

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

From: [Ralph Hultgren](#)

To: [Clarence Barber](#)

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 9:40 AM

Subject: Re: Simple Song

Dear Clarence,

What a delight to hear from you and your students. Lauren's words were particularly touching!

I will answer your questions in your text below

I have rescored the last chord slightly to better fit the makeup of my group. Is this a common practice in Australia? I do this near concerts sometimes to cure balance or pitch problems in critical areas. It is often done for contests here in the U. S.

No, this would not be a common practice in Australia and that is because we hold the score as almost sacrosanct, given the contesting British brass band tradition that pervades. I would do it if I needed to so I am pleased that you have the skill - it's in safe hands!

Do Australian schools offer band and/or orchestra as a regular part of the school curriculum during the regular school day?

No, all practical ensemble activity is extra curricular. The school day starts with rehearsals commencing at 7.30 (Emma and James have orchestra at 7.30 Wednesday morning) and at lunch times and after school (Emma and James have a string orchestra at 3.00 - 4.30 Tuesday afternoon). There is a set curriculum but it is not a registered school subject.

Who are some of the more popular band composers in Australia? Which are native to Australia?

Brian West and Brian Hogg are played all over the country and they are getting performances outside too - Singapore, USA. I can get more information for you but my sense of the 'big ones' they have written and that IU use when working with bands at various levels are

West:

Level 1

The Spook (Trick or Treat over there)

Geronimo

Bunyip Blues

Quiet Moments

City Life

Wacky Waltz

Level 1.5

Fiesta

Level 2

Rumbah

Skeleton Dance

Clowning Around

Hogg

Level 1
Sunset Serenade

Level 1.5
Eighth Avenue

Level 2
Mountain Ridge

Level 2.5
The Visionaries
Pathfinders
Fanfare and Processional

Level 4
Llwyn Onn
Kelly
The Stone Guest

David Jones is an up and coming young composer too and his streets of Forbes (3) and Toys Awakening (2) have had good success amongst the directors here

Many thanks, my friend. Here are some from my students...be prepared to write your life story!!

Clarence Barber

Dear Mr. Hultgren,
Hello to you all - or should I say G'day! I will try to answer all of your questions as best I can.
Thank you for playing my piece!

What inspired you to write *Simple Song*?

“Why aren’t there more slow pieces in three four time?” asked a friend. Why indeed!
A colleague asked the question, I wrote the piece for band

How long did you work on this piece?

I wrote it the morning after my friend said more slow music in three four time needed to be written for young band. The basic sketch would have taken about an hour to an hour and a half and the manuscript score would have taken about four hours of writing

What does this song remind you of?

It's a simple song and though it is a minor key it is not sad. It reminds me of making beautiful music when I was your age - well, trying to make beautiful music. I loved to play all the fast stuff but melodies that made my Mum go all gooey inside were what I loved to play

What compelled you to become a musician?

Wow - I just loved the sound the school army cadet band made on ANZAC Day. ANZAC Day is like your veterans day - a commemorative day for all our war dead. ANZAC means Australian and New Zealand Army Corp and it was a group formed in the first world war to fight in the Dardanelles against the Turks. Since then the Turks and the Aussies and Kiwis (that's what we call them!) have become firm friends. There is a set of music I have written that is for ANZAC Day that Mr Barber may get and use with you if you are interested.

WELL - the bugle player played the Last Post (like you Taps) and I was 12 and I said - that's going to be me one day and one day it was, in the same cadet band.

What is your favorite song, instrument, and genre?

No favourites!!! I love so much music. I love choral music like the Russian Orthodox church music; I love some heavy metal like AC Dc and Wagner!!!! He's heavy metal for orchestra. I love the sound of the horn and bassoon and the tuba and the cello too! I really love to hear good musicians play and the style doesn't matter BUT if I had to choose what to listen to at home right now I would go and put on some English church choral music such as SS Stanley or Lauridsen's O Magnum Mysterium.

What instrument do you play?

I own a trumpet - I don't play any more because of my teaching, conducting and composing commitments. There is only so much time in each day

What kinds of music is Australia known for?

AC DC a very famous heavy metal band - Joan Sutherland a very famous opera singer - John Williams a very famous guitarist - Percy Grainger a very famous pianist and composer and Ralph Hultgren a not very famous hairy old man!!!

Do you have kangaroos in your back yard?

No, but I have kookaburras, Possums (cute things not like the monsters you people have!), many beautiful parrots and birds and a very large macadamia nut tree. The a place at my table on our 30 feet by 30 feet verandah for Mr Barber when he visits

Did you ever eat crocodile?

Yes, I have eaten crocodile but I don't eat it often at all. We eat much the same as you but considerably less sugar and fat in our diet - I've been to the mid west of the USA!

What is it like having Christmas during December when it's hot?

WONDERFUL!!!!!! It's the same day and the same reason to celebrate - the birth of our Saviour Jesus. It's been terrific to be in the US and Europe in the cold in Christmas season but home is where the heart is as they say and Christmas Day is like this:

Get up with the sun rise - 4.30 am!

Breakfast for the family at around 6 am

Church at 7 am (funny singing "See amid the winters snow"!!)

All my family descends on us about 10.30 - 11 am and we do presents! (I have 5 kids and almost two grandchildren so there is lots of fun and joy at our place)

Lunch at 12 noon - salad, cold ham off the bone, cold chicken, potato salad, coleslaw and cold drinks./ Last Christmas Day was mild here at about 85 degrees F

snooze in the afternoon and a small snack for dinner of left over cold stuff and then a swim in the pool in our back yard

How's that!

Thank for your interest. I would love to hear about what you thought of my piece.

My very best to you!!

RH