

## Stage Band 2002

### Performances

15th May	Stage Band Concert	Hudson Room Brighton Secondary
17-19 May	Generations in Jazz	Helpmann Theatre Mt. Gambier
14th August	Band & Orchestra Festival	Town Hall Adelaide
15th August	Art of Jazz Showcase	Town Hall Norwood
20th September	Annual Jazz Cabaret	School Hall Brighton Secondary
25th September	Senior School Concert	Pilgrim Church Adelaide
27th October	Glenelg Jazz Festival	Glenelg

Every year a senior ensemble like Stage Band has to cope with the loss of experienced Year 12 students. This year seemed more difficult than the previous few, probably because of the outstanding quality of the 2001 Year 12 students. We emerged with the youngest Stage Band for many years: indeed half the students were in Year 9 and 10 in comparison with 2001 when only two students were of this age. Nevertheless this band of youngsters had a very successful year and gave some quality performances.

Our immediate aim was to perform solidly in Division One of the National Stage Band Awards. We gave of our best and were placed 6<sup>th</sup> in this most demanding division. It was a great experience for our junior members to hear what it takes to be considered one of the top bands in Australia.

The time spent on learning the three competition pieces – duration 19 minutes – was considerable, but this is very important for our students to learn that every note in every phrase has to be equally considered in the interpretation of a work of art.

The Band also entered the Adelaide Musicorp Band Festival and gave a stunning performance, missing out on first place by one point.

At the completion of the competitions it was good to get back to another objective of this ensemble, the familiarisation of standard jazz repertoire. This year included a focus on the hard bop era, with Sonny Rollins, Clifford Brown and Horace Silver being studied.

The standards were put to good use at the annual Cabaret, which was loads of fun and a great showcase of the school jazz ensembles.

As usual we finished the year in style at the Glenelg Jazz Festival. We had a terrific audience and the band put in one their best performances.

With seven major performances, we performed less than in previous years, but each concert was really valuable and well received.

## **Michael Griffin**

### **Repertoire**

Sister Sadie	arr M Abene
Angel Eyes	arr J Fedchock
Up a lazy River	arr J Morrison
Tenor Madness	arr M Taylor
Doxy	arr M Taylor
Daahoud	arr M Taylor
Come together	arr M Tomaro
Stella by Starlight	arr F Mantooth
Papa's got a brand new bag	arr M Taylor
Blue Train	arr M Sweeney
Milestones	arr M Sweeney
Route 66	arr M Sweeney
The Girl from Ipanema	arr J Berry

### **Art of Jazz Showcase 2002: 15th August**

The Stage Band was invited to perform in the *Art of Jazz* Showcase with special guests Don Burrows, Ben Gurton and Rob Chenoweth for the third year running. This concert, on August 15 at Norwood Concert Hall, featured Adelaide's best school jazz bands and was performed in front of an enthusiastic sell out cabaret crowd.

The band played *Papa's got a brand new bag*, *Angel Eyes* and *Sister Sadie*. A particular highlight was the soloing by Don Burrows in the latter two songs.

The performance was a most enjoyable one for the band. The stage was spacious, well equipped with microphones and lighting and professional in every detail. The audience entered into the spirit of this cabaret style concert, applauding loudly and in our case, giving the Brighton band a standing ovation.

### **Generations in Jazz**

#### **Mt. Gambier 17th-19th May 2002**

The Stage Band Competition section of Generations in Jazz has grown so much over the past few years. This year there were 45 stage bands

competing in 3 divisions – over 1,000 student musicians from 29 schools. Of these schools, 15 were from Victoria, 10 from South Australia and 4 from New South Wales. Brighton's Swing Band competed in Division 2, and the Stage Band in Division 1 of the competition.

The growth of the competition meant changes to the program for the weekend. The Barn Palais was still the venue for the concerts on Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon, but the large number of students could not be accommodated in the Palais itself. A large tent on the lawns proved to be an inadequate substitute, particularly because of the wet weather – the "lawn" floor became water-logged, chairs sank, the roof leaked and it was cold. It lacked the traditional ambience.

The Division 2 competition was held in the Wehl Street Theatre. Brighton's Swing Band, directed by Jeffrey Kong, was drawn No. 3 out of 27 Bands in this section and had an early start on the Saturday morning. The Band played particularly well – the best for the year so far. The Band has predominantly Years 8-10 students, and not only was this a tremendous experience for them, but also they were excited by the standard they had achieved in the 4 months of preparation for this competition. The Band played *St Louis Blues*, *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* and the test piece, *Sydney by Night*.

The Division 1 competition was held in the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre. Our Stage Band was drawn No. 2 out of the 10 bands in the very difficult and competitive section. The Band's performance of the own choice *Sister Sadie* and ballad *Angel Eyes* were outstanding – polished, secure, musically interesting and highly professional. The test piece *Up a Lazy River* was not quite of the same high standard because of its demands on the trumpet section. Our lads were Year 9 and 10's – all new to the Band this year. They'll be great in a couple of years!

On the Saturday night, the Super Band and Finalists of the Future were announced. As in 2001, the guitarist in the Stage Band, Michael Brown (Year 11) was selected for both. This was a great honour for Michael Brown, recognising both his ability and inherent musicianship. Particularly memorable was his fine solo in the competition ballad, which showed considerable musical advances from 12 months ago when he won the same awards.

In the final results, neither band was successful in gaining a place this year. Four of the six placed bands in Division 1 and 2 were from Victoria. However, the weekend of jazz is not all about gaining a place. For some students, it was an inspirational weekend. To see and hear the standard to which they have to aspire can only be gained at the Mt. Gambier Generations in Jazz weekend. James Morrison, by his presence and performance is an inspiration to many of our students.

Particular thanks to Michael Griffin and Jeffrey Kong for providing the leadership to our bands at Brighton.