



Minutes of Meeting

2010 Advisory Meeting For Music Directors and Conductors Villanova College Chapter Room 1-3 pm 26th February 2010

Meeting commenced: 1.00pm

Present: Barb McGeever (Nudgee Junior College), Ross Capern (St Laurence's College), Terri Hartung (Loreto College), Ben Langford (Loreto College), Fiona Johnston, (Stuartholme School), Andrew Mear (Stuartholme School), Mary Hehir (St Dymphna's School), Peter Francis (Iona College), Ruth Skippen (All Saints School), Meryll Wheaton (Brigidine College), Tim Sherlock (All Hallows' School), Melissa Dineen (All Hallows' School), Barry Bobart (St Joseph's College, Brisbane), Catherine Esbensen (Nudgee Junior College), Anne Darcy (Assisi College), Peter Morris (Villanova College), Keith Druery (Villanova College), Sandra Magnus (Villanova College), Alison Schrauf (Villanova College)

Apologies: Rachel O'Brien (Lourdes Hill College), Kathleen Plastow (St Patrick's College, Ballarat), Alice Buckingham (Mt St Michael's College), Bernadette Rotar (St Patrick's College, Bundaberg)

Welcome and Introductions: Dennis Harvey, Principal of Villanova College came briefly to the beginning of the meeting to welcome everyone. Keith Druery and Peter Morris then welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the table. Peter Morris mentioned that it was a big year for the festival as it was our 20th Anniversary Celebration and as a result some changes had to be made to the format of the festival to accommodate a gala concert at QPAC to close the festival. He said this issue would be discussed later in the meeting.

Important Dates to Note: The following dates were noted with special mention of the closing date for entries and honour nominations, as these are two weeks earlier than usual.

- QCMF 2010: Thursday 12 – Sunday 15 August
- QCMF 20th Celebration Concert: Sunday 15 August (6-9p.m. tentative)
- Invitation to participate in the Festival: posted and online 12-15 March
- Closing date for entries & honours nominations: 23 April
- Honours ensembles lists posted & music mailed out: Mid-May
- Performance schedules posted and online: soon after 7 June

Performance Criteria Updates: It was discussed that the language of the performance criteria has changed to de-emphasize the competitive nature of the festival. That is why the word "average" is used with regard to repertoire levels. Some people felt that the performance criteria wasn't clear enough and needed further clarification.

Guitar Ensembles: Peter Morris asked for assistance with making more suitable criteria definitions for Guitar Ensembles, as there are no standardized repertoire levels. The aim is to make it easy for conductors entering the festival for the first time to know which section to enter.

Peter Morris will ask Paul Svoboda (Villanova College) Brian L'Huillier (Iona College), Angelina Ellis (St Laurence's College) and Catherine Neylan (All Hallows' School) for their opinion regarding defining sections GE1A and GE1B.

Choral sections – There is a need to change the criteria for CH2C and CH2D. The choral section is the fastest growing section in the festival and there was a huge discrepancy last year when CH2D was created. Only 2 choirs entered section CH2C and 19 entered CH2D. To even this field out, the recommendation was that CH2D is changed to Year 3 and younger.

Peter Morris said that he would appreciate a discussion with hopes of making the criteria more clear. Should we consider making the choral sections criteria experience level instead of unison/parts? Are we not being consistent as bands have stipulations? Tim Sherlock stated that it should be defined by the repertoire performed. Peter Francis suggested that we look at a Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced section, and allow directors to use their discretion on entry forms. It was agreed that we need to make the division of sections more consistent. A discussion that younger primary ensembles (P-3) needed their own section. The idea of having two novice sections (2C and 2D) that were distinguished by average age (P-4) and (4-7) seemed to make most attendees happy.

Concert Bands: It was discussed that concert band sections needed to have their criteria looked at. Should CB2C section be added for novice bands? Should the level of music in CB2A be increased from 1.5?

String Ensembles: Melissa Dineen suggested that a novice section in the strings sections could be a good idea as well. This way the levels could go up to possibly level 3. Adding a novice section was not considered practical this year as there were not enough entries in 2009 to warrant an additional section.

Conclusion: It was decided that Peter Morris would draft a document with reviewed criteria and send it out to the people at the meeting to look over.

Rules of Participation Updates: As some groups prefer not to warm up but go directly from the hall to the warm-up rooms we will add a section to the rules stating *"If a group chooses NOT to warm up they should see the "warm-up co-ordinator to be advised of the time they need to assemble ready for their performance"*. This will save the warm up co-ordinators looking for "lost" groups.

A notation also needs to be included that any backing tracks for Choral sections DO NOT contain vocals.

Adjudicator Scores: Not all conductors handed in music in 2009. Adjudicators have asked for clarification. It was suggested that an insert in the Rules of Participation read as follows: "Instrumental and Contemporary ensembles should submit at least a lead sheet". This way the adjudicators have at least something to refer to.

2010 Timetable: It is important to finalise the timetable as early as possible, particularly for the out of town groups who need to organise flights or buses. As the festival is now going to Thursday as well for this year, it will mean schools possibly having to organise buses for Thursday and Friday, which will be expensive. This could be a problem.

The aim of the schedule for 2010 is to offer all choirs and concert bands the opportunity to perform on Thursday. Choirs would be in the Augustine Centre and concert bands (with the exception of CB1A) would be in Goold Hall. Thursday is a public holiday for many schools in Brisbane so this may or may not work but it might work for the non-Brisbane schools.

The only time choirs will be scheduled in the Augustine centre will be on Thursday. The concern will be having large choirs (and audiences) fitting into the church and church hall.

Sandra Magnus made the suggestion that we may need to have fewer choirs per section to accommodate.

To make it easier for schools, sections have been placed on multiple days as much as possible. The exceptions to this are guitar, jazz and instrumental ensembles, full orchestra and percussion ensembles.

Sections previously scheduled for Sunday will mostly be scheduled for Friday. This has been done so that there is as little conflict as possible with Honour ensemble rehearsals on Sunday.

Saturday stays mostly the same as in previous years and as few groups scheduled for Sunday as possible to allow volunteers the opportunity to pack up their venue and be able to attend the gala concert.

If schools have a scheduling problem they need to let us know as soon as possible by emailing gcmf@vnc.qld.edu.au. We will always try to get ensembles in, even if it means putting them in a different section but having them adjudicated to their level (eg. CH2C going in a CH2B section).

Festival Entry Form Submissions: It has been decided to have a "cover sheet" that has an overview of all sections being entered in by each school, as part of the documents that come back with the entry forms. This allows music directors submitting the forms and festival organisers receiving them to double check the number of entries against the cover sheet at a glance. Any entry ticked on the cover sheet but with no form submitted can then be followed up in case it has been lost in a fax machine or the mail etc...

Adjudication Sheets: The adjudication sheets will be revised and made simpler with more room to write, in the hopes that the adjudicators will write more freely.

Advisory Committees: The following people volunteered to be on the advisory committees for 2010. The purpose for these committees is to have a group of colleagues to bring any issues to regarding grey areas of rules, or questions asked that need consideration.

Choral – Peter Morris, Anne Darcy, Barb McGeever, Merryl Wheaton, Ruth Skippen, Tim Sherlock, Mary Hehir and Terry Hartung*

*Terry Hartung from Loreto College also kindly offered to help people who need any advice regarding repertoire selection, creation of choral backing tracks, etc.

Instrumental – Peter Morris, Andrew Mear, Catherine Esbensen, Melissa Dineen and Ben Langford

20th Anniversary Celebration: Peter Morris spoke about the gala concert to be held at the Concert Hall at QPAC on Sunday 15th August between 6pm and 9pm. James Morrison is booked to perform with honour ensembles as well as performing his own set. Peter has approached the Young Con as they are a sponsor of the QCMF, to see if they would be willing to let QCMF use some of their rehearsal rooms on a rehearsal Sunday in July, as well as on the day of the concert. This would be a huge help in that we wouldn't have to take more time at QPAC and pay for rehearsal time in the hall. The Young Con will get back to us.

The idea of the concert is to make it appropriate and inclusive but not so big that it is unmanageable or too long. We would not be able to have every category involved as there is not enough time. The main groups involved would be a Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band, Mixed Choir and Big Band.

There would be a possibility of a primary choir involved and perhaps either a primary orchestra or some primary ensembles. Adding primary schools adds a whole other dimension regarding duty of care. It may be too hard to include primary for this reason. We would need a lot of support from schools regarding supervision.

A request came from St Lawrence's College that we consider including an honours guitar ensemble in the Gala Concert as guitars have been a part of the festival for many years. It was noted that guitars only represent a handful of the schools that enter the festival with bands, choirs and orchestras. As we need to be conscious of the concert length, one option is to have guitar ensembles perform in the foyer for guests before the concert or during interval.

We would want to include all involved schools and that is why we will have teachers from schools all over Queensland nominate their TOP 5 or 6 students – the Honours Ensembles Nomination form will go on the website along with the entry forms for the festival. It does not matter if your top students do not perform in an A section. Peter Morris is interested in getting help from other directors to pick the final ensemble groups. Teachers should be aware to place their top students in order on the form.

There is the possibility of rehearsals taking place in regional areas but we will have to wait and see the nominations first.

At this stage we hope to have a 2-3 hour rehearsal at the Con (if available) and sound-check at QPAC for each ensemble on Sunday 15th August. Performance schedules are being arranged to ensure there are no conflicts with ensemble adjudications at the same time.

Peter Morris talked about the selection process for conductors we would use to conduct the honours ensembles. He suggested that we possibly do not use conductors from schools participating in QCMF, as conductors will be busy enough that weekend, and also to avoid any politics. He suggested that we bring in conductors either from the Conservatorium or adjudicators who have been associated with the festival over the years. Peter is happy for people to email him their input on pmorris@vnc.qld.edu.au

Peter mentioned that we would desperately need teachers to help backstage in various areas such as supervision, warm-up, tuning instruments etc.

The main idea for the concert is to have representation from every school across Queensland involved in the festival. Directors are asked to nominate students in preference of ability level, which will allow for the finest combined ensembles to be created.

Depending on numbers involved in the honours ensembles, the cost for involved students will probably be approximately \$20 each. This would help fund the huge costs involved with the venue and guest artist. The opportunity of performing alongside James Morrison in the main Concert Hall at QPAC is a great opportunity. Tickets to the event would be purchased through QTIx.

There will be more information posted on the QCMF website in the days to come.

Meeting closed: 3.10pm