Family Concert, held in November, was a show-case of fantastic music which ranged from classical, pop and jazz, from orchestral to stage band, and from ensembles to choral works.

Being exposed to such a variety of excellent music was a priceless experience for our students.

Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC, KStJ, OBE, Gulian Vaccari, Mayor Of Strathfield, Veronica Kapsimali, Director, Public Schools NSW and local public school principals were invited guests.

Professor Bashir met with student representatives from local schools affiliated with Symphonia Jubilate at an afternoon tea before the concert.





The concert's success can be summed up by the words of two invited guests below.....

I was totally inspired by our students, staff and ,of course, by Dame Marie Bashir's address. I sat in awe of the great talent displayed by all those involved.

It was a wonderful Saturday afternoon.

Jennie Dalamagas , Deputy Principal Strathfield Girls HS

What a treat yesterday's concert and afternoon tea with the Dame and Sir Nicholas was!

I would like to acknowledge the exceptional talent of our students and staff who brought together different talent and ages to produce a memorable concert.

The students were confident in their playing. Being part of the Symphonia for the last two years has forged friendships and widen social circles, an opportunity that many would not have had but for the dreams of Tracy Burjan and then the commitment of teachers and leaders to put together a community of music.

It has broken through cultural barriers and is a real testament to the hard work and love of music. Dame Bashir was right to say that music was the one equalizer, connecting people everywhere.

I am in awe of the playing and organisation that went into making this event so successful and good fun.

Veronica Kapsimali

Director Public Schools NSW

Strathfield Office Strathfield Network

2014 Evaluation

The orchestra's aims for 2014 were:

- to manage the growth of the orchestra by forming two orchestras;
- to change the rehearsal and concert venue to a larger venue;
- to establish policies and procedures which are aligned with DEC policy;
- to hold two concerts, one mid-year as an event for charity fundraising and one end-of-year to gain funds for the orchestra;
- to establish links with some rural schools;
- to give students the opportunity to perform as part of the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) China Tour; and
- to perform at the DEC Awards concert and at local community events.

Outcomes

- The orchestra was divided into two groups. *Symphonia Jubilate Primo* is for secondary students. *Symphonia Jubilate Secondo* is for primary school students and their teachers/mentors.
- A larger venue for the orchestra's rehearsals and concerts was negotiated. Marie Bashir PS hall became the venue for 2014.
- The committee establish policies and procedures for managing the orchestra and its assets. All policies and procedures are aligned to DEC policies. As from 2015, only students attending DEC schools will be eligible to enrol in SJ.
- A fundraising committee was established to ensure there are funds for assets to be purchased, replaced and repaired when needed.
- The number and quality of performance opportunities for students was expanded by:
 - offering places for students in a DEC orchestral tour of four cities in China;

- establishing a country link program so SJ students can perform with some country area students:
- expanding the number of concerts SJ gives to the community to two per year.

Future Directions

- Establish a Symphonia Jubilate stage band.
- Ensure student enrolments are from public school students within the Sydney area.
- Expand the Country Tour program.
- Ensure trainee conductors have enriching mentoring, purposeful experiences and a two- year tenure.
- Expand fundraising and sponsorship initiatives.
- Establish an attendance policy to ensure there is consistency and stability of musicians in each orchestra.

Orchestra Committee and Administration

Estelle Southall Principal Homebush West PS

Karen Mortimer Relieving Principal
Belmore South PS

Kim Self Principal Concord West PS

Carolyn Wallace-Whelan Principal Burwood PS

Jacqui Attard Principal Marie Bashir PS

Elizabeth Bransgrove Relieving Principal
Mortlake PS

Angela Lyriss Principal Strathfield Girls HS

Tim Jurd Principal Homebush Boys HS

Tracy Burjan Conductor

Luke Wallace Conductor

Trinity Mansfield Fundraising committee

Margo Iredale Fundraising committee

Minh Tran-Ha Treasurer

Judy Holland Financial Manager

Margaret Coote SJ manager