**Primary Schools’ Music Festival Manager**

**Annual Report 2019**

**What a year......**

* Acquittal of grant for the 2017 Entertainment Centre concerts. The $40,000 that was left was put into the National Mentor Program
* Celebration after the concert series was well attended and enjoyed at the Riverside Rowing Club
* The new constitution was adopted and the Board with 7 principals was created
* TRTs were provided for the Repertoire Committee to work on song selection
* Concert review was held during week 1 term 4, TRTs were provided. Each manager invited 2 members from their team to discuss and prepare actions from the feedback they collected
* Treasured Memories Photography employed
* Outsourcing of concert program
* Artist contracts were updated by crown at the cost of the department
* The mascot for 2020 is being investigated. Hoping to do a hand over from Maggie Magpie to the new mascot early in the year.

**Concert series**

In 2019 we changed the rehearsal and performance schedule at the Festival Theatre.

The new schedule included a two-day bump including a dry tech run. The Team and crew have decided to continue with this schedule with a few adjustments. The extra bump in time worked in our favour as the service lift was not working.

Extra FT staff were provided to assist with the bump in and bump out and an access ramp was built for students that required easier access.

Opening the concerts with a quieter, choral song was well received.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed in making this concert series such a success.

**PSMF office space**

Thank you to the volunteers that having been coming in randomly to sort through the filing cabinets full of prior music. Slowly, slowly the scores are being tidied up.

**Personnel**

I would like to congratulate Cathy Lange for being re-appointed as the Assistant Director of Music (ADoM).

**Partnerships**

* Australia Children’s University – March 2018 continues for 3 years.
* Adelaide City Council –A Civic function was held and the students from The SAPPS Choir sang.
* Channel 44 – continued supporting the PSMF with the telecasting of the Commissioned Work.
* Pepper Tree Productions continues working and supporting us with filming, the production of DVDs and CDs and the preparation of vision for Channel 44.

**IT infrastructure**

Mid 2019 a cost pressure application went into the department requesting funds for new IT equipment.

We have been granted $30,000.

Due to concerns with capacity of Klemzig PS all infrastructure work has been put on hold.

**Website / App Development**

The website and the app have been a very costly project for the Music Society.

To keep abreast of changing technologies, the PSMF is having an app developed to tackle the issue of CD technology being phased out. Increasingly students do not have access to CD players and cannot listen to, and therefore learn, the repertoire at home. The result is that the CD we produce each year as the primary learning tool for students and teachers, is unable to be used.

We have been investigating what our requirements are and how to abide by copyright and licensing restrictions.

In 2019 we will be given permission to use Dear Pen Pal as the test for the app.

Using our App, students, choir teachers and accompanists will be able to download the music onto their own devices which minimises data download – a concern expressed by parents.

To enhance learning, music will be able to be manipulated – soprano only/ alto only/ backing track, etc. This will also help when school choirs are performing at various venues e.g. school assemblies, nursing homes, local shopping centres, etc.

The plan is to continually build the app to meet our needs and to slowly give the end users time to learn how to get the best out of it. Vision for choreography will eventually be added; karaoke style words with music; teachers/HPIs will be able to loop their own music to suit their teaching, etc. Administrative tasks will also be available through the App resulting in a reduction of the administration, workload for choir teachers and better meet critical timelines for the PSMF.

The app will be closely linked with our new website.

Everything from echo tracks; orchestra parts; choreography vision; taiko drumming vision; troupe rehearsals/workshops vision were available for students and teachers to access in the learning portal. All are password protected to ensure as best we can no breach on copyright.

Data showed that the learning portal was accessed by all – teachers, orchestra students (including taiko drummers) and choir students.

Hosts and Troupe have a short clip (commercial) on our website that can be viewed to explain what each does. These may be used by teachers in schools to share with the students and hopefully entice more students. We plan to include clips about all aspects of the Festival in 2020.

The new website had a ‘soft launch’ on 11 November – moving off the Weebly - with areas being populated as required.

Once the website and app are both in place we will then able to manage the systems ourselves.

This has been a very exciting process to go through.

With the new website and the ability to access all music the production of CDs will continue to diminish. 2020 will be the last year that CDs will be manufactured.

**Facebook Page**

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

We have groups within our Facebook page – PSMF Family (for teachers and our Team); Orchestra group (for parents and the Orchestra Manager); The SAPPS Choir group page (for parents and the SAPPS Choir Administrator) and we are in the process of adding more groups.

To be a member of a group one needs to be invited and answer security questions.

The PSMF Family group is very active. Teachers are communicating with each other about all sorts of things to do with choir and sharing interesting articles, and resources, etc. Currently we have over 250 members.

**Outsourcing of photography and program design**

In 2019 we employed Treasured Memories to take photos during the concert series. Hundreds of beautiful photographs were taken from all areas of the theatre. Photos were available for purchase within a couple of days after each of the concerts. Treasured Memories managed the whole process from orders to delivery.

The stunning photos appear on our website and promotional materials.

In 2020 Treasured Memories will continue working as our official photographer.

Companies were tendered for the production of the Concert program. The first year, as with most things, was a little tricky, getting processes in place and ‘letting go’ of what we have been doing.

In 2020 I would like to see the company we decide upon have more say in what the program looks like and we carefully monitor to ensure the content we need is included.

**2020 at the Festival Theatre**

In 2020 our concerts will be in weeks 7 and 8. This requires us to also move our Magic Millions rehearsals to weeks 4 and 5.

**Composer Contracts**

I approached legal within the department to review our very outdated contracts that are used when we employ the composer. The department was not able to help but referred us to Crown – the department paid for the work done.

A template was created for us to use.

**Lastly**

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

To finish with I would like to thank many people.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Board for the giving of their precious time to attend meetings and give direction. We appreciate that you leave your schools and help the PSMF.

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

I would also like to say thank you to: the volunteers; the packers; the retirees that become Stage Door Bouncers; the families (students and adults); the roustabouts; the hair braiders and the many others I have not mentioned for offering their precious time and working for the PSMF.

Finally, the team – Robyn, Cathy, Rachel, Kristin, Anne, Michael, Maria, Selena, Chad and Rohan – how blessed I am to be working with you all. We have had an exciting year – ideas flowing, the willingness to share and offer ideas, discuss and evaluate what we do and how we do it has created a group who I believe feel.

I am so looking forward to what 2020 will bring.

*Irene Solowij*

Manager, PSMF