

# SCUNA

## Notes from the Informal Meeting to Discuss Concert Programming

27 March 2009

University House Fellows Garden

1-2:30 pm

**Present:** Jonathan, Luke, Petra, Helen.

### **1. Program for Semester 1 Orchestra Concert**

The Musical Director advised that he did not favour the orchestra including the two Schubert “Great” movements in the forthcoming orchestra concert. However, given that it had been announced to the orchestra and also that the semester was now fairly advanced, he would leave the final decision to the Associate Conductor of the orchestra.

The Associate Conductor advised that this decision would be made on the basis of the rehearsals this weekend and would be communicated to the concert sub-committee meeting this coming Wednesday.

### **2. Audition and Appointment Process for Assistant Conductor and Assistant Accompanist Positions**

It was noted that the normal process for appointing musical staff had not been followed last year or this semester. It was proposed to put to the SCUNA executive that this process should be followed in preparation for semester 2. The possibility of appointing a “Student Associate Conductor” should be considered. It was agreed that these processes should not commence until after the semester 1 orchestra concert. It was also agreed that the appointing committee should include an external musical expert with experience in working with community groups.

### **3. Program for Semester 2**

It was agreed that the viability of the society as a combined choir and orchestra depended on combined performances and therefore that separate choir and orchestra performances in semester 2 would, in effect, postpone this goal indefinitely.

It was further agreed that separate performances should form a part of the society’s activities over a complete year.

The viability of performing Haydn’s *Creation* was discussed. It was agreed that this would be very demanding and probably impractical for the orchestra, especially in semester 2. One solution would be to hire an orchestra but this would run counter to the principle agreed above. It would also be a drain on SCUNA’s finances.

The alternative of performing Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* was then considered. It was agreed that this piece is well within the range of both choir and orchestra but is also sufficiently interesting and challenging for both. If the performance were timed for end of term 1, this option would allow for the inevitable waning of participants in rehearsals and concerts at exam time and in term 2. It would also provide scope for a full Christmas concert with a smaller group.

It was agreed that these options should be put to the concert sub-committee for further discussion and decision-making.

#### 4. Proposals for 2010

The possibility was discussed of performing the Marián Budoš *Magnificat*, *Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit* and *Beloved* in the 2010 Canberra International Festival. It was agreed that:

- (1) it would be a worthwhile SCUNA project
- (2) the piece was unsuitable for a large choir and therefore would be better done by an officially sponsored SCUNA sub-group (approx. 30 singers; ?? orchestra members).
- (3) full details of the proposal must be put in writing to the SCUNA committee before any agreement to proceed is made. **Action: Luke to organise.**
- (4) if the proposal were accepted by the SCUNA committee, a small organising sub-committee should be formed
- (5) the project's viability would depend on Luke's continuing personal involvement it
- (6) choir work on the pieces would be best started in semester 2, 2009, to allow enough time and to build commitment to the project
- (7) the composer would rehearse and conduct the choir.

The possibility of the SCUNA choir performing Mozart's *Requiem* as part on an Amadeus concert jointly with the NCO was raised

#### 5. Next meeting (full concert sub-committee)

12:30-2 p.m., Wed. 1 April, University House Fellows Garden.

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