

MAGA MUSIC ARRANGERS GUILD OF AUSTRALIA INC.

The Industry Benchmark in Professional Arranging.

MAGASCENE

This challenging year continues for everyone and especially for our members in Victoria and NSW. Our thoughts go out to all MAGA members, their family and friends, especially in those areas and hoping we soon getting the cases going in correct direction.

The first MAGA Arranging Competition has been a great success with same fantastic entries from young arrangers from around Australia. The winner, 2nd and 3rd place prizes are announced below. Congratulations to all who entered. The standard was very high, with many entries being offered complementary Certificate of Merit membership.

On July 2nd, our Trustee and long-time Honorary MAGA member Henry J. 'Doc' Bertram turned 100! Happy birthday 'Doc'! See below for an interesting article below on Henry's life and musical career.

After of a couple of years' hard work from many MAGA Executive members, we released our template "Model Arranger's Contract - For Live Performance". MAGA has prepared this standard form contract, which members of the MAGA can access and utilise when negotiating contractual terms with clients for live performances. You can access the contract in the *File Archive* section of the website. If you have any questions on how to access, please contact The Secretary. Special thanks to Jessica Wells, George Bruno and Greg Flood for their work on the contract.

MAGA, having been formed on 10th February 1961, means that on Wednesday 10th February 2021, we will be celebrating 60 years! Save this date and keep an eye out for communication on the events for each state on this date in 2021.

We also celebrate many members achieving of 50 years' membership of MAGA and especially like to congratulate our President, George Bruno on reaching 50 years' members last month!

The AGM planning is also starting soon so keep an eye out for the call form nominations and information on the AGM coming out in the next couple of months.

Remember, if you are having trouble paying your dues when your renewal comes out, please reach out to us here at MAGA and we will be able to assist you.

Stay safe and sit back and enjoy issue #45 of MAGA Scene.

Tim Middleton – MAGA Secretary

If you are experiencing any health issues, both mental and / or physical during this time please contact the following organisations:

National Coronavirus Hotline 1800 020 080 Support Act Well Being Helpline 1800 959 500

President: George Bruno
Vice President/Publisher: Jessica Wells
Secretary/Web Master: Tim Middleton
Treasurer: Ross Maio

National Executive for 2020

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

Board Members:
Greg Schultz, Ian Boath, Matt Amy,
Kieran Hurley, Steven Stanke,
Peter Casey, Gregory Flood

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President's Message

Golden Wedding – 50 Years in MAGA

At its peak the APIA club featured international shows and sported one of the best sight-reading, accompanying bands in Sydney. Led by Dick Buchannan and comprising of: Dick on t/bone & tpt, Stan Wilson tpt, Col Loughnan reeds, Billy Nuku drums, Tom Williams piano and yours truly on bass. Being in that band with such talented players it was inevitable that I would become interested in arranging. The setting was perfect because I could instantly hear what I wrote and get some advice from the players and the 3 other MAGA members on board, namely Dick Buchannan, Col Loughnan and Stan Wilson. It was Dick Buchannan that encouraged me to apply for MAGA membership and sit for a copying test. Being young and cocky I thought I'd go straight for an arranging membership!

The structure of MAGA in those early days was quite different. Not only was the head office Sydney based, but the committee was totally from Sydney too, with reps from each state organizing their local branches.

Membership applications were done by mail and tests were done in person under the supervision of a committee member. Turning up for my arranging test at Don Rankin's music store was nerve-wrecking! I was allowed to bring the sheet music of 3 tunes (one of them to be chosen by the testing member) score paper and a pencil! My goodness, I couldn't hold on to the pencil because my hands were sweating so much.

Being a member of such a respected body was a great privilege. It instantly branded you as a serious arranger who took the time to produce quality work. No sequencing programs to listen to or engraving programs to help you with graphic layouts. Straight from the head, to the paper, to the players, with a fee in between of course. The other benefit was that once accepted and you got your MAGA ARRANGER stamp, you were now rubbing shoulders with all the other great arrangers of the period. Therefore, you had a greater chance to be considered seriously when pitching for high level contracts.

The great motivating force that drove MAGA's founding members to form this organization was exploitation! With TV in its infancy, recording being done live in studio, lots of live cabaret artists performing at a myriad of live venues (like the Tivoli with 2 bands and revolving stage) MAGA played a powerful role in securing fees for its members that allowed for gaining a reasonable life-style.

I got interested in the mechanics of running MAGA at the executive level, early in the piece. I successfully ran for committee and got in by defeating the other applicants. In those days we actually had many applicants challenging each committee position. It's on record that I have spent more time on the Board of MAGA than any other member. From Board member to Treasurer, to Vice President and recently as President, I have enjoyed working with all the Executive Boards and feel privileged to have been contributing to keeping MAGA Inc alive and contributing to its growing presence in today's music scene.

Keep healthy!
With regards,
George Bruno – President
MAGA Inc

Significant Anniversaries



Significant Anniversaries – June, July 2020

- #288 - George Bruno **50 years**
- #251 - Rudi Van Berkum 44 years
- #22 - Lyn Lawrence 43 years
- #375 - Art Phillips 33 years
- #338 - Stephanie Holmes 25 years
- #336 - Stella Talati 24 years
- #391 - Jessica Wells 22 years
- #214 - Allan Hall 19 years
- #567 - John Coker 17 years
- #570 - Rick Best 17 years
- #38 Maurice Brunell – 57 years
- #42 Ray Glover – 57 years
- #514 Graeme Lyall – 57 years
- #125 Noelene Thomsen – 54 years
- #21 Col Loughnan – 54 years
- #229 Machiel Berghuis – 51 years
- #422 Ian Ford – 45 years
- #11 Bruce Cale – 42 years
- #280 Bruce Davidson – 36 years
- #194 Peter Best – 34 years
- #385 Velko Gavranich – 32 years
- #433 Charles Affleck – 28 years
- #405 Paul F. Eotvos – 25 years
- #410 John Grant – 24 years
- #414 Robert Smallwood – 24 years



MAGA was constituted on

February 10th 1961

making it

the Guild's 60th

Anniversary in 2021!

Save the date ! There are celebrations in the planning.

MAGA Website is there to promote you! 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

MAGA National Youth Music Arranging Competition 2020



This year, the inaugural MAGA National Youth Music Arranging Competition featured Big Band arrangements with the winning entry receiving \$1000 as prize money as well as the chance to have their arrangement recorded by a professional Big Band.

- 1st place - \$1000
- 2nd place - \$300
- 3rd place - \$200

We received many great entries which were arrangements of pieces by four Australian composers:

- Jenna Cave – “Little Girl”
- Andrew Batterham – “Batty’s Bounce”
- Andrea Keller – “For Bernie”
- Alex Taylor – “Play Crazy for Me”



Stats:

Entries received from NSW, VIC, QLD and WA.

Exact 50% split of Male/Female entries

Age range 17-21
Average age 21
Minnie is 19!

Every song was used at least twice.

The judging process was completely anonymous using a scoring sheet and points system.



Minnie Hill is our winner!

\$1000 prize money for her arrangement of Alex Taylor’s “Play Crazy for Me”

2nd \$300 : Hamish Ander (Batty’s Bounce)

3rd \$200: Deven Rahman (For Bernie)

Minnie Hill is a Melbourne based composer, arranger and saxophonist who primarily writes and arranges works for big band and smaller jazz settings. While Minnie arranges for her own projects and bands, she has also composed and arranged music for the Daryl McKenzie Jazz Orchestra, Paris Cat Big Band, both Jazz Melbourne Studio Youth Big Bands and school ensembles.

In 2019, Minnie’s big band composition ‘Silver’s Swing’ was selected for the VCAA ‘Top Sounds’ concert, recorded at the Iwaki Auditorium in Melbourne and highlighted the best student compositions across Victoria. As a performer, Minnie was lead alto in the invitation only Jazz Melbourne Studio Youth Big Band 1 (2019)

All three arrangements will be recorded by Matt Amy’s Really Big Band! Congratulations to the top three!

Model Arrangers Contract

A message from Gregory Flood (MAGA Board Member and Lawyer @ FLOOD + CHALMERS + MEADE)

20 July 2020

Dear All

You will have recently received an email notifying you of the new **Model Arrangers Contract**.



Members of the Executive have worked long and hard to enable this resource to be made available as part of your membership so it comes with years of experience and work behind it.

Just a few notes about it and how you can use it.

- 1 It is designed for you to use for arrangements for live performance (not for recordings/film soundtracks etc).
- 2 It allows you to insert all relevant information in an easy manner by filling out the schedule rather than having to amend the standard clauses.
- 3 It is a "standard form" agreement meaning that although it is not specifically drafted for your situation it is intended to cover the bulk of our members "bread and butter" agreements. If you have complex terms or negotiations it is always best to get specific legal advice.
- 4 Please make sure you do not leave any item in the schedule empty as this may make your agreement harder to enforce.

Consider each item in the schedule carefully and complete the information that you have agreed with the commissioning party. If the item doesn't apply then please ensure you insert N/A in the relevant item to ensure there is no disagreement later as to whether the item applied.

- 5 When you and the commissioning party are both happy I recommend you sign in the relevant space and then both initial the bottom of each page so you both know which version you agreed.
- 6 Keep a copy of the signed agreement.

Again, we hope this resource assists you with your work and please let me know if you have any questions.

I am always happy to answer any basic queries from members.

Gregory Flood

To access the contract, please do the following:

1. Login to your account at <https://magainc.org.au/> using the **Login** link
2. Down the bottom of the page, click on **Resources** then **File-Archive**
3. Click on **Arranger Contract**. You will see 2 files.
4. You must read the **Model Arranger's Contract For Live Performance - Cover Letter** before downloading and using the **Model Arranger's Contract For Live Performance Word Document**

News

MAGA Copying Test

After reviewing the current excerpts used for the MAGA Copying Test, the Executive Board is pleased to announce a new handwritten orchestral excerpt to be used in the test, alongside the existing Jazz excerpt which remains.

There were some legibility issues with the previous facsimile score, and the new excerpt is much clearer.

Many thanks to EB Member Steven Stanke who trawled through many scores to find something suitable!

And also a big thankyou to the Australian Music Centre who provided the scores and advice.



Dorico Workshop with Michael Rohanek #676 - Wednesday 29th July 7pm

MAGA is proud to present our first free Webinar presented by one of our members Michael Rohanek, and sponsorship by Yamaha giving away (to one lucky Guild member) a free full version of Dorico! We look forward to this event tonight as (going to print) we have over 50 participants registered. More webinars will be offered in future if there is enough interest in this hot topic!

Introduction to Dorico

Webinar session with Michael Rohanek Presented by the Music Arrangers Guild of Australia

- Coming to Dorico from other notation software
- Note entry, articulations and expressions
 - Formatting your scores and parts
 - General questions answered

One lucky Guild member will win a full Dorico software pack! Also two merch packs to give away to any participants.

Congratulations to **Dr David Kram AM** for receiving the Member of the Order of Australia in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honors.

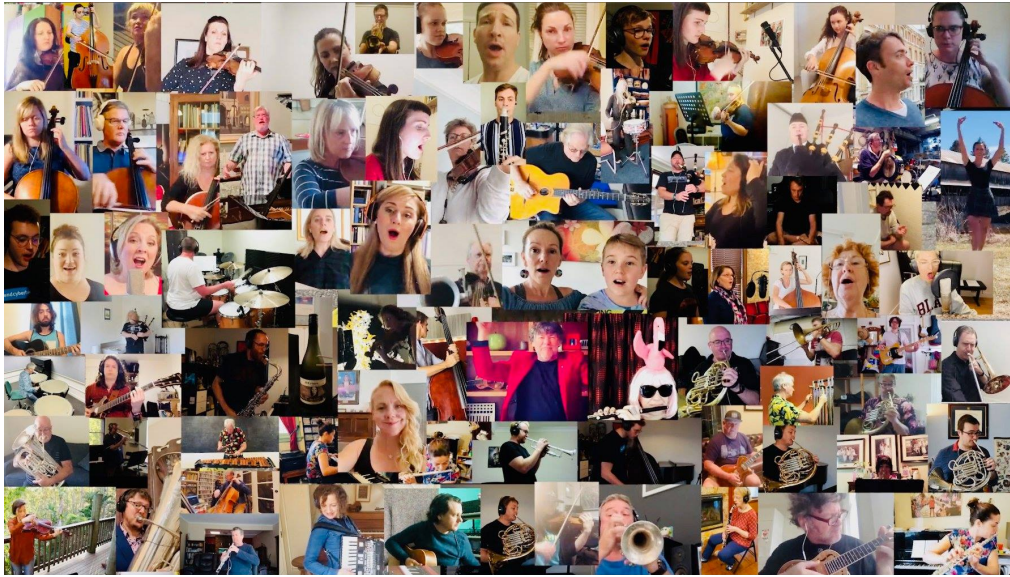


Born in London, the conductor first came to Australia after eight years working as a conductor in Europe. He has since worked as a musical director, conductor and academic, in several states and internationally.

Dr Kram said he finds the arts incredibly invigorating.

"You're always learning, always researching and practising, you're always working with interesting people, and you're always involved with a huge range of topics," he said. "I've always believed that the arts play a very important role in the community."

Epic Musical Overture Recorded in Lockdown



By MAGA Patron – Sean O’Boyle AM

A new satirical musical inspired by the Covid19 epidemic was hatched from lockdown in London and then, mandatory quarantine in a Melbourne hotel by myself and my partner, writer and performer, Amanda Jane Pritchard.

The idea for *Coronavirus the Musical Musical* (a tale of one cashed up bogan’s ruthless attempt to stage his mediocre “Extinction Rebellion” musical in the wake of the Covid19 pandemic), came to us in the early stages of lockdown in London, when our roles in a West End musical project were cancelled.

We wanted to get started immediately. I wrote an overture and Amanda Jane wrote a dramatic opening scene. With many artists losing their gigs, we then asked musical friends from around the world to record their parts in isolation.

Recordings from mobile devices flew in from all over the world. Dame Evelyn Glennie (Snare Drum), Andrew Bain (Principal Horn LA Phil), Professor Peter Luff (Deputy Director Queensland Conservatorium), Sarah Curro (1st Violin Melbourne Symphony), Alasdair Malloy (Principal Percussion BBC Concert Orchestra), John Jorgenson (Elton John Band), Sonia Croucher (Principal Piccolo Malaysian Philharmonic); Australian Jazz virtuoso Andy Firth, and singers; Kate Ceberano AM, Katie Noonan, Simon Gallagher and Rhonda Burchmore OAM were just a handful of the 112 artists to volunteer their time, sending over 200 audio files and videos.

We also asked everyone to video record themselves, so that we would have a fabulous piece of audio-visual art to share with everyone on social media. I spent countless hours editing each individual audio file and made stems to send to audio-producing genius Geoff McGahan who edited the overture to broadcast quality. It’s hard to believe it has been largely recorded on mobile devices and in complete isolation.

The overture itself covers genres including modern classical, jazz, rock, country, Celtic and choral and sets the opening scene, which is a brawl in a supermarket.

I started with a five-staff short score – two percussion staves and three piano staves. This would eventually lead to the instrumentation of picc, 2fl, ob, 2cl, bc, bsn, sop sax, alto sax, ten sax, bari sax, 4 horns, 4tpts, 3trb, euph, tuba, snare, xylo, chimes, timpani, drum kit, guitars, jazz bass, melodica, accordion, scissors, wine bottle, bag pipes, choir, vln I, vln II, vla, cell, contra bass – with solos on clarinet and gypsy guitar.

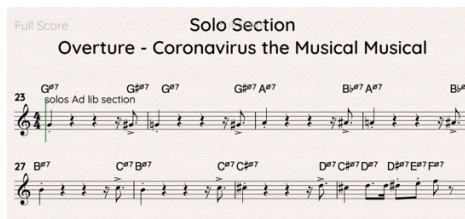
As always, I try to say a lot with only a few snippets of music. It's all about the choice of colours and orchestration.

The main themes are: 2 Orchestral and 1 Jazz

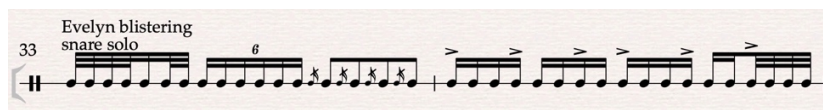


The work begins with a bombastic traditional orchestration with some interesting unison horns to provide a sense of counter melody (not pictured) and some flourishes in percussion and harp. At bar 10 – a jaunty little melody is played on piccolo and when repeated has xylophone and tuba in unison. Jazz takes over at bar 15 and then a couple of solos are added.

The chords are all based on m7b5 chords:



As with all orchestration, it's important to let "all" parts have their moment. For example - Dame Evelyn Glennie wanted to play snare drum, so I gave her space to shine:



There are many more points in the orchestration and a few surprises. Please contact me if you'd like to peruse a copy of the score. The full clip can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mCCE0eUHoA>

Keep making music.

MAGA Trustee, Henry J. "Doc" Bertram turns 100!

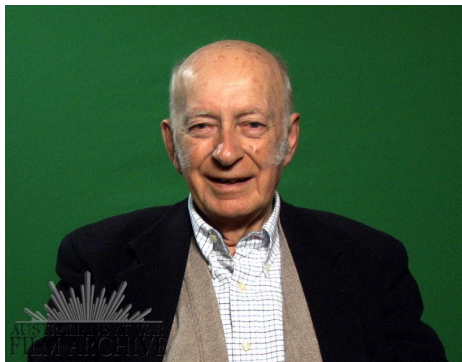


Born in Sydney in 1920 and educated at Earlwood Public and Canterbury High Schools, Doc further trained at Sydney Technical College as a Mechanical Fitter (with theory and mechanical drawing) and was apprenticed to an engineering firm. He studied Mouth Organ and Bass Mouth Organ at Horrie Dargie's Harmonica School in Sydney; from late 1938, he further studied Double Bass.

During the 1940s, Doc played in dance bands, nightclubs, The Billy Weston Big Band etc. and joined Horrie Dargie and two others for a Tivoli tour of New Zealand. During the tour a vocal instrumental Novelty Quartet was formed. By December 1951 (and back in Australia) a pianist was added to the act and this became the famous Horrie Dargie Quintet.

The Quintet worked extensively and by November 1952, they left for the United Kingdom, working variety theatres, television, radio etc, where Doc was married and started a family. Doc returned to Australia in March 1958 for two Tivoli tours and joined GTV9 Melbourne in 1959. By the early 1960s he began copying and playing Bass in a band at the Silver Spade Room at the Sydney Chevron Hotel. During this time, Doc joined MAGA.

From 1972-86 played in various bands and groups throughout Australia and, after retiring in 1986, he returned to Sydney where he continued copying until the mid-1990s.



For a fascinating interview with Henry go to

<http://australiansatwarfilmarchive.u.nsw.edu.au/archive/513-henry-bertram>



Henry – front row – third from left

MAGA on INSTAGRAM

We are now on Instagram as well as Facebook!

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MAGA
MUSIC ARRANGERS GUILD OF AUSTRALIA INC.

WED, 29 JUL AT 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Introduction to Dorico

ANDREW BATTERHAM
Composer, arranger, trumpet player and pianist, and lecturer at AIM in Melbourne.

Andrew's piece "Batty's Bounce" is one of the compositions used for the **MAGA National Youth Music Arranging Competition BIG BAND 2020**

ANDREA KELLER
Improvising Pianist and Composer dedicated to the performance and creation of contemporary jazz and improvised music.

Andrea's piece "For Bernie" is one of the compositions used for the **MAGA National Youth Music Arranging Competition BIG BAND 2020**

Alex Taylor
Trombonist/Sousaphonist and composer, lecturer in Jazz Trombone at the Elder Conservatorium of Music and band director with JazzSA Youth SuperBand program, Adelaide.

Alex's piece "Play Crazy for Me" is one of the compositions used for the **MAGA National Youth Music Arranging Competition BIG BAND 2020**

Jenna Cave
Composer and Band-leader of Divergence Jazz Orchestra, Sydney

Jenna's piece "Little Girl" is one of the compositions used for the **MAGA National Youth Music Arranging Competition BIG BAND 2020**

MAGA National Youth Music Arranging Competition is now closed!

Thank you for your entries!

Winners announced July 27

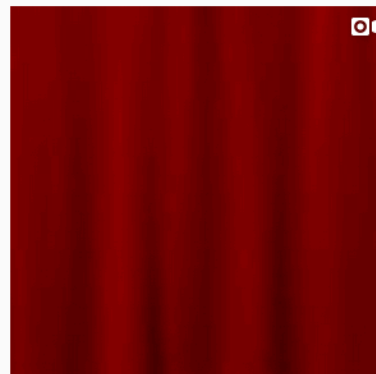
Image by Stuart McCleary from Pixabay

CONGRATS!!

Congrats to **MAGA President George Bruno on 50 years of membership!**

5 July 1970
Joined MAGA
1971-1972 Committee Member (NSW)
1973-1977 Vice President (NSW)
1996-2002 Treasurer
2003-2013 Vice President
2015- present President

PIC•COLLAGE



MAGA
NATIONAL YOUTH
MUSIC ARRANGING
COMPETITION
2020: BIG BAND

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MAGA

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CONTACT US

GPO Box 1647
Sydney, NSW, 2001, Australia

Email: admin@magainc.org.au

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MAGAInc>

and Instagram:

[musicarrangersguildaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/musicarrangersguildaustralia)

National Executive 2020

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Executive Member: Ian Boath (SA)

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Executive Member: Kieran Hurley (WA)

Executive Member: Greg Flood (VIC)

Executive Member: Peter Casey AM (NSW)

Executive Member: Steven Stanke (NSW)

Trustees: Henry "Doc" Bertram, Julie Simonds, Robert Gavin