

# SAPPS Music Society Manager

## Annual Report 2020



### What a year.....

#### Concert series became FESTIVAL SING2020 movie

FESTIVAL SING2020 the movie on Wednesday 23 September was an extremely creative solution to the concert series cancellation. We still had thousands of students (regional and metropolitan) take part in the festival.

To quote the Riverland people “not better, not worse, just different” – this was the attitude we stuck to all year.

A logistical nightmare and totally out of our comfort zone. I’d like to thank the PSMF Team for their creativity, patience and resilience. Schedules and plans changed on an hourly basis, we got through all the challenges, we learnt so many new things and we had the opportunity to stretch our skills.

Many of the new things we learnt we plan to adopt and use in the future. For example, Q&A sessions on Facebook for teachers; orchestra and The SAPPS Choir never skipped a beat and kept teaching on line; choir connections for school choirs were held in place of visits; we were able to make short clips within minutes of an idea being generated; we worked to have faces to names and events and so much more.

Orchestra had a truly wonderful experience at the home of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra – Grainger Studio. For four solid days those 80 students and staff worked diligently to achieve a quality final product. At all times the students were focussed and ready to deliver whatever was required of them. Thank you to Adelaide Symphony for allowing us the use of their facilities.

The Crews, the name for 2020, replaced the three troupes. Groups of students brought together for short, sharp and intense sessions to learn their choreography – virtually and in reality. Each group of students adapting to their filming environments quickly and always willing to “let’s do it just one more time!”.

The Presenters, The Changed Voice Choir, The SAPPS Choir, The Cherokee Morning Song drummers, the regional schools – Truro, Light Pass, Greenock and Keyneton – hundreds of students and adults involved in the film, each contributing something unique to our movie.

To Hoyts Cinemas, Wallis Cinemas, Reading Cinemas, Greater Union and all the regionals cinemas - the staff at each cinema were supportive with administration and supervision of the event. Thank you to them all for making September 23 such a special day.

Red Carpet Event, Stars Event and then finally the drive-in. Each event had its own special flavour and vibe.

A personal thank you to Jo Casson (Ding Productions), Nicholas Filsell (Pepper Tree Media) and Rohan Yates for their support, guidance and patience. This project would not have been possible without you. Thank you for helping us make 2020 such a memorable year.

The year finished with 5 short films over 5 days sent out to department corporate staff. These films included snippets from the movie, school groups and Christmas songs. Thanks to the media department for helping make this happen.

## **Virtually SAPPs 2020**

A disrupted program for these students and staff and once again resilience prevailed. The SAPPs Choir may not have had as many performances but they certainly were involved in excellent projects.

The final one for 2020 being their **Virtually SAPPs 2020** filming at St Oswald's. The choir was filmed and a download was created for families to purchase.

## **PSMF office space**

Music sorting – the music continues to be sorted.

Computers – we all have new computers which operate on a virtual server.

Telephones –our phones were over 20 years old and the answering machine did not work. New phones were installed on the last day of work in 2020.

Server – we are sharing a server with IM. This server is divided and password protected so that we cannot interfere with each other's work.

Our virtual drive has proved to be invaluable. We are all able to access all we needed to continue our work.

## **Personnel**

Congratulations to the following for being appointed in 2020 for positions in 2021 and beyond:

PSMF Team - Orchestra Manager – Michael McConnochie; Troupe Manager – Maria Stone; Production Manager – Anne O'Dea; Festival Theatre Accompanist – Caroline Pomeroy

Music Society staff – both Rachel and Kristin have formal contracts in place. I thank you for signing your contracts and staying on with the Music Society.

The SAPPs Choir – Administrator – Deb Hepworth; Accompanist – Cheryl Clark; Assistant Conductor – Gaby Freer.

## **Music Education Strategy**

We submitted a successful submission for round 3 of the Department for Education's Music Innovation Fund. The \$12,500 will go to our new project Year 3/4 Singing Project. This aim of this project is to upskill generalist classroom teachers is to incorporate singing into their teaching. Many teachers have expressed and interest in this project.

This grant will cover some of the TRT days required to cover the two mentors that will be running this program. The mentors are Blair Price and Kirsty Sims and they will target 3 schools each (3 northern and 3 southern).

## **Website / App Development**

The website and the app have been a costly but very worthwhile project for the Music Society, especially with COVID restrictions and their impact on our program.

In February 2020, at Conference 1, when we introduced the app and informed participants that there will be no CDs in 2021, the look of horror on peoples' faces was terrifying.

With COVID everything went on the app and the learning portal. For example, students for The Cherokee Morning Song did all their learning through the learning portal, no rehearsals until they arrived on location for filming.

The website's learning portal is working very well. Feedback about content has been excellent, internet access and blocking has been an issue. We have been working with the IT department to solve these issues and also encouraging teachers to use the app over the learning portal when teaching their choir. We are working with the developers to create a re-direct.

At Conference 1 in 2021 the app developer will run another session on how to get the most out of teaching choir with the app.

In 2021 the only CD the schools will receive is one copy of the Performance CD, everything else and more will be available through the app and website.

In November we met with Quisk (website company) and the app developer to review 2020 and to plan for 2021.

### **Social Media**

The PSMF Family page continues to be a valuable way of communication and is very popular.

The PSMF Family group is very active. Teachers are communicating and sharing all sorts of things to do with choir. Currently we have over 350 members.

2020 has seen the Team using all forms of social media to stay in touch and to promote activities of the PSMF.

### **2021 at the Festival Theatre**

Dates for 2021 at the Festival Theatre have been confirmed. The venue is now managed in a very different way. Each area is managed by a different company, ie. auditorium is managed by one company and the foyers are managed by another company.

How does this effect the PSMF? The foyers will cost us to hire – approximately \$27,000.

### **Lastly**

I was fortunate enough to be re-appointed as Manager, PSMF 2021 - 2024. The tenure and level have been changed – the position is now for 4 years and has become a B-3 position.

As you can see, we continue our frantic and creative pace of work, constantly reviewing our learning programs and processes to ensure that we are doing our utmost to assist the people who deliver our quality program to students.

To finish, I would like to thank all the people that make PSMF work – so many people continue to offer their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm.

I thank the Board for their continued support. They had faith in us and our grand plan, cashing in a long-term investment that was put away to be used on a 'rainy day'.

Next, I thank Stephen Measday for his continued support, guidance, wisdom and patience.

I thank the department for having the confidence in the PSMF by not salary harvesting our budget and for giving us a grant towards our FESTIVAL SING 2020 movie.

Whilst 2020 did not see us using as many volunteers as usual, there still were some. I say thank you to you all.

The Team – Robyn, Cathy, Rachel, Kristin, Anne, Michael, Maria, Adrienne and Chad – thank you and congratulations on making 2020 a success.

I am bursting with pride when I look back on 2020 and what the we achieved. We:

- learnt to act without the complete picture
- worked on flexibility
- suppressed our urge to control things
- understood that some decisions may be wrong
- learnt to deal with uncertainty
- realised there was not a defined plan that we were following
- remained confident in ourselves and our abilities.

Looking forward to 2021 being a nice quiet year.

Irene Solowij  
Manager

