

## Email correspondence between Hultgren and Durrer re Stella Maris Commissions

**There was a great deal of email discussion and also face to face discussion. The email below is a sample only of that discussion**

Hi Inez,

Thank you for your response. I am still a little unsure so I will be more explicit in the questions. I will respond in the text again - in **bold** so check that and then see what I think is my defined role.

Given your responses I see my involvement as:

1. Write one piece for band
2. Write one piece for strings
3. Write a theme that will be adapted a number of times for as number of instrumental ensembles
4. Rehearse the band and string orchestra for the event
5. Liaison with music staff for the event and some active involvement across the first semester 2009 outside of the rehearsals noted in 4 above

Cheers

Ralph

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Ralph Hultgren  
19 Travill Street  
Newmarket 4051  
Australia

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Inez Durrer](#)

**To:** [Ralph Hultgren](#)

**Sent:** Sunday, August 24, 2008 4:58 PM

**Subject:** RE: Stella Maris Music Commission for Q150

Thank you so much Ralph. Things are coming together and I do realize there will be still some tweaking to do before everything is finalized.

In response to your questions, here is what I am thinking.

1) It may be too much for band and strings to be together. ANY thoughts? We may indeed need a second piece for our string ensemble. As I am writing I am thinking more of the drought times could be presented with strings.

**Good - I can write for both for you**

2) Let me check with Todd tomorrow regarding this. To be successful we would like as much assistance from yourself as possible. I truly believe we can do this but with your expertise we can be that much better.

**And I can give time to this too but I need a date as I already have some dates set in stone for 2009 June/July. This does need more definition though for me to quote in a realistic way.**

3) We are looking at another composer to create the school song - a separate entity. Our principal has a composer in mind who she has worked with in the past. This way, there won't be too much pressure on yourself given the timeframe we are looking at for this project.

**OK - so my question 5 below is redundant. Or, do you want me to arrange what they write for instrumental ensemble to accompany the school singing it?**

4) With the 8 - 16 bar theme, it could be incorporated with our recorders / angklung / marimbas or a capella with kids creating the lyrics depending on the "scene" we may be in for this part of the story. I am still working on this part but I would like a recurring theme to be heard throughout our presentation. It would then be something I could truly have the kids in class learn more about - how a theme can be changed. If one section is military-like, another - beachy, another to do with the mining. Just a few examples.

**Do you want this theme to be related to the band and string piece and therefore something I compose and then adapt across the other groupings? Is the idea to have a *Liet Motif* for the whole thing**

Answers to further questions are:

1. **1 work for band - how long?** This would depend on your availability. What would be your recommendation? I would foresee at least 2 days between both ensembles. Is this reasonable? **How long is the piece? I need to know to work out a cost for you. 3 minutes? 2 minutes?**
2. **1 work for strings - how long?** - see #1 **How long is the piece?**
3. **A theme that comes (8 - 16 bars) from the band/string pieces - scored for what? How many style changes and therefore, how many times?** - The availability I am looking at for instruments include a digeridoo to start the entire show with the possibility of other aboriginal instruments? Other thoughts include, band instruments performing as soloists / small ensemble as the swag man moves through time periods. The theme will reappear each time he /she changes time periods. Do you think this would be effective? **I need to know roughly how many**

**arrangements/adaptations of the theme you need and to confirm it is my theme, to quote here**

4. **Maybe a choral work or arrangements of pieces for choir and some form of accompaniment** - I am open to this if you think it is feasible for you to complete. My original thoughts were to work through already produced Australian ballads. If you were able to create choral arrangements then our production could then be an original in its entirety. Definitely effective for Q150 celebrations. **WOULD this be too much for you to do? If you want to do just existing works and for me to not be involved it will work much better for you for costs. BUT - If we arrange existing works then there would be extra costs from my side and also copyright implications**
5. **School song? Text?** - created with the staff and students based on our school history, current life as well as the future, all with an emphasis on our Catholicity - roots and importance in Queensland. **Answered in your number 3 above**
6. **Prepare the ensembles for 1 and 2 above** - Yes **OK**; I will work on two days for the ensembles but I am not expecting to do the whole directing on the night. That would be prohibitively expensive for you as it would mean all the rehearsals etc. Some form of consulting through the semester can be added in but musical directing for the whole event is not what either of us had in mind, was it? I am pleased to conduct the band and stings for their premieres though

Thank you again. I look forward to hearing from you and of course beginning our work together.

Inez

***Inez Durrer***

Music Specialist

Stella Maris Primary School

Maroochydore

(07) 5409 8960

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**From:** Ralph Hultgren [mailto:ralphwho@smartchat.net.au]

**Sent:** Sun 24/08/2008 3:52 PM

**To:** Inez Durrer

**Subject:** Re: Stella Maris Music Commission for Q150

Hi Inez,

I am very keen to see if we can do this too.

I have questions in your email below - in bold.

Thanks

Ralph

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Ralph Hultgren  
19 Travill Street  
Newmarket 4051  
Australia

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Inez Durrer](mailto:inez.durrer@smartchat.net.au)

**To:** [ralphwho@smartchat.net.au](mailto:ralphwho@smartchat.net.au)

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2008 9:48 PM

**Subject:** Stella Maris Music Commission for Q150

Ralph,

My apologies for not getting things accomplished sooner than this. The time seems to be flying past me so quickly. I am putting together two grant proposals for our Q150 presentation for June / July 2009. We have great support from our school admin together with our P&F and School Board for this project. Everyone agrees that to do this well, we need to do it right. So, this leads me to your involvement should you still be willing and able to come on board with us.

**Indeed I am still quite keen**

I am highlighting some of the involvement I plan to incorporate into the final presentation. It is hoped that your involvement would include a piece / pieces based on a theme, for our instrumentalists (concert band & string ensemble).

**Is this on a piece each, a piece that can be played separately or one that would be played all together?**

I believe you will be our major portion around which everything else will center.

**Does that mean as a composer or composer/conductor?**

We would then add choral (a professional composition of a school song plus Australian ballads).

## **Does that mean I would write that too? Accompanied?**

Our Q150 celebration aims to involve the following professional artists:

- Australian Instrumental music composer
- Australian Choral music composer to create a school song
- Australian Visual Artist
- Aboriginal Musician

Through Visual Arts, Instrumental Music, Choral Music, Poetry, Dance, and Drama, our presentation aims to tell the story of Queensland's history through the eyes of our Prep to Year 7 students. This project will involve staff, students, professionals, parents, and the community at large (hopefully). Our presentation will be a "living story" of key events in Queensland's history rather than being a "typical concert" of a "typical school".

## **This is a great idea and one the kids will really respond too, I sense**

Our "story" will center around a "Swagman" who travels through history. As he unfolds his swag, the time period would then be presented. We will start the entire story with children playing the didgeridoo as another student reads poetry (created by the student), relating to the theme of this section. Drummers will add to the didgeridoo and we will build from this theme forward.

I am hoping that there can be a musical theme (8 - 16 measures long written by yourself) that appears throughout the entire performance but changes within performance according to the moment in history being presented.

## **This would be related to the above works for band and strings. Would it be them accompanying here or for another ensemble, teachers, for instance**

Colours and artwork will identify the themes presented for each historical moment. Blue and brown will weave in and out as the theme of water and drought keep coming back.

History moments will / may include:

- Aboriginal beginning
- Penal settlement with Europeans in Moreton Bay
- Strife - Timber, Outback, Drought
- Mining - Gold Discovery
- Growth - Dev't of the Southeast

- Opening of Stella Maris School - 1980
- Sunshine Coast - migrants and growth

The story will end with the swagman opening his swag and pulling out his togs and towel for a swim at the beach.

### **Excellent concept and that helps to know given what may develop in the theme**

This project will extend and showcase the talents and abilities of as many school members (students / staff / parents) as possible. I believe we should also extend our project to include students identified as “at risk” to allow them a positive experience as well as it being a great confidence booster.

Our identified Aboriginal students will learn traditional music instruments such as the didgeridoo, from an Aboriginal teacher / musician. These students will play a key part into our presentation, illustrating the importance of Aboriginals in Queensland’s history.

I understand this is a lot of info (hopefully enough to give you a clearer idea) but I do hope it gives you a better insight into my plans for this project.

### **Yes, it does - thank you**

I would like to have a formal commitment with you as soon as possible so that we can both move forward with our planning. I truly believe that you have a good understanding of what will be needed and that we have similar desires for a cohesive final production.

**I am happy with an understanding of the concept but I am still unsure of the complete work required of me both in nature (different ensembles, staff and students etc) and, therefore, the scope of what I will be required to produce as conductor/trainer.**

### **My understanding is that you want:**

1. **1 work for band - how long?**
2. **1 work for strings - how long?**
3. **A theme that comes (8 - 16 bars) from the band/string pieces - scored for what? How many style changes and therefore, how many times?**
4. **Maybe a choral work or arrangements of pieces for choir and some form of accompaniment**
5. **School song? Text?**
6. **Prepare the ensembles for 1 and 2 above**

We are applying for a Q150 and a RADF grant to help us cover your costs as well as other professionals we plan to hire. In order to do this, we need a signed contract with you as well as a CV to accompany the grant application.

**The CV will be attached. A contract would be prepared when you accept the quote I will finish for you.**

We will also need a summary of what your fees will be for this project.

**I will do that in the quote mentioned above but I need your responses to my questions noted under "my understanding"**

Should you need to discuss this with me further, please feel free to contact me at school or at either of my personal numbers listed below. The deadline for the Q150 grant is Sept. 1st and the deadline for the RADF grant is Sept. 15th

(07)5476 6465 home  
(04)8876 6433 mobile

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

**Thank you Inez. My home number is 3356 1052. I feel as if on paper descriptions are best for me to deal with now, so I can do a quote for you. I will note the commission fees and any other fees separately**

**Cheers**

**Ralph**

Regards,  
Inez

***Inez Durrer***  
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