

Armidale Symphony Orchestra

President's Report - 2016

2016 has once again been a year of great music making for the ASO and an opportunity to present a diverse range of repertoire.

The year started with our annual collaboration with the Armidale Music Foundation to provide the orchestral accompaniment for the Choral Weekend. The chosen work for 2016 was Gounod's *St Cecilia Mass* and once again the orchestra was privileged to be under the direction of Paul Holley.

The second concert was conducted by our own Richard Peter Maddox who presented a programme which included his own work, *Kubla Kahn*, as well as the little heard symphony by Australian composer Alfred Hill.

In August, the conducting duties were shared between Robert Jackson (*Small Town* by Peter Sculthorpe and Mozart's *Concerto for Flute and Harp, K299/297c*) and Graham Maddox (Puccini's *Gloria*). This delightful concert saw the collaboration between Nick Negerevich on flute and the young harpist, Isla Biffin.

The final concert of the year was conducted by Bruce Menzies and presented Mendelssohn's popular *Hebrides Overture*, Mozart's *'Linz' Symphony K425*, and a stunning performance by soloist Margaret Butcher in Prokofieff's *2nd Violin Concerto*.

Congratulations and thanks to all conductors for their work in preparing the orchestra for this series of concerts.

Also to be congratulated are all members of the orchestra, section leaders and those who undertook the task of orchestra leader for each concert.

While we continue to have some difficulty filling the number of string players required to give the orchestra and the works chosen the correct balance and tonal dimension, I would sincerely like to thank all players who have taken part in last year's programme for their participation and support.

I would also like to thank the ASO Committee for their support and dedication to the success of the orchestra over the past twelve months. Thanks also to NECOM and the many volunteers who help to make our concerts successful and rewarding experiences for both players and audiences alike.

Stuart Pavel
ASO President
20 March 2017