

VERTURES

MAY 2015

PETER SCULTHORPE HONOURER AT RACT SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS

PICNICKERS at RACT *Symphony under the Stars* usually know what to expect: a feast of family-friendly classics in a relaxed outdoor setting. But this year's RACT *Symphony under the Stars* in Launceston delivered a rare and unexpected surprise — a ceremony honouring the late Peter Sculthorpe, one of Launceston's most illustrious sons.

In 2013 Launceston City Council decided to award Peter Sculthorpe the Key to the City but, given the composer's often fragile physical condition, a date for the official ceremony was difficult to finalise. Sadly, Peter Sculthorpe died last August, at the age of 85, so the Key to the City had to be conferred posthumously.

At RACT *Symphony under the Stars*, which was held in City Park on Saturday 21 February, the late composer was represented by his nieces, Libby Parker and Anne Sculthorpe. Launceston Mayor, Albert Van Zetten, who conferred the honour, said that "Peter Sculthorpe's name will now sit proudly on the honour roll board at the Town Hall to become another important part of Launceston's history."

continued on page 2



- 1 The concert is made possible through the generous support of the RACT.
- 2 Behind the scenes with sound technician Ian Wollstein.
- 3 The RACT stall proved popular.
- 4 (L-R) Anne Sculthorpe, Albert Van Zetten, Libby Parker.
- 5 Conductor Marko Letonja.



- 1 Soloist Maya Boog.
- 2 Anne Sculthorpe says a few words.
- 3 A group of happy picnickers.

PETER SCULTHORPE HONOURED

continued from page 1

Fittingly, the TSO performed Sculthorpe's *Left Bank Waltz* at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Other works performed before the crowd of approximately 9,000 were Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, Graeme Koehne's *Santa Ana Freeway* and a bracket of chansons made famous by Edith Piaf, including "Non, je ne regrette rien". The Piaf songs, together with arias by Gounod, were sung by Swiss soprano Maya Boog. Making his first appearance at *RACT Symphony under the Stars* was TSO Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Marko Letonja. The compere for the evening was Jane Longhurst.

RACT Symphony under the Stars in Glenorchy did not take place the previous Saturday on account of rain. But concert-goers in southern Tasmania were not left entirely in the lurch — an indoor version of the concert took place in Federation Concert Hall on Monday 16 February.



...AND ON THE SUBJECT OF PETER SCULTHORPE

To honour Tasmania's most renowned composer, the TSO some years ago named its association of donors who have indicated that they have made a bequest to the TSO Foundation the Sculthorpe Society.

Members of the Sculthorpe Society will gather to enjoy a piece of cake on 29 May, the date of the TSO's *A Fine Romance* concert in Hobart, to commemorate Peter's birthday (which actually fell on 29 April).

Should you wish to make a bequest to the TSO Foundation and become a member of the Sculthorpe Society, please contact Jessica Armson, Philanthropy and Special Events Coordinator, on 03 6232 4405 or email armsonj@tso.com.au.



LATEST RELEASE



The latest release in the TSO's Australian Composer Series on ABC Classics celebrates the lyrical and beguiling music of Graeme Koehne.

"Koehne's new orchestral works offer craftsmanship and pleasure aplenty." *Limelight*

Available at tso.com.au and the TSO Box Office. RRP \$25. Special subscriber price \$22.50.

ALL SINGING, ALL DANCING MINI MAESTRO



BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS of last year's Mini TSO for Kids, the TSO gave five sold-out performances of Mini Maestro in the TSO Studio 9-11 April. Conducted by Greg Stephens and hosted by Jane Longhurst, Mini Maestro attracted children aged 0 to 10 who didn't just sit and listen to the music but played, conducted, sang and danced. The accompanying mums, dads and grandparents seemed to have a good time too!

Music from *Star Wars* went down a treat as did Grieg's *In the Hall of the Mountain King*. Children came to know the distinctive sounds of the instruments of the orchestra through Jane Longhurst's original and witty story, "Where is the Big Sound?"

If you liked Mini Maestro — or wish that you and your children had attended — don't miss *Melvin's Musical Circus* in Federation Concert Hall on Tuesday 27 October. Clownductor Melvin Tix has dazzled Tasmanian audiences before so we know this show's going to be a winner! Book at tso.com.au or phone the TSO Box Office on 1800 001 190.



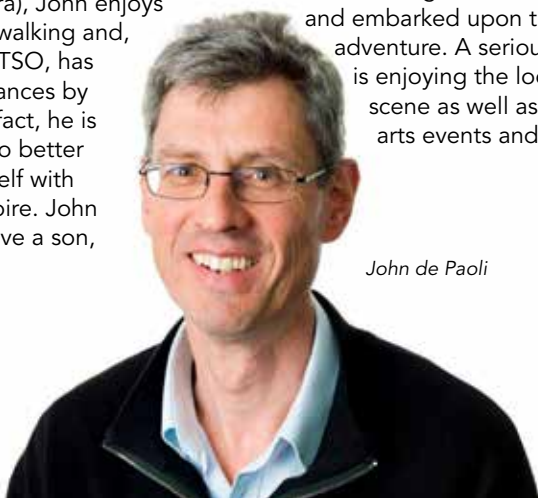
COMINGS AND GOINGS

JENNY COMPTON has joined the TSO as Outreach and Education Executive. A flautist by training, she played in the Sydney Youth Orchestra and Australian Youth Orchestra before joining the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the age of 18. She subsequently performed with many Australian orchestras including the Australian Chamber Orchestra and toured New South Wales for Musica Viva's Education Program. Moving to the USA, she lived in Memphis where her husband, Sam, was Principal Horn with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and she was a casual flautist before taking on various administrative positions including Music Librarian, Education Coordinator, Director of Artistic Administration and Acting Operations Manager. After 15 years in the City of Elvis, Jenny, Sam and sons Zephyr and Tas moved to Tasmania where, among other things, they are enjoying the fabulous scenery. Jenny has brought with her knowledge and experience of a range of community engagement projects undertaken by the Memphis Symphony and is keen to broaden the TSO's involvement in this area in addition to enlarging the orchestra's education activities.



Jenny Compton

JOHN DE PAOLI was appointed Business Manager in July 2014. Born and raised in Launceston, he completed a Bachelor of Commerce (majoring in Accounting) at the University of Tasmania before going on to complete the CPA program. Keen to get a taste of the wider world, he travelled throughout Japan and Europe upon matriculation and had the good fortune to meet his future partner, Emanuela, at a Dizzy Gillespie concert in Vienna. Returning to Tasmania, he took up a position with WIN Television, eventually becoming State Accountant. Moving on after 18 years, he was Corporate Accountant for the engineering advisory firm SEMF and, later, Senior Accountant at the University of Tasmania. A self-declared and unashamed MAMIL (Middle-Aged Man In Lycra), John enjoys cycling and bushwalking and, since joining the TSO, has enjoyed performances by the orchestra. In fact, he is looking forward to better acquainting himself with orchestral repertoire. John and Emanuela have a son, Ricardo.



John de Paoli

FIONA McALPINE has taken up the position of Executive Assistant. A West Australian, she studied Philosophy and Quantitative Methodology at the University of Newcastle in NSW. Her professional life has been nothing if not varied — she has owned a successful restaurant in Margaret River, been Marketing Manager of a five-star boutique country retreat in rural Queensland and run a hospitality consultancy business in Sydney. She returned to WA and raised her daughter, Ella, while studying for an Advanced Diploma in Arts, Interior Design. Prior to moving to Tasmania, she was PA to the Manager for Commercial Development and the Manager for Community Development at the City of Busselton in south-west WA. A two-week holiday in Tasmania proved to be a turning point. She and Ella said goodbye to their farm in WA, drove the Nullabor — “an unforgettable experience” — and embarked upon their Tasmanian adventure. A serious foodie, Fiona is enjoying the local gastronomic scene as well as the plethora of arts events and festivals.



Fiona McAlpine





THERE BE PIRATES IN THE HOUSE!

THE JOLLY ROGER wasn't flying above Federation Concert Hall on Wednesday 1 April but it may as well have given the superabundance of Long John Silver impersonators, assorted buccaneers and creatures of the deep who gathered for *Pirates in the House*, the first Family Classics concert for the year.

The sold-out concert was preceded by a costume competition that saw eyepatches, cutlasses and bandannas galore. Other costumes included the mythical god of the sea, Neptune, and an extraordinary pair of jellyfish. Getting into the spirit of the night, members of the orchestra and conductor Benjamin Northey fronted up in fancy dress too.

Pirates in the House traced an original scenario — devised by Jenny Compton, TSO Outreach and Education Executive — in which Captain Smoulderingly Handsome (John Xintavelonis) and First Mate (Jane Longhurst) went on a high seas adventure. This perfect marriage of music and storytelling incorporated *Scheherazade*, *Jamaican Rhumba*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and other works, either in whole or in part.

The next Family Classics concert will be *Maximus Musicus visits the Orchestra*, on 10 September. Tickets at tso.com.au or phone the TSO Box Office on 1800 001 190.





ANNUAL REPORT

Diane Truskett, President of TSO Friends, recently tabled the TSO Friends' 2014 Annual Report. It included the following:

- We were able to make a donation of \$15,000 to the TSO towards the refurbishment of the Green Room.
- Committee members promoted the Viennese Raffle, selling tickets throughout the state and raising almost \$15,000 for the TSO.
- Liam Osborne and Tim Osborne were the recipients of the \$600 Sabina Heilmann Memorial Bursary, and Lewis Elliott received the TSO Friends prize for the student who gains the highest score in TCE Music and goes on to study at the Tasmanian Conservatorium.
- Janet Rutherford was presented with a gift to mark her retirement after 28 years with the TSO and Rodney McDonald was presented with a silver pin to acknowledge 25 years with the TSO.
- I would like to thank the following musicians who so generously appeared at our events: Lloyd Hudson, David Robins, Chris Waller, Genevieve Stather, Andrew Seymour, Gary Wain, Matt Goddard, Edwina George, Dinah

Woods, Tahnee van Herk and Jennifer Marten-Smith.

- We focused on promotion and participation in 2014, particularly in the north of the state, and now have four northern representatives on the committee. By November, we had a membership of 529, a number we would like to exceed in 2015.
- My four-year term as President of TSO Friends concludes in March 2015. I have enjoyed the role immensely and would like to thank the extremely hard-working committee members: Maggie McKerracher, Keith Anderson, Grant Taylor, Carol Samuelson, Mike Scott, Muriel Morillon, Tina Pinkard, John Canterford, Catherine Hamilton and Geoff Walker. Special thanks also to John Pugsley and Mark Bain.

RACE SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS

We were delighted to raise almost \$7,000 in raffle ticket and glow stick sales at this year's *RACE Symphony under the Stars* in Launceston. A further \$379 was raised at the Hobart *RACE Symphony under the Stars* which, due to rain, was held indoors at Federation Concert Hall.

MEET THE MAESTRO

Pianist and conductor Howard Shelley delighted a large gathering of TSO Friends in the TSO Studio on 26 April. Interviewed by Mark Bain, Howard shared many entertaining and absorbing reminiscences. Among the range of topics covered were: the advantages of conducting an orchestra from the piano; page-turning a digital score with a Bluetooth foot-operated pedal; spectacular and embarrassing moments; the enjoyment he receives from playing and recording with the TSO; and his very special experience of playing Rachmaninov's Piano Concert No 3 to a 2,500-strong audience in Nuremberg with his son, Alexander Shelley, conducting. The TSO Friends very much enjoyed the afternoon with Maestro Shelley and are indebted to him for making time available for us in his busy schedule.



PIRATES IN THE HOUSE

Volunteers from TSO Friends raised funds at *Pirates in the House* on 1 April. The motley crew (pictured below) did a fine job trading treasure — in the form of glow sticks and other sparkly items — for cash.

OPEN REHEARSALS

Friday 21 August 10am – 1pm
Federation Concert Hall, Hobart
Marko Letonja conductor
Stephen Hough piano
Beethoven One and Four

Friday 25 September 10am – 1pm
Federation Concert Hall, Hobart
Giordano Bellincampi conductor
Jun Yi Ma violin
From Vienna to Hollywood



(L-R) Mike Scott, Jo Scott, Maggie McKerracher, Diane Truskett and Grant Taylor.

AS A TSO SUBSCRIBER, you are no doubt aware of our concert series in Hobart and Launceston and our concerts in regional Tasmania. But did you know that the TSO also performs in schools, community centres, libraries, child care centres and aged care facilities? We make critically acclaimed recordings and are at the forefront in promoting Australian works through the Australian Composer Series on ABC Classics.

In order for us to carry out these and other activities, we need your financial support. Private giving is crucial to our on-going viability.

You can help by making a donation to our Annual Appeal. You should have received an Annual Appeal brochure in the post. Please give it your full consideration. You can also donate at tso.com.au or contact Jessica Armson on 03 6232 4405, email armsonj@tso.com.au.

You can make a difference. Please give.



PLEASE GIVE TO OUR ANNUAL APPEAL



Mini TSO at Sorell Primary School, April 2014.

A NUMBER OF good news items flowed from the release of the 2014 Annual Report for Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Holdings Limited.

The TSO gave 76 performances in 2014 and played to a significantly larger overall audience. Indeed, paid attendances in 2014 were 34% higher than in 2013. In further good news, TSOH finished the year with a small but by no means trivial surplus.

"The year 2014 was one of artistic successes, bold undertakings and new initiatives," said Patricia Leary, TSO Chair. "We increased our audience substantially (thank you ticket buyers!), performed throughout the state, enlarged our school and community projects, and deepened our collaborative engagement with MONA."

To read the 2014 Annual Report in full, visit tso.com.au and follow the link at "About/Annual Reports".



TSO BUILDS ITS AUDIENCE IN 2014

NORTHERN LIGHTS

THE TASMANIAN Symphony Orchestra is grateful to the members of the Northern Supporters Committee — Janet Bilson, Jane Boyle, Joan Green and Caryl McQuestin — for their ongoing fundraising efforts.

Over many years now the Northern Supporters Committee has held a range of events, most recently a Cocktail Reception in Launceston on Saturday 28 March.

The committee gathered in-kind or benevolent support from a private Launceston club, Fine Drop Wines, MONA and RACT Travel. In addition to the ladies of the committee, the TSO would like to thank auctioneer Sam McQuestin and all those who bid on the live auction items.



(L-R) Joan Green, Jane Boyle, Caryl McQuestin and Janet Bilson.

CODETTA

There's been a mini Baby Boom at the TSO of late. Congratulations to Yue-Hong Cha (Tutti Violin) and Don Bate (former Principal Trombone) on the birth of daughters, Jeanette and Charlotte, and to Gabrielle Lis (Corporate Partnerships Executive) and Thomas Talsma on the birth of a son, Leander. As you would expect, Yue-Hong and Gabrielle, who are both first-time mothers, are taking a well-earned break from the

workplace. Sam East has been appointed to a fixed-term position as Corporate Partnerships Executive during Gabrielle's absence. The TSO wishes all three newborns long and happy lives.

Mathers House, which is in Mathers Lane in the Hobart CBD, is a facility run by Hobart City Council offering activities and programs for a range of people, most particularly the older members of the community. At Mathers House in January, three TSO brass musicians — Mark Bain, David Robins and Greg Stephens — gave a lecture/demonstration/recital to an enthusiastic and appreciative

audience. As *Overtures* was going to print, another TSO ensemble, a wind trio — comprising Tahnee van Herk, Andrew Seymour and Dinah Woods — was preparing for its appearance at Mathers House. These informal events include drinks and nibbles and are an excellent opportunity for musicians to mix and mingle with a group of people outside the standard concert-going audience. The musicians generously give of their time for these engagements, which form part of the TSO's Outreach program.

On the subject of outreach, the TSO's desire to bring music to inmates in Tasmania's prisons is gathering steam. In May and June, four TSO musicians — Rob Clark, Matt Goddard, Christine Lawson and Alison Lazaroff-Somssich — will conduct workshops for inmates at Ron Barwick Minimum Security Prison, Risdon Cove. Crucially, the children of the inmates will also be involved. The sessions, therefore, will not only be a way of bringing music to the incarcerated men, but of helping them to build (or rebuild) relationships with their families. The inmates and their children will be introduced to orchestral instruments, participate in musical games and work together on a group composition. Marko Letonja has long expressed a desire for the TSO to make inroads into areas of the community that have traditionally had little or no access to orchestral music. The TSO in conjunction with the Tasmanian Prison Service is planning further projects in this area.

Sadly, as part of overall belt-tightening, many schools have cut back on music education. This is at a time when the TSO is more committed than ever to playing a part in the lives of Tasmanian schoolchildren. Getting to a TSO Education concert can be problematic for some schools and, with school budgets being stretched, bus hire costs are putting the experience out of reach. Alarmed by this news, TSO musicians have dipped into their own funds — the TSO Players' Association — to pay the bus hire cost for a "regional" school (50km+ outside Hobart) to attend a Mini TSO concert. Over and above the fact that young, musically engaged listeners are vital to the TSO's survival, music education is vital if we are to have a thoughtful, creative and culturally literate population.

Jennifer Owen is currently trialling in the position of Principal First Violin and Jonathon Ramsay is trialling as Principal Trombone. From time to time you will notice a number of new faces occupying the Concertmaster's chair. After 14 years as TSO Concertmaster, Jun Yi Ma will be bringing his tenure to a close at the end of the year and the orchestra is "getting to know" a range of applicants keen to fill his shoes.

As part of its drive to compile an archive, the TSO is eager to hear from readers who would like to donate relevant items. Recently Elizabeth Ruthven of Otago donated concert programs and her personal concert-going journal from the 1960s and 70s. Anne Carmichael of Launceston submitted a newspaper review of Vladimir Ashkenazy's appearance with the TSO in Launceston in 1969 — a concert marking the TSO's 21st anniversary. Thank you both.

TSO PARTNERS

CORE PUBLIC SUPPORT



The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the Tasmanian Government through the Minister for the Arts, and the Tasmanian Icon Program.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



PREMIER PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



LEADERSHIP PARTNERS



PARTNERS



WINE PARTNERS



MEDIA SUPPORTERS



WE ALSO WISH TO THANK

Foot & Playsted In Graphic Detail

For information on TSO Partner opportunities, please contact Sam East on 6232 4430 or email eastst@tso.com.au

Federation Concert Hall
1 Davey Street, Hobart Tasmania 7000 Australia
GPO Box 1450 Hobart TAS 7001 Australia

BOX OFFICE
Telephone: 03 6232 4450
Facsimile: 03 6232 4455
Email: boxoffice@tso.com.au
Freecall: 1800 001 190

ADMINISTRATION
Telephone: 03 6232 4444
Facsimile: 03 6232 4455
Email: tso@tso.com.au
www.tso.com.au



© 2015 Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Pty Ltd
ABN 81 088 230 184