

North Queensland Recorder Society



Newsletter, February 2016

Welcome to a new year of more recorder playing!

Survey

Last year, our very capable Treasurer, Nicky, did a survey of members and the committee has spent most of the time since then considering how to implement the feedback.

Membership Fees

Membership fees for this calendar year are now due. It was almost unanimous that the fees were “just right” so the committee has agreed that the **fees for 2016 will remain the same: \$20 for adults, and \$5 for students** (up to the end of high school). Membership can be paid online by direct bank transfer to Westpac BSB 034 212 Account No 134 217, putting payer name in the reference line and emailing name(s) of members to info@nqrs.org.au.

Playing More Often

There was a strong indication in the survey results that members would like to play more often. The committee has responded to this by organising **Recorder Society Monthly Workshops on the third Sunday of every month**. The dates for 2016 are:

21st February

17th July

20th March

21st August

17th April

18th September

22nd May

16th October

19th June

20th November

Working on music over time

The feedback on this was expressed in a number of ways. Some people have been uncomfortable or frustrated with the amount of sight reading required at a Play Day. Other people have indicated they would like to spend time really getting to know a piece, rather

than running through it, then handing it in. An aspect of this was the disappointment if they liked a piece and never saw it again.

This year, members will be taking the music home to work on and bringing it back the following month. When there is general satisfaction with a piece, new music will be introduced.

Different Styles

With hundreds of years of people composing and arranging for Recorder, players are bound to have individual preferences regarding historical periods or styles, including folk or contemporary music genres. This year there will be a wide variety of styles included in every workshop in the hope that there will be something for everyone and people can go home feeling excited about *something* they are working on.

Skills development

In considering the aims of the organisation, respondents to the survey felt that skills development was an important aspect of what the Society offers members. The tutors for the monthly workshops will have a focus on skills development, both in choice of pieces and in polishing various aspects of the piece. As well as offering variety in style, the tutors will also be trying to offer pieces of varying level of difficulty.

How will it work?

Arrive at 1.45 for a 2pm start, as it is a packed program.

2pm to 3pm will be a whole group session, split into three twenty minute sections. Each twenty minute section will be taken by a different tutor and three different styles will be covered. (There will be a short warm up/tune up at the beginning so we sound good!)

3pm to 3.20 Short break. Tea, coffee, cold water, and biscuits will be supplied to keep it quick and simple. Members are welcome to bring individual snacks/drinks if these do not suit. The Important thing is to be ready to go again at 3.20.

3.20 to 4pm will be a divided session, with a choice of two levels, split into two twenty minute sections, again, with different tutors and different styles covered. This is the part where advanced players are up for a challenge, if they choose that group!

4pm to 4.30 will see everyone return to the whole group for a quick refresher of the three pieces from the beginning whole group session.

In other words, participants will leave with five pieces of music.

This is new ground!

This is a start on trying something new that hopefully will be a satisfying experience. Feedback is essential for this to evolve into something that meets members' aspirations of what the Recorder Society should offer.

Cost

A cost of \$10 per workshop (\$5 for students) is necessary to cover legal expenses of providing music (because we are not handing it in and destroying the copies) and the Society may need to buy music that it has previously “borrowed”. This allows participants to take the music home for practice without putting the organisation at risk of prosecution for copyright infringement.

At this point in time, the organisation has been exceedingly fortunate to have “in kind” donations, including the tutors being willing to present these workshops without charging the professional fees they are entitled to. This would amount to hundreds of dollars for an afternoon. This generosity keeps costs low (just ask anyone who has signed up for sports recently!).

Participants who reduce admin by paying for five workshops at once will receive a discount – five workshops for \$40 for adults and five workshops for \$20 for students.

Confused??

How do you think the people trying to pull all the threads together felt? **Just come along on Sunday, 21st of February and be the first to road test this new concept!!!**

If you have a copy of Uwe Heger’s book, “Strabenmusik a 3” (Noetzel Edition N 4888), bring it along.

Other dates

April 17th The North Queensland Recorder Society AGM will be held during the break in the Monthly Workshop.

24th July NQRS is booked to do busking in the mall. Suggestions of a charity to support are welcome.

4th December Christmas busking in the mall is already booked. Busking in December, 2015, raised **\$201.50 for the Smith Family**.

Other news

Two recorders and a harp will be performing two Sonatas by Robert Valentine at St James Cathedral on Saturday, March 5th at 4 pm. This is the first of the 2016 concerts that take place on the first Saturday of each month at the Cathedral.

For Genevieve Lacey fans (aren’t we all?!), she has a new album out and is being featured as one of the “Twenty-five legends from 25 years of The Music Show” on ABC Radio National.