

Musical Director's Report 2020

I am delighted to present my 22nd MD report today.

Mosman Symphony Orchestra and Choir enjoyed 2019 as a year of continuing to develop the ensembles and provide the Mosman community with concerts. With 4 programs of orchestral music, 3 choral programs, plus a guest appearance at SOH it was a busy year for all. Thanks need to go to every single member who involved themselves in our music making as well as their families and supporters. I am especially grateful to the committee for their leadership and behind the scenes work, sponsors and section leaders, all of whom have helped make the musical director so role one to enjoy!

We had soloists of terrific standards, with Ted Walton, Greg Kinda, Bridget Bollinger, Rachel Tolmie and Ed Diefes. It is well worth have soloists ALL of whom have performed internationally, to great acclaim and have been incredibly supportive of the orchestra and our mission.

The orchestra's playing is always a challenge, a rewarding joy and thing of surprises. One hopes to be able to predict the orchestra's responses and needs for each particular piece we play. It is however, an unpredictable task: all I can do is attempt to be prepared for all eventualities.

What can be said is that the orchestra is continuing to mature in its playing. I was often pleasantly surprised at how well some pieces, or even just passages went in 2019. I can definitely hear a growth in capability with regard to technique and ensuing confidence. This is wonderful and I hope we can continue in this vein as we continue to make music together.

To help with this there is a need for ALL members to continue look critically at how they play in the orchestra. There are a number of matters that awareness of, attention to, commitment to improve or determination to be a positive example for is needed. They are: attendance at all rehearsals, intonation, arrival time at rehearsals, returning from breaks quickly and at times, preparation of individual parts. The rest is self explanatory!

We are lacking players on some parts that really need to be covered. These holes in the orchestra make it harder to rehearse and learn how our works really need to sound.. We need:

More violins (or everyone attending all the time)

Basses - 4 to match the cellos.

4 horns.

Please help look for these players!

Future.

The hiatus due to Covid-19 sees the need for us to move forward now with some activity. I am Suggesting...

1. Musical activity. 2 pieces for preparation and attempt to put together. Last movt Beethoven 5. Movement from Swan Lake..

2. Group check ins. By section, such as winds, brass/percussion, each string section. Make sure we are still connected.

3. Group contact by geographical location. So we can make sure we are all OK.

I hope we will all be back at the art gallery rehearsing soon!