



Symphonia Jubilate Annual Report 2015



Symphonia Jubilate Orchestra

This is the third year of music and performance for the dynamic youth and community orchestra, Symphonia Jubilate which aims to promote musical performance through community involvement.

The patron of Symphonia Jubilate is Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, who was Governor of New South Wales, from March 2001 until October 1st, 2014.

Symphonia Jubilate (SJ) draws its membership from Public School NSW students who live in inner-western Sydney and from invited community musicians who mentor the young musicians to help them achieve higher standards of musicianship and performance.



Some Symphonia Jubilate students on the steps of Marie Bashir PS hall. Note the age range.

Tutors, parents and principals and teachers of SJ's affiliated schools volunteer their time and support at the SJ monthly Saturday afternoon rehearsals held at Marie Bashir Public School hall. The orchestra is non-profit and volunteer-based.

Local school principals from Belmore South Public School, Burwood Public School, Concord West Public School, Homebush West Public School, Marie Bashir Public School, Mortlake Public School, Strathfield South PS, Concord HS, Homebush Boys High and Strathfield Girls 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.

This year, over 150 students were enrolled in Symphonia Jubilate. Students were organised into two orchestras and one stage band to cater for their talents and interests.

- **Symphonia Jubilate Primo** (for secondary school students);
- **Symphonia Jubilate Secondo** (for primary school students); and
- **Symphonia Jubilate Stage Band** (for interested musicians from both primary and secondary schools).

A string ensemble was also formed from the advanced string players to meet performance needs at various times throughout the year.

Symphonia Jubilate Primo



Symphonia Jubilate Secondo
(Conductors and mentors in back row)

Symphonia Jubilate Stage Band



The orchestras were conducted by talented local musicians, Tracy Burjan and Luke Wallace. The stage band was conducted by the well-known local musician, Paul Burjan.



Luke Wallace



Tracy Burjan



Paul Burjan



The 2015 trainee conductor was Minnie McCoy, (pictured left). Minnie conducted the SJ Secondo orchestra for some of its performances in both the June and November concerts.

The management committee of SJ were very appreciative of her efforts and wish her the best for her future.

Minnie is taking the opportunity to launch her career as a flight attendant in 2016. She hopes to mentor students when she is in Sydney for the SJ rehearsals.

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 (DoE).

Symphonia Jubilate 01/12/14 to 30/11/15	
INCOME	Amount
Balance brought forward	5238.33
Enrolment fees and uniforms	22055.00
Concerts	4283.25
USB photo sales	700.00
Fundraising	2289.75
Expanding Horizons (meals)	1374.85
School affiliation fees	4400.00
TOTAL	40341.18
EXPENDITURE	Amount
Conductors fees	5480.00
Music	1225.90
Uniforms/shirts	7977.20
Website	269.00
Donation to MOFA charity	1506.00
Concert expenses	1908.00
Expanding Horizon meals	1441.60
Hall hire	454.55
Inner West Band Comp. entry	280.00
Flash Drive photo	1683.00
Instruments	6646.16
TOTAL	28871.41
Balance Carried Forward	11469.77

Please note, the income and expenditure shown in this report are from the 1st December 2014 to the 30th November 2015. (This is in accordance with the DoE financial management procedures).

A full copy of Homebush West PS's 2015 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 2015.

SJ Primo

Howl's Moving Castle by Joe Hisaishi

The Quest by Robert Kerr

The Empire Strikes Back by John Williams

Hungarian Dance No 5 by Johannes Brahms

Hungarian Dance No 6 by Johannes Brahms

We Meet in the Music by Tracy Burjan

Peer Gynt Selections by Edvard Grieg. Arranged by Richard Myer

Tales of Vandosar by Richard Myer

Violin Concerto in E Major by Felix Mendelssohn

SJ Secondo

Harry Potter music by John Williams

New World Symphony by Dvorak. Movements 1 and 4

Radetsky March by Johann Strauss Sr.

"Hallelujah Chorus" from *The Messiah* by G.F. Handel

Rosemunda Overture by Franz Schubert. Arr. by Richard Myer

Selections from *The Corpse Bride* by Danny Elfman

SJ Stage Band

Brighter than Gold by The Cat Empire

Sir Duke by Stevie Wonder

Bare Necessities by Terry Gilkyson. Arr. by Paul Burjan

Beyond the Sea - transcribed and arranged by Andrew Robertson

Blame it on the Boogie by Jackson 5. Arr. by Andrew Robertson



Workshops

Symphonia Jubilate held two workshops in 2015.

The first was a percussion workshop held in February. It was led by Graham Hilgendorf who joined Taikoz in 1998 and is also a freelance modern jazz drummer and percussionist. He founded the Musica Viva group B'tutta, and is an excellent educator and composer.



Graham (right), supported by teacher, Shane Randall (left), show students how it's done.

The second workshop, held in September, was a Stage Band workshop. Our Stage Band learnt about jazz and swing techniques with renowned saxophonist, arranger and composer Andrew Robertson.



Andrew Robertson, conducting SJ Stage Band.

Expanding Horizons concert

Expanding Horizons is a cultural exchange program between China and Australia. Every second year students from China travel to Australia for ten days, and performing with NSW Public School students at the Sydney Opera House. Every other year, NSW Public School students visit China. In 2014, Symphonia Jubilate visited China as part of this program, so this year in August, the SJ Primo orchestra was able to perform with visiting Chinese students at the Sydney Opera House.

SJ Primo combined with the Chinese orchestra, played Hungarian Dance No.5. SJ Primo also accompanied the combined choir for *We Meet in the Music* by Tracy Burjan.

During performance breaks, SJ students and students from China were able to talk and exchange gifts.



Tracy Burjan conducting SJ Primo and a combined NSW Public School choir on the stage of the Opera House.

Our "Night At the Movies" Concert

Our mid-year concert's repertoire was formed around movie themes. The hall was transformed into a movie theatre, complete with usherettes and movie snack food. Friends of Symphonia Jubilate Chorale, and SJ's three orchestras/bands performed at the concert.



Inner West Band Festival

In July, SJ Primo and SJ Secondo were entrants in the Inner West Band Festival held at Burwood Girls High School. SJ Secondo Orchestra performed *Harry Potter* and both movements of the *New World Symphony*. SJ Primo Orchestra performed *The Quest*, *Empire Strikes Back* and *Hungarian Dance No 5*. Adjudicator, Simon Bartlett, commented on the great playing of both orchestras.

Our "Una Notte Di Romanza - A Night of Romance" Concert

SJ's November concert revolved around the Romantic composers and themes of romance. Once again, Friends of Symphonia Jubilate Chorale, and SJ's three orchestras/bands performed at the concert. Also performing at this concert was invited band, the Golden Kangaroos, conducted by Jean Hope.

Guest violinist on this occasion was an ex-Symphonia Jubilate student, Andrew Wang who starred in Felix Mendelssohn's *Violin Concert in E Major*.

2015 Evaluation

In 2015, SJ aimed to:

- establish a Symphonia Jubilate Stage Band.
- expand the Country Tour program.
- increase the number of workshops for our musicians.
- 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 and to ensure student enrolments were from public school students within the Sydney area.
- enhance the rehearsal conditions for SJ Secondo

A stage band was successfully established and two workshops were provided for students.

The Country Tour program did not get off the ground. Finding a consensus of available dates and venues proved too difficult this year. However, the committee would still like this to happen in the future.

The fundraising team of parents, organised by Trinity Mansfield and Margo Iredale, was an asset to the orchestra. Students were given the opportunity to buy snacks at each rehearsal. Guests at the June and November concerts were able to purchase concert snack food and raffle tickets, thanks to this team. The money raised from this team's efforts helped to purchase instruments and music stands for the orchestra.

Most students attended SJ rehearsals regularly. There was a small attrition rate of senior students as their commitments increased. There was an improved rate communication of students' absences before rehearsals which enabled the conductors to prepare for these absences and fill "holes in the orchestra". The attendance rate and punctuality of a few students were poor, however. Many students were heavily committed on Saturdays with other activities.

The rehearsal areas for the orchestra were expanded, thanks to the generosity of the principal of Marie Bashir PS, Jacqui Attard, who provided an additional room for rehearsals. Thanks to the hard work and skill of Symphonia Jubilate fathers, Gerry Ford, Glenn Casey, Iain Johnston and Glenn the rehearsal room was made safe and suitable for musical activities.

2016 Future Directions

- There will be no trainee conductor in 2016. However, the current conductors will seek out young aspiring conductors within the orchestra and within the orchestra's ex-students who are now doing tertiary education. Interested young adults can apply through the SJ conductor's mentor program.
 - The SJ committee will employ two additional conductors in 2016. One conductor, Daniel Murphy, will support Luke Wallace and Tracy Burjan with the SJ Primo and SJ Secondo orchestras. The other conductor, Jemma Losada, will start up a beginners string orchestra, SJ Pizzicato.
 - Workshops for guitar, percussion, woodwind and brass are planned.
 - The Stage Band will be re-launched in Term 2 2016, by application only. It will be for students in Years 5—9.
 - The Country Area Program will continue to be investigated, with a view to performing on the Gold Coast.
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Orchestra Committee 2015

Karen Mortimer	Principal, Strathfield South PS
Kim Self	Principal, Concord West PS
Carolyn Wallace-Whelan	Principal, Burwood PS
Jacqui Attard	Principal, Marie Bashir PS
Elizabeth Bransgrove	Principal, Mortlake PS
Deanne Stephenson	Rel Principal, Homebush West PS
Lurlene Mitchell	Rel Principal, Belmore South PS
Jacqueline Koob	Principal, Concord HS
Angela Lyriss	Principal Strathfield Girls HS
John Kennedy	Principal Homebush Boys HS
Estelle Southall	Principal Leadership
Tracy Burjan	Conductor
Luke Wallace	Conductor
Trinity Mansfield	Fundraising committee
Margo Iredale	Fundraising committee
Judy Holland	Financial Manager
Margaret Coote	Manager Symphonia Jubilate