



LYCO NEWS

This bimonthly newsletter is for members of the orchestra community. We welcome your articles, news, contributions and all suggestions. For items, including musical coming events, please email Newsletter@lyco.org.au

In this edition

- Sakura Woods shares music to move people and open them to new possibilities
- Timpanist, Matthew Goddard to lead LYCO's 'Come Beat the Drum' November workshop
- Conductor Willem Van der Vis on the magic of music and why it matters
- A letter from a 12 year old string student

THE LAUNCESTON
YOUTH AND
COMMUNITY
ORCHESTRA (LYCO)
EXISTS SO THAT PEOPLE
OF ALL AGES AND
MUSICAL ABILITIES CAN
ENJOY PLAYING
ORCHESTRAL MUSIC
TOGETHER



When you have to take a stand...



September's worldwide wave of climate strikes saw LYCO cellist Sakura Woods take a stand to combat climate change on Launceston's Civic Square stage.

Swapping her cello for a guitar and stirring vocals, Sakura allowed her music to move the thousand-strong crowd and cut through any complacency around climate change. Sakura's two-song set started with The Wailin' Jennys' 'One Voice' and its message of unity, followed by The Veronicas & Allday's cover of Joni Mitchell's 1970 anthem "Big Yellow Taxi", with a rap in the middle that addresses climate change and coal mining company, Adani.

"The last strike in March, I made it known that if they wanted some music I was happy to play," Sakura said. "Then they asked me to do it again. It's exhilarating and inspiring and really warming to see so many people willing to come, support, and show they care about this huge issue I feel really strongly about."

Sakura said her commitment to music and the environment was forged in her home in the Golden Valley. "My family has always been passionate. My parents have been fairly involved with the Greens and everything, so it's always been there, but this year is when I really took action. This past year, I started really keeping up with all the news and meeting lots of people with similar views, and getting involved with the actual School Strike group in Launceston. We meet every week to organise, plus we have an ongoing group chat, but the strike has been our focus lately. I try and contribute, but I am not really a speaker of any sort, so I always want to advocate the message through my music, which is my strong point."

'Busy' is how Sakura describes her musical life in Year 12. As well as undertaking the Tasmanian University Music Performance Program, Geography and Modern History, Sakura was one of the cast of Launceston College's musical, Matilda. She is in the school's vocal and string ensembles and has her own rock band. "All these things have rehearsals outside school. The UTAS performance course is where I've really been focussing on my classical cello skill and performance of music. It has been a new experience. Apart from LYCO, I've played cello fairly informally, so that's been cool."



For Sakura, sharing music is a natural self-expression, especially through her rock band gigs. “I love performing. I am very passionate about bringing music to people. I like opening people’s eyes to the beauty of music and the power of music, so that’s a huge drive for me, especially with my rock band. I play cello, but in a contemporary way. It opens people’s eyes and makes me feel happy. I feel music is a very powerful mode of communication. It touches people differently compared with words and language. And as my strong point, that’s what I try and do.”

Matthew Goddard leads ‘Come Beat the Drum’ Percussion Workshop

Thanks to a Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF) grant, LYCO is bringing the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra’s Principal Timpanist, Matthew Goddard to lead a special percussion workshop on Saturday 9th November from 1 pm.



Matthew Goddard



Matthew started out as a drummer at high school in Hobart in 1981 and soon developed an interest in percussion. He studied percussion and timpani at the Victorian College of the Arts graduating with Honours, and then freelanced, primarily with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. In 1998 Matt worked in Japan as Timpanist and Percussionist with the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa before returning to Tasmania as Principal Timpanist of the TSO. He is a member of the early music group *Sequenza* and also performs with in the percussion duo *Mattra*. Matthew says LYCO’s ‘Come Beat the Drum’ workshop will cover all aspects of the timpani - their history, how they work, how to care for them and playing techniques. Participants are encouraged to bring any percussion instruments they

have to the workshop and email ron@sentsys.com.au for more information.

LYCO received \$16,844 from the TCF in 2018 for its ‘Come Beat the Drum’ project for the timpani, a trap table, new music and the percussion workshop.

LYCO acknowledges the generous support of the Tasmanian Community Fund.

WHY MUSIC MATTERS - Willem Van der Vis

“There’s this lovely thing about connecting opportunities for musicians. They’re alone, practicing away at their parts, and then they come together and see how their bit is just a part of a whole, and there’s an expanding of awareness. To know about these symphonies, musicians can hear them and know this is something a man or a woman actually created, and think ‘here am I playing it, how amazing is that!’.



Willem Van der Vis

“It’s also about creating something wonderful and sharing it - including realising when your part is important, or if it’s an accompanying part, and then deciding to bring it out or linger on this note or that a little more. Feeling what’s important; what effect is it having on my emotional body, is it exciting, can I be swept along by the excitement and can I make it more exciting? Asking ‘what’s the drama here?’ and if I delay, or play things with more contrast, will it help bring it to life, and ignite my passion for living? Sometimes music can actually feel lonely, and a good composer can make you feel lonely or introspective. Sometimes music is joyous and you can tap into that and feel uplifted and inspired when you walk away from the rehearsal. Either way you know ‘this music is having an effect on me, wow!’

“Educationally it’s magnificent too, because people can be put on the spot. The conductor or the stand partner might say ‘maybe a little bit more of this or that’, so you are in the face of hopefully ‘friendly fire’. As players who are giving of themselves, it can be a testing time where they think ‘yes, I can improve’ or maybe ‘I feel wounded that I am not up to it’. There’s all the stuff in the mix of how you view yourself and, once you have achieved some small steps, how good you can feel about yourself, so it’s very therapeutic in preparing people for life. Life has its joys and its knock-backs, and how we respond is the key. We can use playing as an opportunity or a stepping stone, or we can see it as a disaster or ‘I’m no good’, and all that sort of thing. Music, and the conductor’s role I think, is to help players see the opportunity and the joy-side, and say ‘oh yes, well we make mistakes, so what! Let’s move on.’

“Neuroscience has shown that when you play music your whole brain lights up. Playing music lights your brain up more than any other activity. By seeing and reading an entirely different language, all sorts of neural pathways are activated. By using your physical body to respond to what you are reading and listening to, what’s coming out of your creation and what’s going on around you, you are micro-adjusting all the time. You are watching a conductor and interpreting gesture, you are sensing pulse and rhythm and things being in or out of tune. It’s all being activated, the entirety of your being, and it’s got to be good for you!!!”

Willem Van der Vis is looking forward to his 19th summer sojourn in Tasmania conducting at the Residential Summer String Camp.

Launceston Youth & Community
Orchestra Inc.
is proud to present the



30th Residential Summer String Camp

19th - 25th January 2020

Camp Clayton, Ulverstone

**For String Players
of
All Ages and Abilities**

further information
and on-line booking:
www.lyco.org.au/rssc

The Residential Summer String Camp is operated by the Launceston Youth & Community Orchestra Inc.

UNIQUE CAMP ACCELERATES DEVELOPMENT

I'm a violinist that has been playing for four years. My first (and only) time I've been at string camp was this year, 2019.

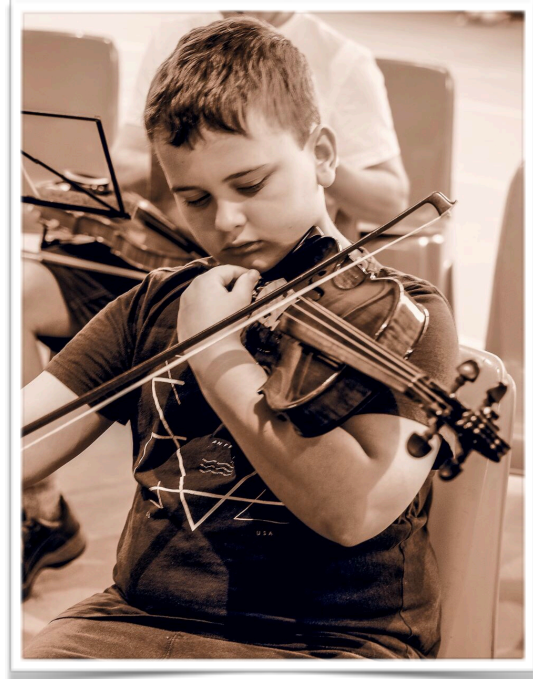
Going there, I couldn't count well, couldn't play for long amounts of time, and I could not do a solo on time. Even though I had been in the [Burnie Symphony] orchestra for three years at this point, I just could not do any of that. But after the days went by, not only did I meet a lot of new people, I learnt the importance of counting, and how to really do it.

I always relied on other people, but this helps to push you along to be more independent. Through Barcarolle, which was quite a long song for me at that time, I didn't know how to prepare, leading to many unneeded pains through the song. Thanks to the tutors in each section, I did learn how to prepare. Stretch, and just relax. String camp does not leave you questioning anything, as a tutor will always answer a question. You learn everything you need, harmonics, shifting, and any thing else you would like to learn.

But my next journey here? My next journey in string camp is to be in 1st violin Lemonhyme, as 2nd violin was a bit easy at times. After last year, who knows what would happen if I moved up a bit. But what has Burnie Symphony Orchestra gained? A more valuable player that will come in on time, and just generally has a lot more skill. Another thing this program has given me is the chance to play in a more technically advanced orchestra (CCO) and further my journey as a violinist, thanks to this program.

Another thing? If I ever become a teacher, this will be one of the first things I'll try to get my students to do, it's so valuable. It gives you great skills in playing anywhere, solo, orchestral, or chamber. This opportunity is not one I would like to miss.

- Ryan (Grade 4 Violinist)



Ryan Smith

EVENTS

Sunday 6 October 2 pm. Evandale Village Singers and Camerata Obscura celebration concert for 175th Anniversary of Christ Church Longford. Tickets at door \$30 & \$25

Friday 25 - Sunday 27 October. Tasmanian Chamber Music Festival Longford
www.taschamberfestival.com.au/concerts

Friday 25 October 2:00pm. Virtuosi Tasmania, Mozart-Adagio for clarinet, cello and piano + Brahms Clarinet Trio. City Baptist Church Launceston <http://bit.ly/2nF4pxH>

Friday 25 -Sunday 27 October. The Ross Arts Festival including Camerata Obscura's 'Strings in Spring' concert 2pm Saturday Ross Uniting Church <http://bit.ly/2nFt31d>

Saturday 26 October 8.30 pm. Van Diemen's Band, Bach by Candlelight, Christ Church Longford <http://bit.ly/2VRtK3c>

Saturday 26 October 9am - 3 pm. Sight singing educator Mark O'Leary leads a Tasmanian Music Teachers Association Workshop in choral singing in the classroom. Launceston Christian School <http://bit.ly/2YDwItl>

Sunday 27 October 2019 3 pm. Van Diemen's Band, Handel Concerti Grossi Opus 3. The Tin Shed- Spring Bay Mill, Triabunna. <http://bit.ly/2VRtK3c>

Saturday 9th November 1 pm. LYCO 'Come Beat the Drum' percussion workshop City Baptist Church Launceston. See page 3 above.

Saturday 9 November 7 pm. Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Swan Song farewell solo performances by cellist Ellen Paulson of Respighi and Tchaikovsky. Launceston Albert www.tso.com.au/events/swan-song/

Sunday 17 November 10 am - 2 pm. Launceston City Band at Franklin House Fair
<http://bit.ly/2oenqaF>

Wednesday 20 November 2:00pm. Virtuosi Tasmania Schubert Quintet with Sue-Ellen Paulson. LifeWay Baptist Church Devonport. <http://bit.ly/2m3zXx2>

Thursday 21 November 2:00pm. Virtuosi Tasmania Schubert Quintet with Sue-Ellen Paulson. Holy Trinity Church. Launceston. <http://bit.ly/2m3zXx2>

Friday 29 November 7.30 pm. LYCO End of Year Concert
Launceston City Baptist Church. <http://www.lyco.org.au/calendar/>

19 - 25 January 2020. LYCO 30th Residential Summer String Camp
<http://www.lyco.org.au/rssc/>

INTERESTING ARTICLES

90-year-old completes Master's degree on music and dementia

<https://ab.co/2nzTK7B>

Alexander Technique for String Players

<http://bit.ly/2oesoEI>

Alexander Shelley on The Architecture of Music

<http://bit.ly/2KDqWEN>

Inaugural Australian Luthier & Archetier Congress

<http://bit.ly/2lZc7SX>

Let them play! Is play becoming extinct?

<http://bit.ly/2VV3dli>

Music and memory - ABC Big Ideas podcast.

<https://ab.co/2xdEyPh>

Music Students Score Better in Math, Science, English Than Nonmusical Peers

<http://bit.ly/2LzGjOY>

Overcoming addiction to tropical hardwoods: the latest alternatives for instruments

<http://bit.ly/2KiMRld>

Richard Tognetti: 'Je suis Wollongong'

<https://ab.co/2Y38etW>

The Repair Shop - ABC iview Season 2 Episode 1: Rosa's violin

<https://ab.co/2Lu0dLb>

Cross-over cocktail: Indies & Idols mixes rock stars with modern Polish composers

<http://bit.ly/2Xq3MZd>

The Sounds of Science: biochemistry and the cosmos inspire new music

<https://go.nature.com/2HdgPmK>

We hope you've enjoyed this newsletter. If you have any ideas for the coming edition, we welcome your articles, contributions, news and all suggestions. Please contribute items, including musical events to:

Newsletter@lyco.org.au