

## STAGE BAND 1999

### Performances

16th February	SSABSA Merit Ceremony	Government House
17th February	Minda Garden Party	Government House
28th March	West Beach Boat Ramp	West Beach
5th May	Sponsors Function	Townsend House
11th May	Annual Band Night	B.S.S
14th-16th May	Generations in Jazz	Mt. Gambier
5th June	Jazz Cabaret	B.S.S
23rd July	Musicorp Band Festival	Elder Hall
12th August	Service Club Ball	Stamford Grand Hotel
16th September	Public Schools Festival	Festival Theatre
18th October	A.M Adelaide Show	Channel 7
23rd October	Annual Music Centre Concert	Elder Hall
24th October	Glenelg Jazz Festival	Glenelg

1999 has been a successful, busy, changing and challenging year for the Stage Band. It is always difficult for ensembles when a new band director takes over the reigns from an established one. Students have to cope with a different set of expectations from the director, different emphases and goals. The director, too, has to work with an ensemble which is comfortable with an established and set way of rehearsing, playing and co-operating, making it difficult to infuse new ideas.

Put it all together and the inevitable frustrations emerge, and they certainly did for part of this year. Indeed, it was too much for some, and the band lost some of its more experienced members after the Cabaret performance.

From that point on, however, the band can be mightily proud of its achievements. It started to play particularly well and quickly returned to the standard of earlier in the year, and then surpassed it. The band really started to listen to each other, paying more attention to dynamic levels and articulation. A group of individuals became an ensemble. A new level of co-operation and trust existed within the group.

The number of positive remarks from families and the public is testament to this, as is the reward of equal first place in the Musicorp Festival. This was no minor achievement being the first time the Brighton Stage Band has earned a first placing in competition. To do so against quality award winning school bands added to the satisfaction.

Our final performance of the year was the Glenelg Jazz Festival. What a great way to complete a hard working and successful year. It was a privilege to play in

this carnival setting alongside such esteemed company as the Paul Grabowski trio and established international players. As one of three school ensembles invited to perform, we maintained a generous audience of about 1500 enthusiasts showing genuine appreciation for our 45 minute set whilst enjoying wine, food and sunshine late in the day.

## **Michael Griffin**

### **Repertoire**

The 1999 repertoire can be divided into three types: competition pieces, cabaret and dance standards and pieces with vocal soloist. Belinda Ogilvie was our vocalist this year and proved to be a popular choice.

Le Belleclaire Blues	Willow weep for me	Uptown Stomp
Orange coloured sky	Don't get around much anymore	Ornithology
Lady Madonna	Girl from Ipanema	Route 66
Blue train	Tuxedo Junction	Waltzing Matilda
Count me in	Moonglow	Yardbird suite
Latin Lustre	Paper Moon	Blue Skies
Flintstones	Caravan	Fast Track
Gentle Breeze	Green Door	

### **JAZZ CABARET JUNE 5 1999**

The 1999 jazz cabaret with the theme 'A Splash of Colour' was a great success! A sell out event, the atmosphere was exciting, the music fast and varied, the dance floor packed and the school community merrily enjoying themselves with BYO food and beverages.

Well done to all the music students for the excellent quality of their music. The evening began with the yr.12 dixieland playing their New Orleans sounds as people arrived. The cabaret then continued with fine contributions from the yr. 10 stage band and dixieland bands, the stage band, rock band and David Spicer trio. David's trio was real hit as it provided some of the school vocalists with an opportunity to sing jazz standards backed by a solid jazz trio. David (piano) was joined by Mr. Stephen Millar (drums) and Ben Turner (bass) and Mr. Michael Griffin (piano part-time).

The stage band, being the featured ensemble at this function performed splendidly and the audience particularly enjoyed the talents of vocalist Belinda Ogilvie who joined the band for four songs. The Rock Band, lead by Mr. Antony Hubmayer was a big success and had a huge crowd on the dance floor bopping and hopping to the songs of the 50s and 60s.

## **1999 MUSICORP BAND & ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL**

### Open Orchestras

1st prize                    Brighton Symphony Orchestra  
Gold Award                Brighton Sinfonia

### Senior Concert Band

1st prize                    Brighton Wind Orchestra  
3rd prize                    Brighton Concert Band

### Open Jazz Ensemble

1st prize                    Brighton Stage Band

Brighton Secondary School has consolidated its position as the most successful music school in Adelaide after three wins in the 1999 Musicorp Band and Orchestra Festival held in the Elder Hall of the University of Adelaide on 22nd and 23rd July 1999.

The Brighton Symphony Orchestra gained first prize in the Open Orchestra Section. Conducted by John Nottle, the Orchestra played the Overture to 'Semiramide' by Rossini.

The Wind Orchestra conducted by Stephen Millar and the Stage Band directed by Michael Griffin gained equal first place in their sections. The Wind Orchestra gave an exhilarating performance of Robert Smith's 'Africa' to claim first place in the Senior Concert Bands Section, and the Stage Band's polish and precision guaranteed its first place in the Open Jazz Ensemble.

The adjudicator, Mr Gary Bishop described Brighton's success as 'world class'.

### **Jazz Improvisation Workshop 31st March**

On the afternoon of Wednesday March 31, known jazz tenor saxophonist Mike Stewart gave a workshop on improvisation methods to the Stage Band.

It began with Mike listening to the band and making some pertinent comments regarding articulation and dynamics. In particular, his view was that the saxophone section needed to over emphasise the articulation markings whilst the trombones were probably over playing them. Mike also emphasised the importance of the drums in band dynamics.

The second half of the workshop dealt with improvisation techniques beginning with uses of the major scale and arpeggios moving through to the role of modes. He also explained approaching a passage vertically as opposed to horizontally and analysing key signatures prior to improvisation.

This was a worthy afternoon which provided students with a starting point in the complex field of jazz improvisation.

### **University of Nevada Las Vegas Big Band 28th May**

This exciting band performed for the school at a special assembly, playing mostly original compositions and arrangements from members of the band. The band consists of members from the University Jazz faculty including well known Adelaide jazz pianist Kym Purling. The well behaved audience appreciated the band's large dynamic range and excellent ensemble command of articulation and intonation.

For members of the school stage band the best was yet to come as the UNLV band director, Mr. Rocky Winslow took them for a 90 minute workshop opening us all to the true potential of our band. Rocky worked for long periods of time on short phrases covering every detail for the correct stylistic playing.

This was an inspirational visit and has contributed to the growing interest in jazz at this school.

### **GENERATIONS IN JAZZ 1999**

Stage Band trip to Mt Gambier 14th - 16th May

This was the sixth trip to Mt Gambier for the weekend of jazz and competition. The 1999 Stage Band appreciated the opportunity to participate in the event, and although not receiving a place in the Competition, performed at a very high level.

The weekend really started with the Registration Dinner on the Friday Evening after the long trek from Brighton. The dinner was followed by a set from James Morrison and his band, but the real interest of the evening was the draw for the competition the next day;

Brighton drew No. 2 out of 16 bands entered in Division 2. There were also 5 bands in Division 1 - a total of 21 school Stage Bands (14 in 1998). The Bands in the competition came from SA (9), Victoria (8), NSW (3) and Tasmania (1) - a rich collection of school Stage Bands from major music focus schools in Australia.

The Brighton Band stayed at the Blue Lake Motel (along with Marrayatville High School), and this was a major down-grade from the two previous years where we were accommodated at the Southgate Motel. However, breakfasts were good!

Saturday 15th May was an early start for the Brighton Band. As drawn No. 2 out of 16, it was good to play early and listen to other bands. Brighton was definitely best until no. 9, the Kinross Wolaroi School Band from Orange in NSW. That's

what we thought. We missed some performances while we tried to eat luke-warm MacDonald's hamburgers and chips at lunchtime.

The evening at the Barn Palais was the usual James Morrison Scholarship finalists concert, and by all reports, none of the 6 finalists made a really lasting impression.

Sunday morning was spent at Grant High School for the instrumental workshops and the Brighton students who didn't have an attitude problem enjoyed this experience. This was followed by a long barbecue lunch at the Barn Palais.

Perhaps the most enjoyable performances of the event took place on the Sunday afternoon. These included a polished performance by the Super Band (no student from Brighton), and a set from the James Morrison Scholarship finalists. Although a long afternoon, this provided much interest with both a few musical highlights and lowlights.

Although it was disappointing not to get a place, particularly as the Brighton Stage Band played so well, it was gratifying to receive an excellent report from the adjudicator, Roy Ferin. His comments included the following about Brighton's performance:

*Great intro by the bass. Excellent ensemble playing. Beautiful solo by the tenor. The articulation needs to swing a little more but overall very musical.*

*Beautiful trombone ensemble playing.....Soloists played the style beautifully.*

*Great sax soli section and good use of dynamics but it needs a bit more contrast on notations such as forte piano.*

*Well rehearsed, you are an excellent big band. Well done!*

Out of the 16 Bands in Division 2, Brighton was definitely in the top bracket. That we were again unsuccessful in the competition does not detract from the excellent work by Michael Griffin in bringing the Band to such a high level of performance excellence.