

## STAGE BAND 2000

### Performances

9th May	22nd Annual Band Night	Gymnasium Brighton Secondary
12-14 May	Generations in Jazz	Helpmann Theatre Mt. Gambier
4th June	School Bands Showcase	Norwood Town Hall
10th August	Musicorp Festival	Adelaide Town Hall
13th September	Public Schools Festival	Festival Theatre Adelaide
6th October	Jazz Cabaret	School Hall Brighton Secondary
12th October	Channel 7 'A.M' Adelaide	Hudson Room Brighton Secondary
17th October	Annual Music Centre Concert	Adelaide Town Hall
22nd October	Glenelg Jazz Festival	Jetty Road, Glenelg

The year 2000 proved to be a highly successful and most rewarding one for Stage Band 1. Competition success, a range of quality high profile performance opportunities and a great bunch of young musicians working harmoniously together contributed to a realisation that this ensemble is comparable with the best school Big Bands in Australia.

After many years of disappointment the band broke through with an award at the prestigious National Stage Band Awards in Mt. Gambier, 'Generations in Jazz' and for the second year in succession the band gained first place in the Musicorp Adelaide competitions. This success has given the students the self belief they desperately needed, a belief that asserts 'we can be as good as them, in fact we can be better, and where is the limit to our improvement?' The acknowledgement that this success has brought has provided the impetus for some dedicated teamwork and some mighty solo efforts this year. The repertoire and style of the band has matured. Pieces have been longer and more complex with the difficulty level raised. Through selected listening of the jazz masters, the band has a clearer idea of what to aim for, and in particular we have listened to the great Count Basie. We strive to play with such consistent articulation and patient time. For me, my favourite piece has been the Basie tribute Basie's Buddy B, a blues which includes five solos. It has been pleasing to see the development in improvisation in a number of students. The soloing efforts of David Waldie, Matthew Reiter, Michael Brown and Leo Auri are to be highly commended.

Patrick Thiele has emerged somewhat of a giant this year, and his thoughtful yet at times explosive solos have inspired us all. He is playing as a true lead trumpet, the leader of the band.

The band has been involved in public relations for a couple of events, namely the Musicorp Festival and Glenelg Jazz Festival and in doing so has itself been promoted in the media of radio, television and the press. In the area of technology, we have begun storing an archive of our recorded performances in digital format. Hence we can supply each student with a keepsake CD of the band, and also monitor the bands progress over time.

Finally, congratulations to a tight knit band of students who have been a joy to work with. I thank them for their trust and cooperation in the decisions I have made this year. Next year? We are aiming for division 1 at Mt. Gambier, but let's see the set piece first!

### **Michael Griffin**

#### Repertoire

A Sideward Glance	M. Tomaro
Ease on In	J. Morrison
Moose the Moose	arr L. Niehaus
All of Me	arr J. Morrison
Caravan	arr M. Abene
Basie's Buddy B	J. LaBarbera
This Can't be Love	arr R. Holmes
A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square	arr M. Tomaro
Orange Coloured Sky	arr R. Holmes
Lady Madonna	arr E. Wilson
Caravan	arr E. Wilson
A Night in Tunisia	arr M. Ierace

### **School Bands Showcase 2000: 4th June**

Following a successful audition, the Stage Band was invited to perform in a special concert with James Morrison and Don Burrows. This concert, on June 4 at Norwood Concert Hall, featured a number of Adelaide school bands including Pembroke, PAC and St. Peter's College. It was a marvellous opportunity to work with esteemed musicians in front of an enthusiastic sell out cabaret crowd. Both James Morrison and Don Burrows received our band enthusiastically and were praiseworthy of our sound.

The three pieces we played were chosen with these gentlemen in mind to play the solo parts and the band did very well in listening for possible variations and hence accompanying them. This was a worthwhile performance and we have been invited for a return performance in 2001.

### **Launch of Glenelg Jazz Festival: 31st August**

When invited to provide a small jazz ensemble to perform at the entrance to Scampi's Restaurant at Glenelg for this event, the Yr 11 Dixieland band was selected.

To say they were a hit would be an understatement as virtually all dignitaries and guests paid compliments in regard to the band as they entered the door. The 45 minutes entertainment provided by the band was a marvellous advertisement for themselves and indeed the school.

Listed below is an indication of some of the interest shown in the Band:

- \* Footage taken by Channel Nine as seen on the 6.00pm News.
- \* Discussions with the Minister for Tourism regarding further engagements for her Office.
- \* The possibility of an appearance on a Channel Seven morning show.
- \* A segment on Radio Australia with present Ivan Lloyd.
- \* Photos with Messenger Press and 'The Advertiser'.
- \* A three night residency with a local restaurant over the Glenelg Jazz Festival.
- \* An invitation to play with the Nick Mulder Quartet at the media launch (which was accepted and realised.)
- \* An invitation from Russell Starke to introduce the band's music to jazz entrepreneur Kym Bonython.

This was a very successful afternoon for the band, and one which provoked discussion and comment about the Brighton Secondary School Music Department jazz focus.

### **Glenelg Jazz Festival: 22nd October**

It was a privilege once again to be invited to perform at the Glenelg Jazz Festival, an event which attracted some 30,000 enthusiasts and featured 37 top South Australian and interstate bands and performers.

This was a splendid way to complete what has been a very good year for the band. We played a 45 minute set in St. Andrews Uniting church on Jetty Road to a capacity audience of about 250. The band put in one of its best performances of the year and entertained the audience with a selection of repertoire which included swing, bop, blues, ballad and rock. The lively acoustic was somewhat offset by the audience number so thankfully the crisp articulation of the band could be appreciated. Of particular note was the quality of our soloists and the steady tempi of the rhythm section, and at the end of the performance the audience gave the band a sustained and vigorous ovation.

## **MOUNT GAMBIER NATIONAL STAGE BAND AWARDS**

The Year 2000 Generations in Jazz Stage Band Awards was the biggest in its 8 year history with over 30 schools from four states vying for the prestige of a place in the two Divisions. Division 1 consisted of 5 bands, Division 2 - the bulk - 23 bands, Division 3 (non competitive) 2 bands.

Indeed an indicator of the success of this weekend is the fact that it is now twice as big as it was only two years ago - no doubt partly due to the continuing drive and support of James and John Morrison, Daryl Somers and the Mt Gambier community providing \$15,000 in prize money.

This year, Brighton Secondary School broke new ground: we entered two bands in the competition for the first time and achieved an award - 2nd place in Division 2 - also for the first time.

It was a great weekend with many fine concerts from outstanding young soloists as well as James Morrison, Daryl Somers in his role as vocalist and jazz "drummer and the Royal Australian Navy Stage Band. The 33 students who accompanied Band Directors, Mr Tregloan and Mr Griffin, as well as chaperone Mrs Tregloan were a credit to the school not only their musical performances but general demeanour, attitude and behaviour. We stayed at the Presidential Motel, a significant upgrade from last year's 2 star inn. The students appreciated the spacious rooms as well as indoor pool, sauna and spa.

As usual we were dined and entertained at the Barn Palais and true to form the food was of a high standard. The concerts on both the Saturday and Sunday evenings were probably better than the last few years, and although Sunday was good, many students were tiring during a long afternoon and ready to go home well before 4pm.

The Competition was held on Saturday and due to the growth in this event, Division 1 was held at a different venue from the other divisions. This was a real pity as we therefore did not get to hear any of the five Division 1 bands, probably some of the best in Australia, as this is one the major reasons many schools attend the competition.

A subsequent directors meeting has ensured that in the future all bands will get to hear Division 1 perform. Still, the Generations in Jazz committee is doing an excellent job grappling with the logistics of this dynamic event. Our venue, the Robert Helpmann Theatre has an excellent acoustic in which it was a pleasure to perform.

Stage Band 1 played the set work 'Ease on in', a work composed by James Morrison with vigour and accuracy. It included a raunchy tenor sax solo by David Waldie. Our ballad, 'A Sideward Glance' demanded great flair from clarinettist Jonathon Hunt and much control from the brass section. Jonathon's playing of this piece was superb and no doubt contributed to his prestigious Superband Award.

Our finale was Charlie Parker's 'Moose the Mooche' and although taken perhaps a little too fast included excellent solos from 1st tenor David Waldie, 1st trombone Patrick Beaman and 2nd trumpet Patrick Thiele. A highlight was also the phrasing of the sax section soli. Congratulations to Stage Band 1 on their 2nd placing. The hard work and commitment to fine detail has been recognised.

#### Results of Division 2

First	Balwyn High School (Vic)
Second	Brighton Secondary School (S.A)
Third	St. Peter's College (S.A)