

Ruben – Hultgren email re Sax quartet

17 July 2006

Ralph,

I have just discovered my Saxophone Quartet has been selected to participate in a cultural exchange with the education authority in Shanghai. They have asked me to augment the group with a piano for a couple of numbers. I am therefore looking for Australian repertoire for Saxophone Quartet and piano.

Are you interested in doing a re-write of "An Australian Rhapsody" for this combination of instruments? We are going in late September so time is an issue. How much would such a thing cost? Do you have any time for this anyway?

Yours in Jubilant panic,
Brad

18 July 2006

Ralph,

Excellent!!! The money would be coming from the office of International Relations within Ed. Qld and I do not know how much is available - I'm hoping to have a figure to ask for. Do you have a ppm (price per minute!) I could suggest to head office. As we are leaving in the last week of term time is a big issue. The players in the Quartet are very good (2 Amus and 2 grade 7/8 so they will learn quickly but I think we would need 4-6 weeks to learn so that puts us needing music in early to mid August.

I wonder if a set of variations on Waltzing Matilda would work. (Waltz, minor etc.) as the brief is for something immediately identifiably Australian.

I will get in touch as soon as I have more details,
Brad

18 July 2006

Thanks Ralph,

I'm waiting for a response from head office - will let you know,
Brad

20 July 2006

Ralph,

Roger has given me the go ahead to have you write one piece for us. Bill Broughton in Adelaide is doing another. I'm asking him to do some variations on Waltzing Matilda.

I would really like you to do a Medley/Rhapsody on some Australian Folk Songs. If you would like to re-write "An Australian Rhapsody" that would be fine but if you feel inclined to write something new that would also be exciting. Do we need to meet to discuss this?

The Quartet has some very good players. The Soprano and Alto players are both Amus, Tenor and Baritone are Solid Grade 7. Two of the players double. The Soprano player is also very good on Alto and Tenor. The Alto player also plays the Soprano very well. The Pianist is about 8th Grade. I don't think the work should be more than 5 minutes long.

As you are aware time is a factor, but I'm confident that if the work is not excessively hard we should be able to get it together in a month. (i.e. mid - August),

Looking forward to hearing from you. (I've never commissioned anything before)

Cheers,
Brad

21 July 2006

Sorry,

Didn't get this until now - What about after school today?

Brad

24 July 2006

Ralph,

I've had a few looks through the Quartet and it looks fantastic. One student has seen it and was very excited. Will let you know how we go playing it. We probably won't get a decent go until Saturday.

With regard to payment the Invoice should be made out to Education Queensland and sent to the following address:

Roger White
Manager
International Programs
Office of International, Non-State and Higher Education
Department of Education and the Arts Queensland Floor 18 Education House
30 Mary Street Brisbane PO Box 15033 City East Brisbane Queensland 4002
AUSTRALIA

- its longer than my email!!!

Roger has also suggested you mark it "Private and Confidential" to have the best chance of getting it directly to him.

Still excited,
Brad

26 July 2006

Ralph,

We are having our first run through together at 10.00 on Saturday morning here at school - you are most welcome to come. We will be rehearsing Saturday mornings until departure so if you would like to let me know of a particular Saturday and time (between 9 and 12) that suits you I can organise to work your piece while you are there.

We had a quick run yesterday for about 10 minutes without Piano but didn't get far with page turns and kids that can't read hand written music. Saturday will be better.

Brad

23 Aug 2006

Ralph,

the assignments in question have been located - I'll take it to the young con today.. I'm thinking of premiering the Quartet next Thursday night (31st). We are having a Chamber Music concert as part of our "Arts Fest" and the Quartet is playing. I think there will be a larger audience at this concert than the little recital we are planning for the 12th of September.

I wonder which of these dates is most convenient for you to attend. Obviously we would like you to be there when the piece is first performed.

The legal issues with our house are OVER I have signed a confidentiality agreement but I can report that Sarah and I are satisfied that Justice has been done and we are pleased that we resisted the temptation to pursue the matter with greed.

Brad

1 Sep 2006

No worries Ralph,

I knew it must have been something big. The performance went really well and your work was well received - Bill Barker and the String girls were very impressed with it. We're next performing on the 12th September. I will pass on your message to the musicians.

Brad

8 Sep 2006

Hi Ralph,

Details of the recital are attached - Your piece is the final number in the program which I anticipate will run 45min. - an Hour,

Brad

12 Sep 2006

Ralph,

The Quartet played the piece beautifully on Sunday (at least I think so) and one of the Dad's video taped it. I have asked him for a copy for you. The students are very comfortable with it now and very proud to have had it written for them - thank you again

Brad
