

## Mosman Symphony Orchestra Musical Director's Report 2022

I am rather humbled to be presenting the MD report for 2022, which is my 24th report!

The past year has again been one of disturbance, due to the continuation of the Covid pandemic. The orchestra was able to present a full program in March, and strings only program in May, including a world premiere of Robert Oetomo's Timpani Concerto. It was not until December that the orchestra could again perform. This time, it was decided the orchestra needed to play as a full ensemble for its own sake, even if we couldn't have an audience! This determination resulted in both the December orchestra concert and Choir's Christmas concert a week later.

The committee's decision to adopt a policy of following current health orders and policies of the Art Gallery assisted in our ability to perform when many other performing ensembles were still shuttered, and it seems this was a wise decision! Our first half of 2022 has seen both choir and orchestra perform and our recent concerts with guest conductor Mark Brown were excellent.

What I have noted in these last two programs is a really exciting rising of standards. Our strings are producing what can only be described as a beautiful tone, while over in the air blowing department, the horns are on a roll with far more accuracy and ever growing ensemble and woodwind are developing great intonation. This is exciting, so let's keep striving to play at every higher levels of sophistication.

The rest of this year has two concerts for the choir, and 4 different programs for the orchestra. The upcoming choral concert and Christmas concert (with orchestra members) is seeing the choir evolving into a regular performing group in the Mosman area, which is wonderful. The orchestra has 2 orchestral concert programs: music from America (with apologies to Dvorak) and a program of overtures in November. Added to that is the choir's Christmas concert, plus a recent development, a one off concert at Sydney Town Hall.

This one off concert is being planned at the moment. It is the debut concert of an extremely talented student, Harry Zhang which his parents are supporting and funding. It is fast growing beyond a one off concert, as his parents have established a network of like-minded parents who have what is best described as high flier children studying music. We are exploring ways in which there can be an ongoing annual event that includes the Mosman Symphony and promotes talented youth, the orchestra and Mosman as an arts destination. Planning includes sourcing funding so there is no financial risk to the orchestra and it's costs are covered, or more than covered.

This concert will be us perform a repeat of Egmont Overture, Vivaldi's concerto for 4 violins and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Any gaps we have can be filled with support from Harry's

parents, who are also lined up to do the bulk of organising, running about and chasing up loose ends.

Looking back at the orchestra, we do need to keep a focus on recruiting more players. Right now this is, in order:

Trumpets (any, really we have none)

2 horns (to add to our stable section)

2 basses (to keep Clare company)

Cellos (which seem a little thin on the ground)

Please keep your eyes open, spread the word and talk the orchestra up!

Lastly, in closing all the committee, volunteers and players have my deepest thanks. An orchestra is nothing without its players and a conductor sounds rather dreary with no players in front of them. It is a privilege and honour to conduct the orchestra. Let's see how great we can perform between now and the next AGM!

Andrew Del Riccio  
Musical Director