



LAUNCESTON  
YOUTH AND  
COMMUNITY  
ORCHESTRA INC.

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# LYCO NEWS

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This is the first edition of a bimonthly newsletter 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](mailto:Newsletter@lyco.org.au)

## **SURF'S UP - Margaret Hoban, LYCO's Musical Director, on catching a wave....**

"I've done body surfing and I've done boogie board surfing and it's interesting to me that you can't do surfing non-stop."

The conductor of the Launceston Youth and Community Orchestra likens surfing to making music together. "It becomes a spiritual thing," Margaret says. "Spiritual in terms of how you go

THE LAUNCESTON  
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EXISTS SO THAT  
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PLAYING ORCHESTRAL  
MUSIC TOGETHER

forward in life. Standing on the crest of a wave, you can crash going forward too fast. You can fall off the back and stagnate. Or you can just surf in life for a while. When it becomes your teacher it shapes your attitudes towards life and people, your direction, your morals.

“When I hear someone talking about a real passion they have for anything, whether it’s surfing or horses or cricket, I always like to look into that. Even if you don’t think you know much about music, you are already a long way into life and your understanding. That place where people already know something is really important.

“You can build on what you know, rather than say this music has no connection to life - you are doing music now.”

Read more from Margaret below.

## ACCOLADES FOR ACCOLAY

**2019 looks set to be marked with musical milestones for Lucy Aras.**



As soloist in this year's Launceston Youth and Community Orchestra's mid-year concert, Lucy Aras is tackling Accolay's romantic 1868 Concerto in A Minor. And Lucy's skills as a pianist and violinist are being showcased with several other key performances and exams this year. "I'm doing Grade 7 violin and A Mus [The Associate in Music diploma] on piano. I am also preparing a repertoire for the Tasmanian University Music Performance Program course [for year 11 and 12 students] in which 80 percent of the grade is based on performance skills."

Lucy added violin to her piano practice aged eight. "I heard recordings when I was little and really liked the sound of the violin and the depth of expression that was put into the music. That inspired me to take up the instrument", she said. "To be honest though, I currently spend more time on piano than violin due to the number of pieces that need to be polished for the AMusA exam and my end of year recital."

As the eldest of six children, five of whom are learning the piano, Lucy admits it can be difficult to fit practice in with everyone else playing music at home. "There's always someone practicing, so you have to be really efficient with your time. I practice after school whenever I get the chance but even so, the majority of my practice takes place on the weekend." Lucy says her Year 11 school subjects also limit her practice time.

The Accolay Violin Concerto No.1 in A Minor is much loved for its drama, intensity, tenderness, colour and contrasting techniques. "Phrasing is very important," Lucy said. "One section is filled with string crossings, so you have to be careful switching between strings. There are parts that involve shifting to high positions. In such sections, intonation and vibrato are especially important. One passage is full of sixteen semi-quavers notes per bow, demanding a consistent and rich tone", she said.

Lucy says her work developing listening skills in music is very rewarding. "You visualise what you want a piece to sound like and pay close attention to any mistakes or difficulties that need to be fixed - in the process you can experiment, and try different things to build your own interpretation. At the moment I'm working on bow distribution and producing a good tone regardless of which section of the bow is being used. I just keep at it and eventually it will click."

Lucy has been playing with LYCO for five years. You can hear her performance at the LYCO Mid Year Concert on Friday 28th June at the City Baptist Church.

## ON THE EVOLUTION OF AN ORCHESTRA- Margaret Hoban

"I always treat the orchestra and the string camp as a giant student", LYCO conductor Margaret Hoban says. "We are constantly building on what the orchestras are capable of doing.

"When you first start out building a group, there's a lot of time just getting it to play together... Getting it to play with a feeling. I see the Piccolos as a foundation, having musicians learn rehearsal skills, how to play notes faster.

"Sight reading is one of the first things you need for an orchestra. If people can't sight read, you have to take time in rehearsals when people aren't sure what they're playing. So first you have to develop sight reading enough for players to find the way through the music.

"The next layer is sub-dividing and counting. For a few years it was something the orchestra really worked on. Sub-dividing and counting is something very few orchestras can do. Most people, other than professional groups, are usually hopeless at rhythms. Nobody makes them do it so they pick it up from making mistakes and listening to the sounds around them. Our orchestra surprises people. They think 'wow, people usually aren't able to do that!'

"Lately we've been really working on the body of the orchestra's sound and intonation. Generally wind parts are trickier, they're hard. They come in out of nowhere and demand lots of counting, and with the brass, they're really exposed.

"Now I can say we're starting to get a really good sound, because we are. Once you have that sound, people want that and it continues. It's self-reinforcing. For the strings, it's now time to bring their bowing together so they can get more sound - like sea shanties, pulling ropes together gives you more strength, more power.

"The more I can get the orchestra to feel what music is, the more I can play with it. The more the orchestra understands my gestures, the more I can play with space in music. It doesn't have to just keep going and, therefore, it becomes quite improvisational really. I can s-t-r-e-t-c-h it out because I feel like it, or whatever the music really wants.

"Playing with sound, discovering the line, where it's going, what's being said, what voices are supportive, and where you need to take over... that's the joy of music. It's exhilarating, it's euphoric, because orchestras have this amazing quality of depth. Everybody enjoys it if you develop that depth.

"To me that's the fun of rehearsal; really getting to PLAY."



## WINTER ORCHESTRA CAMP REMINDER

STRING, WOODWIND AND BRASS MUSICIANS FROM ACROSS TASMANIA ARE INVITED TO JOIN LYCO'S WEEKEND CAMP AND PLAY A MAJOR WORK FOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. THE 2019 WINTER ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP WILL RUN FROM THE EVENING OF FRIDAY, 5TH JULY 2019 TO SUNDAY, 7TH JULY 2019. CHECK THE WEBSITE IN MAY FOR ALL THE DETAILS.



Heidi Barker and Margaret Hoban - "Music is how we decorate time"

## LETTER TO TASMANIA:

My time in Tassie is drawing to a close, and as I think back to all of the musical richness I've enjoyed during my months here I feel so extraordinarily thankful!

Starting with the joy of my third string camp back in January, which renewed so many connections young and old from my previous years of coming to tutor, right through to the weekly

sessions with the LYCO and the Piccolo strings in Launceston each week, this has been a revivifying and rewarding time for me.

Recently I read that having music as a "common language" creates a greater connection between people of different backgrounds than almost any other cultural factor, since it touches such a deep part of us as human beings. I have loved seeing how true this is in my encounters with you all here: age and nationality and all sorts of other disparities have vanished in the delight of talking music together, exploring technique, leading sectionals, giving lessons, and above all, playing! I love tracing the progress of learning at each level, and having the chance to join all of you in your musical pursuits has been such a privilege for me!

The culture of collaboration that you all represent in your orchestra is such a special one, blending the commitment to creating something beautiful with the exuberance of amateurs (and I use the word advisedly, not at all to diminish the

results of your work, but because of its Latin root describing a person who does something purely for the love of it!) You all cherish music as a valuable part of your lives, and so I cherish the fact that I've been allowed in to engage with you at that level.

Being invited to join you in the place where the musical rubber meets the road, and receiving such a warm welcome along the way, has lifted my spirits and given me such a reminder of the value of making music together.

Thank you, and I will miss you! With high hopes of being back again next year ~ Heidi

## EVENTS

Sunday 7th April Camerata Obscura: Launceston autumnal concert

<http://bit.ly/2U4O3NK>

Saturday 13 April Australian Strings Association (AUSTA) Stringmania Festival - Hobart

A rare opportunity for students of all levels, teachers and enthusiasts to participate in have-a-go activities, performance opportunities and workshops.

<http://bit.ly/2U6tqk8>

Saturday 20 April. Virtuosi Tasmania concert Launceston  
Mozart, Bartok and Bruch

<http://bit.ly/2JDNw18>

Thursday 25 April Launceston City Band ANZAC service Longford

<http://bit.ly/2JDOp8>

Saturday 4 May Virtuosi Tasmania Classical Bassoon concert - Devonport

<http://bit.ly/2JDNw18>

Sunday 5 May Virtuosi Tasmania Classical Bassoon concert - Cressy

<http://bit.ly/2JDNw18>

Friday 28 June 7.30 pm LYCO Mid Year Concert Launceston City Baptist Church

<http://www.lyco.org.au/calendar/>

Friday 5 - Sunday 7th July LYCO Winter Workshop

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

Saturday 25 July Australian Society for Musical Education “Strategies for Musical Success” seminar with author, teacher and educator Michael Griffin.  
Launceston

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

29 November 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

More than practice to becoming skilled in music....

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

Do Older Musicians Have Cognitive Advantages?

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

“Peter Quigley receives Order of Australia Medal for musical dedication

<http://bit.ly/2UaDE2M>

Press Play: Does something serious happen when we play?

<https://n.pr/2U85Rrg>

How music hijacks our sense of time

<http://bit.ly/2U42Jg1>

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

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