

STRATHFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

President's Annual Report, 1973.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Third Annual General Meeting of the Strathfield Symphony Orchestral Society is now open. On behalf of the Orchestral Council and society members let me extend a most cordial welcome to our Patron the Mayor of Strathfield, Alderman Boyce and to the Mayoress, Mrs. Boyce. Mayors tend to be busy people with many calls on their time and we are grateful Mr. Mayor, that you have been able to be here tonight and to take part in our meeting.

That the Mayor of Strathfield accepts our invitation to be Patron of our society symbolises the friendly and co-operative relationship that exists between our organisation and the Municipal Council. This has been translated into action by the Council on an ever increasing scale since the inauguration of the orchestra and has recently been augmented once more. To you Mr. Mayor let me express the Society's sincere thanks for Councils assistance, past, present and future. Because of it we will be able to much more effectively achieve our aims and to make the community more aware of our activities. The ultimate result being better music to a wider, appreciative audience.

This time last year the orchestra was preparing for the second concert of the season under Mr. Michael Dyer. As June became July Mr. Dyer found the strain of concert preparation on top of a study course becoming intolerable and we knew that after the July concert he would not be able to continue. Once again the orchestra was apparently without a conductor. At that very moment word came that Mr. Richard Gill, the orchestra's original conductor was just back from an overseas tour of study. Hopefully your council contacted him with an invitation to resume his conductorship. I know I am expressing a widespread opinion when I say that since he said 'yes' the orchestra's future has never been brighter. He attacks everything with dedication, vigour, skill and never failing good humour and it shows in the orchestra's performance.

Of course he finds little things for the council to do too. Somehow at the next concert we have to accommodate a choir, up so they can be seen, but not on the stage please! - as there is no room. Then for the November concert we have to deal with a grand piano in much the same way. I have been saving these for the incoming Orchestral Council so they will have something to do.

Since July, Richard and the orchestra have combined to give us two very successful concerts and they have settled into what promises to be a long and harmonious relationship. Speaking of relationships our conductor just recently ~~our~~

entered into a Matrimonial one, which I am sure will also be long and harmonious.

I would like to thank the members of the council for their efforts during the year. Miss Emily Finn, our Musical Director, Mr. Marcus Edwards, who fiddles the books as well as the fiddle and runs errands for the society in town. Mr. Charlie Bernie our faithful librarian, who is constantly on the case of the missing manuscripts. He also runs errands in town. Incidentally, if you get milk in your coffee tonight he is the one to thank. Mrs. Doherty, our social committee representative and Mr. Tony Clarke our publicity officer who is responsible for tickets, programmes and generally keeping us in the public eye. Tonight he is half a world away from us, nevertheless later in the evening I am going to nominate him for the job again. He ambitiously set out to produce an illustrated brochure setting out the years programme with feature artists for this season. Working on a shoestring, time ran out before it was ready. I just feel that next year he will succeed. If he does it will be a great step forward for the orchestra. Also Vice President Bruce Snowfoot, who is at present constructing equipment for the better storage of the orchestra's stands. Mrs. Robyn Sorenson was our secretary and a keen 'cellist until increasing family responsibilities obliged her to withdraw regretfully from both activities. Our thanks also to Mr. Priddice our Honary Auditor, who keeps us honest.

During the past twelve months the society managed to get some much needed percussion instruments. Before this we were dependent on the generosity of a local school which lent us theirs for concerts. This left our treasury almost bare at one point in the year. Fortunately things look much brighter at present. Our April concert attracted a much larger audience than previous concerts and this is reflected in financial returns. We anticipate an even greater attendance at our July concert. If these anticipations are realised we will be well on the way to achieving our next goal - a set of four Ludwig pedal tuned Tympani.

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