

# MAGA MUSIC ARRANGERS GUILD OF AUSTRALIA INC.

The Industry Benchmark in Professional Arranging.

## MAGASCENE

### Secretary's Report

#### Secretary's Report

The last 4 months have flown by and July has been an exciting month particularly for workshops.

Thanks to Hal Leonard, Paul Murtha gave two workshops in Melbourne and Sydney which were well attended by MAGA and non-MAGA members alike. The workshop gave an insight into how Paul approaches writing for mixed ensembles, adapting jazz into a concert band setting among other interesting topics. Thanks to Matt Amy for helping organise these as well as Jazz Workshop Australia and The Australian Institute of Music for the use of their facilities.

We also had one of our Patrons, Tim Davies, give a talk in Brisbane about his experiences as an arranger for Hollywood films, big bands and various commercial artists. Tim is well known for his blog - [www.debreved.com](http://www.debreved.com), which has since become an important resource for composers and orchestrators all over the world. Thanks to QLD MAGA member Clifford Bradley who helped organise Tim's visit!

We also had a Rehearsal and talk with Peter Casey AM, Musical Director of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" in Melbourne on Monday July 29<sup>th</sup> at the Melbourne State Theatre. Thanks to Peter for taking time to make this possible.

We have had several members celebrating significant anniversaries with Machiel (Mick) Berghuis celebrating 50 years on 21<sup>st</sup> July. We have a short article from Mick on his 50 years with MAGA, Congratulations Mick!

Also, congratulations to Maurice Brunell, Ray Glover, Graeme Lyall, Noelene Thomsen and Col Loughnan on achievements over 50 years!

The MAGA Board have been very busy during the first half of the year and are hard at work on several initiatives that we are hoping to share with the membership soon. We will also start organising the 2019 AGM which will be held in early December in Sydney. Stay tuned for more information.

We hope you Enjoy MAGA Scene Issue # 42.

Tim Middleton – MAGA Secretary

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Vice President/Publisher: Jessica Wells

Secretary/Web Master: Tim Middleton

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### National Executive for 2019



<http://www.magainc.org.au>

### Issue #42, August 2019

#### Contents

	President's Message A message from George Bruno	2
	Anniversaries	3
	New Board Member Steven Stanke	4
	Certificate Member Interns at Mimma	5
	Mick Berghuis 50 Years of MAGA membership	6
	Paul Murtha & Tim Davies workshops	7-8
	Peter Casey rehearsal	9

#### Board Members:

Greg Schultz, Ian Boath,  
Matt Amy, Kieran Hurley,  
Greg Flood, Peter Casey AM,  
Steven Stanke



## President's Message

### GETTING BEHIND THE INSTITUTIONS THAT REPRESENT YOU

I often struggle with what to write for the MAGA Inc newsletter. There are so many things that I want to touch on, a myriad of topics that I want to open up for discussion. I am always seeking areas of interest to stimulate readers and appeal to their intellect. In this issue I would like to explore the marvel of 'open music', that is; music that is created (live) by a small group of musicians, when there are no written arrangements, merely common knowledge of some tunes and a willingness to make music. This brings me to the notion of "head arrangements". We know that pick-up jazz combos, rock groups, garage bands and even church bands do it! And many great bands have emerged from this natural process of making music.

The beauty of that way of making music, is that it allows for spontaneous creativity and for the player's musical knowledge and experience to shine. Collective creativity is very exciting and inspiring to the performing musician and to the listener. Starting at one point, any new figure played can redirect the mood of the piece to a very different space. Make no mistake, it is not a God inspired intervention that you experience but a fountain of information gathered from years of playing, listening and studying, which can be tapped into at the right moment to produce amazing results. It's a given, that it might get a bit messy if you try it with a bigger band... definitely not with an orchestra!

I find it refreshing to see the new crop of musicians come out of the various music institutes armed with diplomas in hand, all fired-up and ready to create. Some manage to access income from government grants etc, whilst others gravitate towards a career in teaching. Those that persist with performance careers are quite often self funded and rely totally on grooming a following to gather some "pull" at the door. It becomes obvious that peer support is of premium importance as you "grow". I make it my business to attend as many live events as possible, doing my bit to support our precious music creators/performers and our industry.

MAGA Inc has played a major part in supporting its members in as many ways as it can, and will continue to do so into the future. I should also point out that previous generations of "*professional musicians*" have done quite a lot to carve a solid path into protecting their music industry. They have done this by forming the "*Professional Musicians' Union of Australia*", the "*Music Arrangers' Guild of Australia Incorporated*" and the "*Professional Musicians' Club*". All of which are still operating but with increasing difficulty, mainly because they are not actively supported by us, the people they wish to serve.

The healthiest (financially) of the above institutions is the *MEAA-Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance*, the MEAA can hardly be accused of standing up for musicians' rights...*The Professional Musicians' Club*. And almost insignificant in the array is *The Musicians Union*. However, as the *The Professional Musicians' Club* membership is ageing it is becoming fragile. In my opinion the club needs an influx of "new" members to keep it alive. They need major up-dating changing the direction of their administration. Much like what MAGA Inc had to through to "breathe" life back into it a few years back.

*The Professional Musicians' Club's* President John Pochee is asking for new members to join. Now given that it does not have any premises to congregate at but merely an office, it is marvelous that they offer 2 dinners a year for free to their members! Featuring bands from the best Sydney Jazz musos, who are paid a full fee!! It would be good if they had a WEBSITE to make them visible in the present. That may come if new blood is injected into their administration. Notwithstanding, anyone interested in joining can contact President John Pochee on (02) 9568 1266.

George J Bruno - President

Music Arrangers' Guild of Australia Inc.

## Significant Anniversaries



### Significant Anniversaries – May-July

- #38 Maurice Brunell - 56 years
- #42 Ray Glover - 56 years
- #514 Graeme Lyall - 56 years
- #125 Noelene Thomsen - 53 years
- #21 Col Loughnan - 53 years
- #229 Machiel Berghuis - 50 years
- #288 George Bruno - 49 years
- #151 Bill Hucker - 47 years
- #422 Ian Ford - 44 years
- # 251 Rudi Van Berkum - 43 years
- # 22 Lyn Lawrence - 42 years
- #11 Bruce Cale - 41 years
- #503 Paul Millard - 39 years
- #280 Bruce Davidson - 35 years
- #194 Peter Best - 33 years
- # 375 Art Phillips - 32 years
- #385 Velko Gavranich - 31 years
- #30 Anne Stevens - 30 years

**The New MAGA Website is up and running! Log in and update your details.**

In "Find a Copyist / Arranger" page you can list the software that you use and what specializations or genres you work in.

There is a "searchable" function where clients can look for specific skillsets. For example: if you put "jazz big band" into a search field it would bring up those members who specialize in that genre.

To join MAGA as an Arranger, Copyist, Certificate Member or Friend of MAGA, go to this link:

[https://magainc.org.au/join\\_maga.php](https://magainc.org.au/join_maga.php)



## New MAGA Board Member

We would like to welcome Dr. Steven Stanke to the Executive Board!

Steven Stanke #661 has arranged and composed for numerous orchestras, wind bands and opera companies. Recent projects include film and Broadway concerts with Symphony Central Coast (NSW) and University of Newcastle Conservatorium Orchestra, Invictus Games Sydney Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the Australian component of the Nanchang International Military Tattoo in China 2017 and Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Melbourne 2016, album recordings with the Royal Australian Navy Band (Spirit of Place – 2018, Centenary of Armistice – 2018) and Gallipoli and Villers Bretonneux Anzac services. He also conducted these performances. Steven holds a PhD and Master's degree in Conducting from The University of Melbourne and conducting and composition degrees from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

Steven has also arranged reductions of major operas including Tosca, La Bohème, The Marriage of Figaro, Suor Angelica, The Bartered Bride, Don Giovanni and many others for Sydney Independent Opera, Rockdale Opera, Opera Van Diemen's Land and Lyric Opera Central Coast. Steven's arrangements are published by Baton Music (Netherlands) and Wirripang (Australia).

**Dr Steven Stanke** | Artistic Director, Conductor

**Symphony Central Coast**

PhD, MMus(Conducting) MMus (Theory), BA(Hons)



## MAGA Certificate Member interns for "Mimma"

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to intern for Sean O'Boyle during the premier of Mimma: A Musical of War and Friendship earlier this year, as part of MAGA's mentorship program. As an intern I was able to be a part of the journey from initial rehearsals with the cast and staging of scenes and dance numbers, to dress and tech rehearsals at the Regal Theatre, orchestra rehearsals and finally seeing the musical come to life at the Preview and Opening Nights.

As rehearsals commenced Sean was working on orchestrating the music and guided us through his orchestration process, particularly how he approaches arranging the music and finding ideas to keep the orchestration interesting. We had the chance to try orchestrating some of the music ourselves (putting our Sibelius skills to work!) and also learnt about Symphonic Sound Design, a technique Sean used to create atmosphere in various scenes complimented with the use of a waterphone. We assisted Adrian Kelly with copying, learning the copying process first hand and preparing charts for the orchestra, and also had the chance to stand backstage with the Stage Manager during a performance and experience sitting in the pit with Sean conducting the orchestra.

Overall the internship was an incredible and unforgettable experience. It was wonderful to be a part of such a supportive and talented team, to learn from Sean and Adrian, and the many chats with composer and producer Ron Siemiginowski about how the musical came to be. Thank you to MAGA for providing the internship opportunity, to Sean for being an inspiring mentor and to the wonderful cast and crew of Mimma.

Thanks,

Kirsten Symczyk



## Mick Berghuis #229 - 50 years of MAGA

Congratulations to Machiel (Mick) Berghuis (#229) - 50 Years Membership July 21<sup>st</sup> 2019!

I started guitar when I was 13, (1953) two years after arriving here from the Netherlands), learning from a Tex Morton song book. Teachers were scarce in Wollongong at that time. Then followed a Bush band which morphed into a Rock and Roll band when that hit the scene.

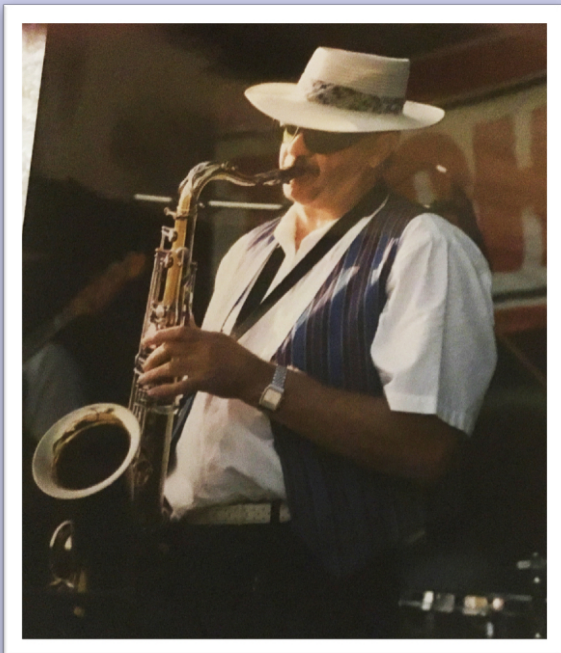
In between I was lucky enough to get on Australia's "Amateur Hour" and "Six O'Clock Rock" which was very impressive to all my friends. We changed once again in the sixties when clubs started to employ bands, and all learned how to read music, after being told very kindly by Don Harper, that we were a good band, but reading would make us better.

At this stage I was writing most of the charts for our band. Roland Storm heard a couple of my arrangements and nominated me for MAGA of which I joined on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1969, and have been a member ever since.

In 1982, we formed the "Belmore Basin Jazz Band" with which we still do regular work. I started teaching which encouraged me to write music for my students. I also taught flute, clarinet, saxophone, guitar and trumpet. Nine years ago, I got together with a few friends and formed a ukulele group, which has now grown to anywhere from 80 to 100 every Wednesday night, for which I write most of the music. We do festivals, retirement homes, hospitals etc. which I imagine most semi-retired musicians do.

I have always been proud to be in MAGA, and wish you all the best in the future.

Machiel (Mick) Berghuis



## Paul Murtha Workshops – Melbourne and Sydney



"On July 16th and 18th we had the privilege of having Paul Murtha present to MAGA members and guests in Melbourne and Sydney in conjunction with Hal Leonard, Australia.

Paul has served as chief arranger for the United States Army Band and is published exclusively by the Hal Leonard Corporation. Paul shared his experiences as an arranger, how he deals with mixed instrumentation and his approach on arranging for ensembles with mixed abilities. He also confirmed that Oboes can't play in unison, French Horns don't play bop and Trumpets need a break"

Matt Amy (MAGA Board Member)



We now have a recording of the Melbourne talk available on the **File Archive** section of the website.

To access this and other recordings please do the following:

- Login to the website at <http://www.magainc.org.au/>
- Down the bottom of the page click on **Resources**, then **File Archive**
- Select **Recorded Workshops**
- You will see the Paul Murtha Workshop (and other workshops)
- Click on the workshop and then in the right of the screen click on **Click Here To Download**
- This will take you to a unlisted YouTube link to view the video.



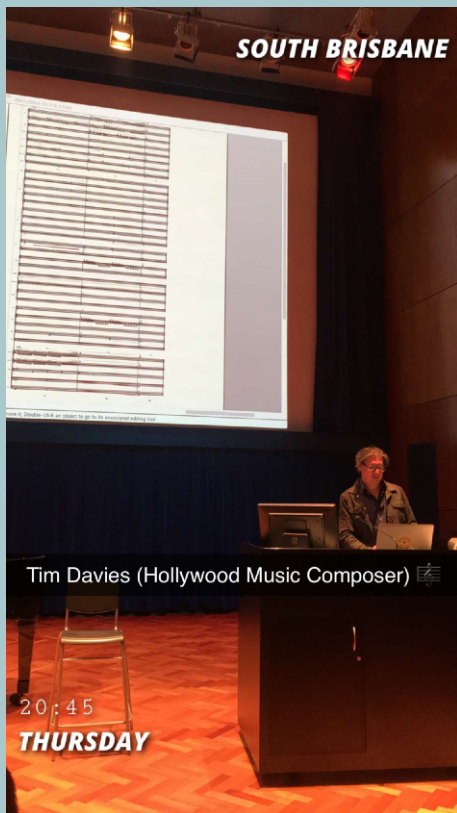
## Tim Davies Talk - Brisbane

On the 11th of July, the MAGA members and other guests that attended the talk at Griffith University Conservatorium of Music were treated to a very interesting, informative, and entertaining presentation from acclaimed Hollywood orchestrator and conductor, not to mention MAGA patron, Tim Davies. Hollywood anecdotes abounded as Tim gave us a brief history on how he came to be doing what he's doing, illuminating and, at the same time, dispelling myths of what it's like to be working in the film music industry at the highest level these days. With the help of the big screen in the very nicely equipped Ian Hanger Recital Theatre, Tim walked us through several scores from projects he has worked on in recent times, including the End Credits of the Oscar-nominated *Muppet Movie*, and an action-packed Cubase session of music that he composed from the Netflix series, *Troll Hunters*. In his laid-back and entertaining style, he conveyed a real enthusiasm for his work, and was very forthcoming with good advice for anyone interested in a career in film music.



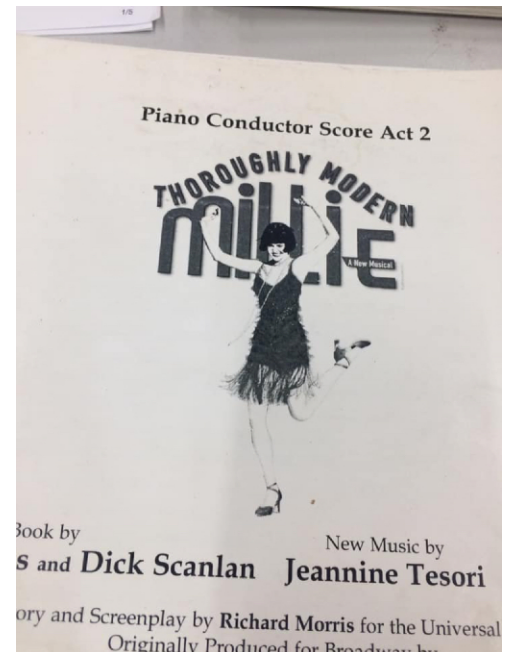
MAGA would like to sincerely thank the Griffith University Conservatorium of Music at Southbank, Brisbane, who went above and beyond to host us in such a lovely venue for the evening.

Clifford Bradley  
(MAGA member)





## Thoroughly Modern Millie – MD Peter Casey



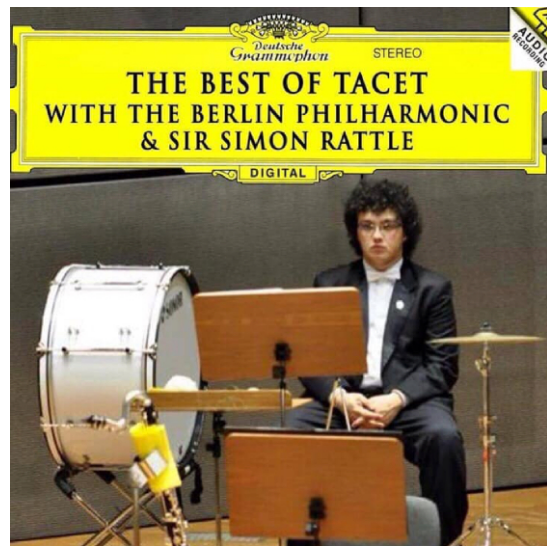
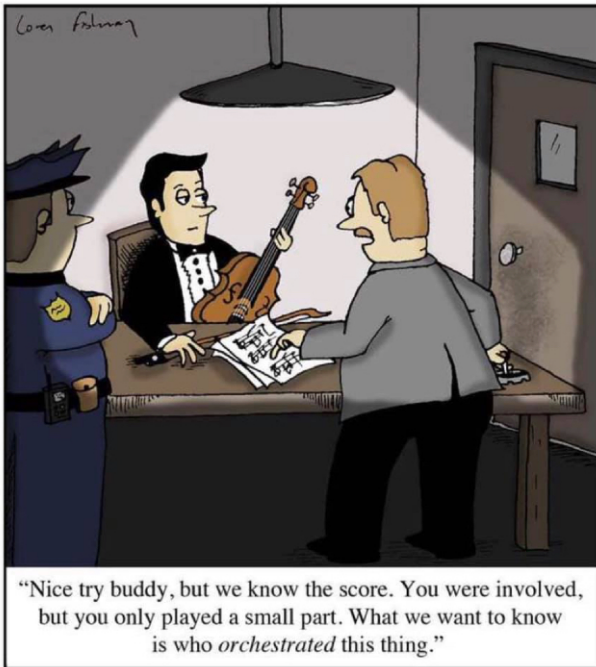
What could be better than sitting in a rehearsal room in the bowels of the State Theatre for an afternoon with some of Melbourne's finest musicians, listening to them play through the score for Thoroughly Modern Millie? "Nothing!" I thought to myself, and leapt at the chance to watch MD Peter Casey in action.

Provided with a copy of the conductor score, a comfy chair and a table, I was warmly welcomed and settled in for an afternoon of music. The rehearsal was fast paced, but not frantic, and was particularly interesting to me as an arranger. Which parts tripped up the musicians? Was it because the score was not as clear as it could be? How had the arranger balanced the orchestra? How much relied on keyboard sample libraries? (Answer: not much!).

What happened when a book of parts was printed with a blank page missing? It was 3 hours of invaluable learning that I'll be able to apply next time I'm working in the music theatre space, or with any large group of musicians. Peter and co were very welcoming, and would do it again in a heartbeat.

Jared Haschek

# Back Page



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