

Staines – Hultgren email correspondence - Joshua

2 Aug 2005 – 6.03am

Dear Ralph,

Great to catch up with you last week.

I am delighted that you are happy to compose a work for us. As I mentioned on the phone, we have performed a number of your pieces over the years and my students were excited when I told them we were asking you to compose for us a new piece.

I have a full compliment of players - Piccolo, Flutes (8), Oboe (1), Bassoon (1), Clarinets (11), Bass Clarinets(2), Alto Saxes (4), Tenor Saxes (2), Bari Saxes (2), Trumpets (6), Horns (3), Trombones (4), Euphonium (1), Tubas (2), String Bass (1) and Percussion (5) (including Xylophone, Glockensoiel, Vibraphone, 3 Timps etc)

The strengths of the Band - Alto, Tenor and Bari Sax, Trumpet, Flute and Clarinet

Looking for a work of Level 4.5/5 standard and of around 7/8 minutes in duration.

Still undecided about the type of work.

Theme and Variations? Chorale and Prelude? Rhapsody?

One of my favourite Brass Band works is Variations on Princethorpe by Kenneth Downie; I would be happy to do something like this.

I would be happy to play a work based around a hymn, or a programmatic piece (like Masada) based on a story from the Bible, or another event in History.

I hope this is helpful, Ralph. You may already have some ideas and thoughts that you might like to develop.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Gavin

15 Aug 2005 6.25am

Dear Ralph,

Thanks for coming back to me.

I would need the composition by early February. We are going to New Zealand on April 10th to participate in a music festival. Two months should allow us to learn your work.

If you can let me know cost by mid September - another month, that would be helpful.

I am continually thinking about the content, but no further ideas just yet. Happy to teach and conduct a piece with a number of changing metre and I would prefer not to do anything too contemporary - too way out!!!

What thoughts do you have at this stage?

Will contact you again soon.

Regards,

Gavin

3 Sep 2005 8.18am

Dear Ralph,

Trust you and your family are well.

Any further thoughts about the composition?

I have been talking to students, parents and teachers about commissioning you to write for us and there has been a lot of interest and excitement about the idea.

Can I ask you to email me your biography as I can use it in my proposal to the School's Finance Council?

Many thanks,

Gavin

18 Sep 8.25pm

Dear Ralph,

I received news on Friday that the School's Finance Board had approved the funding of your piece of music and so it is all go from my point of view.

What happens about a contract and the conditions etc?

I would like to do the Premier Performance on Saturday evening April 8th.

I am also hoping that perhaps on the previous day - the Friday, I can get you down to listen to us rehearse and to spend some time that day talking to my senior students about your composition, and if time allows looking at some of the work that they are doing. This would be of tremendous benefit to my students. Let me know how you would be placed.

I hope you have heard from some of my students; I would be interested to know what they have said about 'Hornets Nest' and 'Masada'.

Will contact you again soon.

Regards,

Gavin

6 Oct 2005 9.33am

Dear Ralph,

Apologies for not getting this to you the other day.

Could you email the contract to me as well as a copy to the school?

School Address Chatswood High School
Centennial Ave,

Chatswood, 2067

The Principal's name is Peter Dobbin

School email address is
chatswood-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

My home address is 4 Curtis Close,
Cherrybrook, 2126
NSW.

Looking forward to working with you on this.

Regards,

Gavin

23 Oct 2005 7.15 pm

Hi Ralph,

Looking forward to receiving it - no problems.

Regards,

Gavin

30 Oct 8.17pm

Dear Ralph,

I am required to have a budget for your composition to the Finance Council at School by Friday of this week. All budgetting for 2006 is required at this point.

Any chance of the contract early this week, with the cost so that I can get it in to the Principal on time?

Sorry to be a pain - you are obviously very busy at this point.

If you happen to be free this coming Saturday, my Big Band from Congress Hall - OnFire, will be doing a concert with James Morrison at the Ipswich Civic Centre. We are being sponsored by the Bundamba Corps.

Regards,

Gavin

11 Nov 5.37am

Dear Ralph,

Apologies for taking so long to get back to you about your contract.

Have spoken with my associate and just wanted to raise the following with you. We would like to suggest

In 6(a), The Composer 'Guarantees' the Work has never been previously etc etc

8(c) - we would hope that we could have exemption from Apra rights - that we would not be required to pay Apra.

We also seek your permission to be able to document the entire process.

As previously mentioned my Principal has given permission for the project to go ahead - I will apply to the school next week for your first payment.

Regards,

Gavin

7 Dec 2005 3.33pm

Dear Ralph,

Trust you are having a terrific time overseas.

If you are able to pick up any University Wind Ensemble CD's whilst you are away, or any CD's with Wind Ensemble I would really appreciate that. Happy to pay you later for anything that is good and that costs! Happier still if you get given anything complimentary.

We deposited money into your account yesterday - the deposit for your composition.

I will post off your copy of the contract tomorrow.

Had a look at your draft to date - you were right - it is difficult to read. However I am very interested in your work so please keep it coming.

Will contact you again later.

Regards,

Gavin

12 Dec 7.36pm

Dear Ralph,

Trust your trip overseas is going well.

I am hoping that you don't wish to include a piano, but perhaps rather a xylophone, glockenspiel or even vibraphone. I would be limiting the opportunities to perform it if we required a piano.

Trumpets are strong; very good lead alto sax; first clarinets also very capable

I am hoping to have an intensive Band rehearsal on the weekend of March

18/19 if that is suitable for you.

I will be away on tour up the North Coast from December 14 - 21.

Look forward to hearing from you on my return.

Regards,

Gavin

13 Dec 4.23pm

Dear Ralph,
Trust you enjoy Mid-West.

I have a Bassoon. I do not have a Double Bass, although I am looking to put pressure on the boy who currently plays Bass Guitar to learn it as well. I have a strong Bari Sax player, and 2 very good Tenor Saxes. Keep me informed.

Happy Christmas to you,

Regards,

Gavin

27 Dec 2005 8.25am

Dear Ralph,

Thanks for the update on the score. I appreciate you sending me your work in progress.

Trust you had a lovely Christmas.

I think it is amazing that you and Tim Robinson worship at the same church. Does he still play his trumpet? Please give him my regards.

Best wishes,

Gavin

16 Jan 2006 12.55pm

Dear Ralph,

Just arrived home from holiday a few days ago. Thanks for sending me a copy of your work to date - I really appreciate you doing that.

It's looking good; I have had a look at the score of 'Joshua' and I am excited about receiving the finished product.

Please continue to send me copies of your work.

Thanks also for passing my email address on to Tim Robo; it was great to hear from him last week.

How was MidWest - did you by chance happen to pick up a spare copy of the program for me? Did you enjoy the clinic?

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Gavin

1 Feb 2006 8.39pm

Dear Ralph,

My apologies for not replying much earlier. We have had some really bad news in our family over the last week with the fact that my brother -in - law has cancer and the prospects are not good.

We are praying for a miracle and believe that God can heal him.

I have had a look at your score at a glance and was hoping to study it in more detail before now. I hope to do that over the weekend.

How do you feel about what you have written?

Are you able to send me a recording off the computer?

I really appreciate the fact that you have finished it so quickly; we have our first rehearsal of the year next Wednesday and sometime real soon we will commence learning it.

I will be in touch again shortly to discuss your coming down to help us in the interpretation.

This is really exciting for us Ralph; I am excited about learning your new work. Thankyou.

Regards,

Gavin

2 Feb 2006 7.31pm

Dear Ralph,

My Brother -in -laws name is Steve Wells.

Thanks Ralph.

Regards,

Gavin

6 Feb 2006 9.38pm

Dear Ralph,

Score and parts arrived on Friday. I have had a closer look and also a listen to the file. I am hoping to start rehearsals on it this Wednesday.

I will call you in the next couple of days to discuss you coming down to work with us.

Really looking forward to performing your new work. Many thanks for completing 'Joshua' in good time.

Regards,

Gavin

18 Feb 2006 3.10pm

Dear Ralph,

Trust you and your family are well. When does Uni start for you?

You should be receiving the money owing to you this week.

I have handed out a schedule for the term to my Band members.

Sunday March 19th - I have arranged a rehearsal with you from 3.30pm until 6.30pm, in our school hall.

If you can book a return flight, I will make arrangements to pick you up from the airport or if I cannot meet you, I will have a parent from our Music committee meet you. I've got a good idea of what you look like; I might have you send me your most current photo in case someone else needs to meet you. In any case I will use your photo for publicity purposes. I will also get you back to the airport for your flight home.

Friday April 7th and Saturday April 8th - At this stage, I am hoping that on the Friday morning from 9.15am, you might discuss your composition with my Year 11 and 12 Elective Music Students. As part of the Higher School Certificate in Music, students are required to compose a 2 minute work. 'Australian Music - last 25 years' is their topic. I would ask you to discuss 'Joshua' in some detail, and then have a look at some of my students' work and offer some advice. I am hoping that we will have until 12pm to do all of this - and of course we will have morning tea for you as well as coffee on tap. At 12pm, I am wanting to have another rehearsal with the Band. The idea would be that we would have about an hour, have lunch and then a final rehearsal finishing by around 3.15pm. At this stage you would be finished for the day. I am open as to what you would like to do at this point.

You may have some friends that you would like to catch up with.

I am happy to have you come and stay with my family for the evening - you may well like to have some peace and quiet and stay at a place like the Collaroy Conference Centre. They have beautiful units; overlooking the Collaroy Beach. We are prepared to cover your cost of accommodation if you would like to do this.

On Saturday evening we will have our pretour concert and the first performance of 'Joshua'. Prior to this you would have a fairly free day. I would imagine that you will probably want to get home later that evening; I am hoping that the concert will conclude by 9.30pm.

I will ask you to book your return air travel for this weekend and Chatswood High will cover your costs. We should allow 40 min. to get to and from the airport.

Let me know your thoughts about my suggested arrangements.

Regarding the Score - Bars 90 and 250, the "Bass" part - should it be a D or a Db concert on the second dotted crotchet beat of the bar? You have the Bass instruments playing in 5ths - Bassoon 2, Eupho, Tuba and String Bass you have playing Db or D? What should they be playing?

We are enjoying your piece; I am hoping that by the time you come down, we will be well and truly under way with our preparation.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Gavin

15 Mar 2006 5.29am

Dear Ralph,

Greetings!

I rang the Uni yesterday to speak to you to be told you were overseas.

Can you tell me Flight times for Sunday? What time will you arrive and what time should I get you back to the airport to depart?

Looking forward to seeing you.

Regards,

Gavin

16 Mar 2006 7.20pm

Dear Raalph,

Looking forward to catching up with you on Sunday.

I will just be finishing a rehearsal with the Junior Band at Congress Hall when your plane arrives.

I have asked one of the parents (of my Band members) to pick you up. His name is Alan Clarke - he has a photo of you and he will probably hold up a piece of paper with his name on it, so that you might recognize him. He is a lovely Christian man who is on the School Finance Board and had something to do with approving the commissioning of 'Joshua'.

I will certainly be able to take you back to the airport. I have scheduled the rehearsal to go until 6.30pm. We may need to break a little earlier to try and be at the airport by 7pm.

I will be home from about 11am tomorrow - give me a call on 02 98946303 if there is anything we need to talk about.

Sincerely,

Gavin

17 Mar 2006 10.30am

Dear Ralph,

We are putting together a 'documentary' of 'Joshua'.

Students over the past couple of weeks have been asked to comment on your work, and in particular their part.

We would like to have a video camera set up on Sunday afternoon. Are you OK about students asking you questions about your composition?

Looking forward to seeing you.

Regards,

Gavin

21 Mar 2006 4.55am

Dear Ralph,

I caught up with a number of band members in classes yesterday. I just wanted to tell you how excited they were about Sunday's rehearsal and playing 'Joshua'.

Many of them have suddenly realized how fortunate we are to be involved in such a project.

I will attempt to have them email you with their thoughts.

Thanks again and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

(A reminder that I am going away on Saturday for 8 days)

Regards,

Gavin

23 Mar 2006 6.54pm

Thought you'd like this.

Regards,

Gavin

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

From: [andrew and judy smith](#)

To: [Gavin Staines](#)

Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2006 10:23 AM
Subject: Re: [CHS_Band] World Premiere of 'Joshua'

Dear Gavin,

Thanks for the information. I don't know whether Ralph Hultgren follows Aussie Rules at all but he looks so much like Mark Riccutto of the Adelaide Crows, its scary.

Regards
Judy

25 Mar 2006 6.13am

Dear Ralph,

Greetings. Trust you are well.

Can I get you to confirm your travel arrangements for April 7,8? I am heading off to Hawaii tonight, but will refer to my messages whilst I am away.

Rehearsal went very well this week.

Speak to you soon.

Regards,

Gavin

9 Apr 2006 12.22pm

Dear Ralph,

You are probably catching up on some sleep as I write, and fair enough. I trust you made it to the airport in plenty of time.

I really appreciate what you have done for the Band programme at my school. I didn't really get the chance to speak to you about the performance last night; certainly the parents and Band members were on a real high after the concert. I trust you felt the Band gave a worthy performance of 'Joshua' for the first play out; I am interested to know what you thought.

I am also hoping that you hear from some of my Band members and parents about the experience - I will be encouraging them to do so.

Thanks also for the CD's - I will enjoy listening to them.

Briona is putting together a DVD of 'Joshua' from our first encounter at our first rehearsal along with student, parent and teacher comment right through to the performance last night. I will send you a copy. I do hope that as a result of our commission with 'Joshua' that other composition opportunities will come your way. I am definitely interested in what you are writing and hopefully can give you more opportunities.

You mentioned on the phone last week that you would give me a bound copy of the score - is this still possible? I am hoping so as I would definitely like a copy.

Take care, I have really appreciated getting to know you better and I am hoping that we will continue to correspond; and please thank Julie for allowing you to come.

Thank you Ralph,

Kind regards,

Gavin

21 Apr 2006

Dear Ralph,

Great to hear from you.

I am also interested to hear some of the feedback you receive from the parents and students. Whatever I get I will pass on to you.

Don't forget if you can, I would like an autographed bound copy of the score. Thanks.

Performed it again whilst on tour last week - the students really like it. It's like they 'own it' now. Looking forward to performing it a number of times this year. I will attempt to get you a copy of the best recording.

When you have a chance can you also include the Trombone Soloists copy of your new piece? Thanks.

Keep in touch.

Regards,

Gavin

30 Apr 2006 5.48pm

Dear Ralph,

Trust you are well. I thought Julie would be interested in these photos - good looking aren't we?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Gavin

(photos were attached)

4 Feb 2007

Dear Ralph,

Happy new year! Trust you and the family are all well.

I have a recording of my school Band playing 'Joshua' - I can get it to you, but I need to get your address. Can you email me?

My son Mitchell is working hard at 'Dance Diversions' and in particular the 3rd movement ('primitive') He and Ron Prussing are pretty sure that he is going to do it for his HSC Recital. Can you do us a Piano Accompaniment? We are also thinking that you should be writing an accompaniment for all three movements and getting it to the Australian Music Centre here in Sydney. You would get a lot of interest from Trombone students doing their HSC.

I am having a bit of trouble deciphering 'Listen', but I will enjoy receiving the finished product.

Looking to go to the Midwest Clinic at the end of this year. Who do you book with? What airline? What does your airfare normally cost? Where do you stay?

Look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Gavin

10 Mar 2007

Dear Ralph,

Thank you for keeping me updated on your latest commission for us. I will give Jennifer Gregory a call on Monday to find out where we are at.

My son Mitchell has asked me to remind you about the Piano Accompaniment for the 3rd movement of 'Dance Diversions'. Any chance of letting me know when that might be done, as he needs to perform it soon for an assessment.

Trust everything goes well in the US.

Did you receive our CD recording of 'Joshua' ? What do you think? I must tell you, that with the new year, hardly a week goes by without someone asking me when we will be playing 'Joshua' next.

Take care. Regards,

Gavin
