

COMPETITION AND COMPOSITION: NEW MUSIC FOR SCHOOLS

Proposed implementation for Capricornia schools

Report on Project

Preamble:

The Young Conservatorium takes the benefit of its artistic and academic endeavours to the community through a multi faceted, project based outreach. In recent years the program of community engagement has been taken beyond the confines of the Brisbane metropolitan and near coastal areas into regional Queensland.

The active partnership that exists between Education Queensland and Young Conservatorium, particularly at the middle levels of management, has enabled these outreach activities to grow, meet local community desires and to deliver new and innovative practice into music programs in schools particularly.

This project has been a benchmark in the partnerships' development and in the modelling for future new and existing practice models.

The Project:

The activity involved school bands from the Capricornia Education District of Education Queensland plus ensembles from Blackwater and Gladstone and a number of private schools in:

- A competition to find the best primary and secondary school ensemble
 - That event was held in Education Week 2003 and produced the two "winning" ensembles, Taranganba Primary School and Yeppoon State High School.
- Pursuit of an especially commissioned work as a prize
 - Three new pieces were commissioned for the event; ***A Joyful Noise***, to launch the concept at the Queensland Conservatorium NEW! Concert at the South Bank Piazza in November of 2002 and ***Cinque Quattro – alla Marcia*** and ***Cyclone***, both composed for the winning bands noted above.
- Workshop program with one of Australia's leading wind orchestra conductors.
 - This program took place on the 2nd and 3rd of April 2004 with the composer engaging in a workshop program with both bands and the conducting the world premiere of the new works at the concert hall of Yeppoon State High School.
- Development of school based musicians and teachers via engagement with Young Conservatorium and QCGU staff and students
 - Anecdotal and documentary evidence suggests that the this aim of the project was significantly met

Project Outline:

The project was designed to connect with the community by utilising existing programs of performance and teaching endeavour via:

- Provision of a music performance activity for school concert bands in a competitive setting
- The selection of Rockhampton because of the vibrant school band community there and in surrounding areas.
- Presenting during Education Week to maximise the exposure for both GU and the local schools.
- Utilising the concept of competition but placing it in a teaching and pedagogical environment whereby the "judgement" or adjudication for Each ensemble can elect to

either just perform or to perform and then work with the adjudicator in a workshop style environment.

- Prize is a commissioned work for the winning primary (level 1) and secondary (level 2.5) schools.
 - Workshops with bands and composer
 - Gala activity focused on the premieres (as suitable and available)
- Commission sponsorship to come from QCGU, Young Conservatorium and Brolga Music Publishers.
- Publication to be undertaken by Brolga Music Publishers for national and international distribution
- Administration of the activity by QCGU and YC in consultation with the district music coordinator

Performance and Workshop out line:

Each ensemble will be able to elect to join in the workshop program or not.

Timetable for the performance and workshop program would be:

- Primary schools:
 - Play for 15 minutes – workshop for 20 minutes
- High schools:
 - Play for 20 minutes – workshop for 30 minutes

Therefore, every hour would allow for one high school band to present and every hour and a half would allow for two primary school bands to present.

The venue would have to have adequate chairs and stands available and also provide desk and chair for the adjudicator.

Costs:

Each school would be responsible for their own cost for transportation and related matters. The activity would cost each school one of two fees, as follows:

Primary schools:

- Performance - \$75
- Workshop added - \$130

High schools:

- Performance - \$95
- Workshop added - \$160

No costs to schools would be incurred other than what is detailed above. A minimum number of schools would need to be involved to ensure the financial viability of the event. It should be noted that the cost of workshops are significantly below what it would cost each school to engage a clinician to present such events individually.

Outcomes:

Students in school bands will benefit from the project by way of the following outcomes:

- Association with organisations such as the Young Conservatorium, Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University and Brolga Music Publishers
- Performance opportunity with an associated workshop opportunity presented by an internationally renown conductor and composer
- Adjudication by an eminent musician
- Potential to premiere a new work from an Australian composer written specifically for those students
- Workshop for winning bands with the composer
- Every group will be awarded a Certificate of Participation

- With publication to follow the premiere, all participants will eventually benefit from the new music written for this event

Conclusion:

This project will see the first competitive activity where the outcome benefits all the participants. This is the only activity of its type known of in the world and will allow Queensland school band students to engage in a process that leads to the commissioning and publication of a work written expressly for them by one of the countries leading composers for concert band.

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APPENDIX 1

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Proposed implementation for Capricornia schools

Preamble:

The instrumental music program in Queensland schools is second to none in Australia. State schools are the flagship of such activity and concert bands are at the forefront. Competition is a venture engaged in by many school-based ensembles. Competition with an outcome beneficial to all participants is not found anywhere in the Australian musical landscape.

The Project:

The activity will involve school bands from the Capricornia Education District in:

- A competition to find the best primary and secondary school ensemble
- Pursuit of an especially commissioned work as a prize
- Workshop program with one of Australia's leading wind orchestra conductors.
- Development of school based musicians and teachers via engagement with YC and QCGU staff and students

Project Outline:

- Music performance in a competitive setting
- The activity is for school concert bands – high and primary
- Various ensembles meet at a suitable location in or around Rockhampton to perform on one of two days set aside for the activity.
- In Education Week (Thursday and Friday?)
- Each ensemble can elect to either just perform or to perform and then work with the adjudicator in a workshop style environment.
- Prize is a commissioned work for the winning primary (level 1) and secondary (level 2.5) schools.
 - Workshops with bands and composer
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