**SAPPS Music Society President**

**Annual Report 2019**

Every year we are able to report that the year has been a successful one and we always congratulate everyone on their effort and success. 2019 has been no different. The feedback to the Society from schools and families continues to be fabulous.

It is very important to report that the Festival of Music continues to improve, to engage new ideas and technologies and to meet new challenges. I would observe that this is built on the skills and engagement of everyone involved and I am concerned by the growing level of exhaustion for many Festival staff and volunteers. This is something we must address as a Society Board and we must look at through our negotiations with the department.

As President, it has been my agenda to work with the team and the board to tighten up a range of processes and structures. As a Society we need to work to preserve the integrity, longevity, traditions and quality of the work of the Festival. We must also work to support the professionalism of our Festival program.

We have completed our first year with our new constitution and board. I have no doubt that this is working well and the quality of contribution on the board continues to grow. I would like to thank the elected members of the board for the contributions and experience they are making.

We are very conscious of the plan to move year 7 students to high schools in 2022. Our research suggests this will make a difference to our orchestras and may make a small difference to our choirs. In 2021 we may need to work to support some of the year 6 students in some of our schools to be included.

The Board has also moved to ensure that our employees have been offered permanency after many years of filling positions as contracts. We continue to work to tighten up their employment conditions so that they have certainty and appropriate entitlements. This is long overdue.

Our office location has been raised this year and it is a topic of conversation with the department. Other topics include our relationships with other music oriented organisations including Instrumental Music. As the Music Society we need to provide support as the Festival Program evolves within department and the development of music education in South Australia.

The department has initiated a Music Education Strategy and we should all be excited about this. However, to this point the Strategy is not inclusive of the Primary Schools Music Festival Program which shares similar goals. We have made a number of attempts to engage the strategy including offering support. It would appear that the Strategy is seeking a life of its own which is independent of our significant music programs and that this will be a point of clarification into 2020.

I have completed three years as President and it continues to be a great honour to experience the talent, enterprise and engagement of the team and so many volunteers. I want to thank the Board and the Department for Education for their continued commitment to our Festival of Music Program.

Stephen Measday

President