

MAGA MUSIC ARRANGERS GUILD OF AUSTRALIA INC.

The Industry Benchmark in Professional Arranging.



Secretary's Report

As we draw closer to the end of the year, we welcome you to the last issue of MAGA Scene for 2023.

The AGM is just around the corner and will be held on Monday 11th December at 7.30pm AEST on Zoom. Please take a look at the AGM notice in this issue and respond with your RSVP as we would love to have as many members present as we can. We will also be organising drinks for each of the states, so look out for an email with the details for your state.

The arranging competition has wrapped up this year and we are looking into the planning for next year as well as recording of this year's winner. One of the changes we are considering is to push it back a few months to avoid clashing with mid-semester University exams. Keep an eye for more information in the new year!

We have had many members celebrating significant anniversaries such as Graeme Lyall - 60 years; Col Loughnan, Geoff Ayling & Laurie Lewis - 58 years; Lionel Huntington, Robert Gavin & Machiel Berghuis - 55 years; Ross Maio and George Bruno - 53 years; and Bill Hucker - 51 years! We also have an article by Phil Crawshaw who celebrated 50 years last month.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Laurie Lewis, Billo Smith and Neils Rosendahl over the last three months and wish to give our condolences to their families.

We had 3 fantastic presentations over the last 3 months from President Greg Flood, Grammy Nominee Chris Walden and John Foreman OAM & Anthony Barnhill. Each of these were well attended and are available on the "File Archive" section on the website. Be sure to check out these sessions and the other 35+ hours of sessions we have.

We hope you enjoy this edition of MAGA Scene and look forward to seeing you all at the (online) AGM and if not, have a great festive season!

Tim Middleton - MAGA Secretary

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Secretary/Web Master: Tim Middleton
Treasurer: Ross Maio

National Executive for 2023

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

Board Members:
Greg Schultz, Ian Boath, Matt Amy, Kieran Hurley, Steven Stanke, Roman Benedict



President's Message

As we head into the final part of 2023 it is pleasing to be hearing reports that our industry is emerging strongly from the last three years with more and more gigs coming back. Given that APRA/ AMCOS have estimated that over 1300 live music venues throughout Australia permanently closed during the pandemic we hope that recovery can continue.

Hopefully during this year, you will have had a chance to attend our seminar series or view the recordings on line. The generosity of our presenters has been extraordinary as has been the information they have shared. If you haven't seen them all I would encourage you to log into your MAGA account and catch up. There is always something to learn when the best in the business share their insights.

I am sure by now all of you have been touched and impressed by the increasing power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) even if it is just to laugh at celebrity mockups. But there is a warning for musicians and especially our members here.

Publishers and authors have been campaigning loudly against the illegal use of their work where AI is scanning such work to train it to replicate styles and create new works in that specific style.

It is not hard to imagine just how damaging this can be to all creative industries including our own. Imagine an untrained musician being able to ask the software to create a big band arrangement in the style of Sammy Nestico, Maria Schneider or Vince Mendoza, a vocal arrangement in the style of Gene Puerling or pop arrangement in the style of Jimmie Haskell. It is incumbent on all of us to work hard to understand the benefits and the downsides of such technologies. Unfortunately the laws of copyright are not keeping up with the speed at which this technology is advancing and it is the creative industries that will suffer if the protections are not put in place now. I urge you to explore the risks many experts are writing about and make sure our law-makers understand our concerns.

In the meantime, I wish you well in your continuing professional journey and look forward to hearing of your work and success.

Greg Flood

AGM NOTICE

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of MAGA Incorporated will be held on
Monday 11th December 2023 - 7:30pm (AEDT).

(WA: 4.30pm, QLD: 6:30pm, SA: 7:00pm, ACT & VIC: 7:30pm)

This will be a Zoom only meeting and you must register using the link below.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Agenda (Monday 11th Dec 2023)

1. President's Welcome – Greg Flood
2. Attendance - Secretary
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of MAGA Incorporated that was held on Monday, 11th December 2022.
4. Secretary's Report. - Tim Middleton
5. a) Treasurer's Report & Account Summary for FY ending 31st October 2023.
b) Treasurer's Report for month of November 2022
6. Reports
a) Report on 2023/2024 Youth Arranging Competition – Ian Boath
b) Report on Social Media – Jessica Wells
7. Business Arising.
8. General Business.

Anniversaries



September - December 2023

We would like to congratulate the following members on their anniversaries.

Special mention to **Phil Crawshaw and John 'Ants' Neeme for 50 years!**

Also Les Dempsey OAM, Leon Isackson, George Brodbeck, Chris Neil, Mike Perjanik, Peter Casey AM, Sven Libaek, Paul Baker and Bob Madden for well over 50 years.

September

- #95 Les Dempsey OAM - 58 years
- #116 George Brodbeck - 57 years
- #154 Chris Neal - 56 years
- #155 Mike Perjanik - 56 years
- #285 Bob Madden - 54 years
- #121 Robert Davis - 49 years
- #268 David Jones - 48 years
- #263 Mary Martyn - 48 years
- #523 Don Vickers - 46 years
- #515 Graham Mabury - 46 years
- #502 Sam Pizzata - 46 years
- #533 William Upson OAM - 46 years
- #501 Greg Schultz - 46 years
- #327 Michael Burgess - 46 years
- #426 Geoffrey Rule - 28 years
- #429 Ilmar Taimre - 28 years
- #446 Quentin Grant - 26 years
- #447 Jane Hammond - 26 years
- #619 Rodney Barnes - 15 years

October

- #307 Sven Libaek - 53 years
- #81 Peter Casey AM - 52 years
- #335 Phil Crawshaw - 50 years
- #521 Derek Bond - 45 years
- #200 Jack Duvoisin - 43 years
- #362 Derek Williams - 38 years
- #300 Ian Boath - 31 years
- #306 Stephen Gray - 24 years
- #379 Gregory Flood - 10 years
(plus all the other years before...)

November

- # 195 Leon Isackson - 55 years
- # 130 John 'Ants' Neeme - 50 years
- # 59 Kathy Hirche - 35 years
- # 453 Tony La Rosa - 25 years
- # 563 Peggy Polias - 21 years
- # 577 Michael Dunn - 20 years

December

- # 198 Paul Baker - 55 years
- # 76 John Black - 44 years
- # 163 Freddie Hill - 43 years
- # 128 Terry McDonough - 43 years
- # 205 Ross Salomon - 23 years
- # 222 Kerri-Ann Lacey - 22 years
- # 220 Lisa Crouch - 22 years

Vale Mike Tseng #93

It is with sadness we have recently learned of the passing of MAGA Honorary Member Mike Tseng #93 on January 25th 2023.

Mike was Secretary from 1992-2001, and President in 1991 as well as an Executive member. He was a fantastic arranger and musician and was a very active MAGA member for many years.

We would like to offer Mikes daughter Veronica Tseng-Donald, and their entire family our sincere condolences.

Michael Tseng writes:

My own life & careers might be of interest to you.

I had always had an interest in playing music since the start with the Sandosham brothers in 1950. My capability in playing Dance Music progressed from the time that Gerry Soliano was teaching me the clarinet for me to take that chair in the SJI Orchestra since 1950. After school, I was taught the trumpet by Concordia Soliano in 1952, enough for me to take the 2nd trumpet chair in the Sambodian Orchestra & the Blue Note Dance Band. All the time, my talent as a pianist had also progressed accordingly, so much so that I was sitting in with Bands at the New World & Great World Cabarets, and even the famous Raffles Hotel. That horrified my father when he found out. You know how 'wicked' cabarets were in those days. He immediately ordered me to take on a Uni. course overseas as I was interested in Engineering. That was how I landed in Sydney in '53.

I continued to be interested in music while here and self-taught & progressed as the years went by. When I was admitted to Sydney U. in 1954, I was leading the Uni. Jazz Band then- after. I also played in Night Clubs and 'ponteng' [skip] lectures to do tours with American visiting artists who were top Rock 'N' Roll popstars at that time. I was also a 'pioneer' of pop music on television which was starting up in 1957 and subsequently, was in articles in music journals & the press in Sydney.

Of course, that also meant I didn't pass exams every year because I used to 'ponteng' lectures to go on tour of Australian Cities with US Groups like the Platters, Diamonds, & stars like Bobby Darren, Chuck Berry, Bobby Rydell, Frankie Avalon etc etc. In 1955 whilst playing in a Band at a Uni. function, I met an Aussie-Chinese girl who I subsequently married in 1958 when I was in 3rd year Uni. Soon we'll be celebrating our 46th Wedding Anniversary. I subsequently graduated in 1959 and continued to work both as an Engineer & a professional musician on piano as well as vocalising. I was subsequently known as the S'pore George Shearing on Piano & Nat King Cole on vocals.

I returned to work in the PWD S'pore in Jan '61 but soon discovered that as a Govt Servant, I wasn't allowed to do 2 professions. So, I 'churri churri' again and did work on the sly in places like the Princes Restaurant in Orchard Road, the American Club, the Raffles Hotel, the Adelphi Hotel, the Dutch & Island Clubs etc etc. and writing & composing Radio & TV Commercials such as the Brylcream & Rothmans etc Ads, which I also recorded in various S'pore studios.

However after the racial riots in 1964 and the unsatisfactory feeling of having to work on the sly in the music profession, I decided to return to Sydney, where I could work in the 2 professions. By then, I was also an established music orchestrator & arranger writing for TV Artists & Band Leader, while I progressed ultimately to the position of Principal Engineer in one of Australia's largest consulting firms. When that firm started a joint venture with a Malaysian firm, I was asked to manage the operations in KL where I was from Nov.'81 to July '84. On my return to work in Sydney, I suffered a heart attack in Nov. '85 whilst

on holidays at the Gold Coast. After a lot of thought, I decided I couldn't continue doing the two professions, so I never continued in the Engineering Job after that.

Thus, from 1986 onwards, I was solely a professional musician-entertainer & music orchestrator (music Arranger as we are known in the profession). I held the post of Secretary in the Music Arrangers Guild of Australia for some 11years, representing the professional interests of music notators (both manuscript & computer types) all over Australia. It was a registered professional Association, corporatised as an organisation by me.

I retired from that post last year but currently, still do work as a musician-entertainer cum Band Leader (I have been leading a 5-piece Dance Band at the Liverpool Catholic Club every Thurs night for over 11yrs) and last New Year's Eve, I finished 11yrs service at a Returned Soldiers Club leading the Band there.

I don't work as much now but not from a lack of trying. I turn 69 in March so I'm entitled to a life of retirement soon. (I think I'm one of the youngest in the SJI Class of '51. Together with my pal, Fong Fook Kai, having started school in 1945 in Primary 2, then progressed in double promotions to Std 2, 4 & 6, before facing the fierce (I think) Bro. Henry in Std 7, with the rest of the Class of '51. Maybe because when we finished school, I was not yet 17yrs yrs old and still not fully grown in height & build, that's why, Bro Henry didn't recognise me when the next time we met, was in 1973, and by then I was much taller (I'm 6ft 7in) and broader. That's what I said in my email message to the re-union gathering, " that he didn't remember me even tho' he taught me for the last 3yrs of my school life").

Mike Tseng

<https://yah2004.tripod.com/michaeltseng.htm>



MAGA Board sometime in the 1990's left to right: Mike Tseng, Robin Workman, Sven Libaek, Karl Vyzard, Joe Travis and Julie Simonds

MAGA Webinars

Just recently MAGA hosted two Zoom webinars.

To access the recordings and over 30 hours of other workshop recordings, please do the following:

Login to your account at <https://www.magainc.org.au/>

1. Down the bottom of the screen, click on **Resources**, then **File Archive**
2. Click on **Recorded Workshops/ Presentations**
3. Choose your workshop.

How Do You Keep the Music Playing?

Webinar session with Greg Flood

Presented by the Music Arrangers Guild of Australia

September 7th - 8pm AEDT

How record keeping and estate planning can ensure your music outlives you.
For many arrangers their library of arrangements is a source of income they would like to leave for their families.
But without the proper planning even the largest and most in demand libraries can be locked away forever.
In this seminar you will learn some tips on making sure that your library can continue "After You've Gone".



Greg Flood is a lawyer in private practice with Flood + Chalmers + Meade in Melbourne. He has practiced in Copyright and Intellectual property for over twenty-five years and prior to becoming a lawyer was an arranger and trombonist. Greg first joined MAGA in 1975 and has been a Full Writer Member of APRA since 1989.



John Foreman & Anthony Barnhill

Zoom interview Presented by the Music Arrangers Guild of Australia

October 24th 7:30pm AEDT

Insights into creating *Midnight* the musical recently staged in Melbourne. Music and Lyrics by John Foreman and Antony Costanzo.
Musical Director Anthony Barnhill.





New MAGA Members

#709 Andrew Lamb - Arranger

My name is Andrew Lamb, and I am a Primary School Music Teacher from Tasmania. I have a passion for arranging music for Brass and Woodwind instruments, Concert Bands and Brass Bands. I have played Euphonium in Brass Bands and Wind Bands for many years. I also play Piano and guitar/bass. I have played in various types of groups including Big Bands, a Latin Band, a Celtic Pub Rock Band and many smaller jazz ensembles. I'm proud of my musical background and excited to share my love of music with my students! 🎵🎵



MAGA Website is there to promote you!

Log in and update your details.

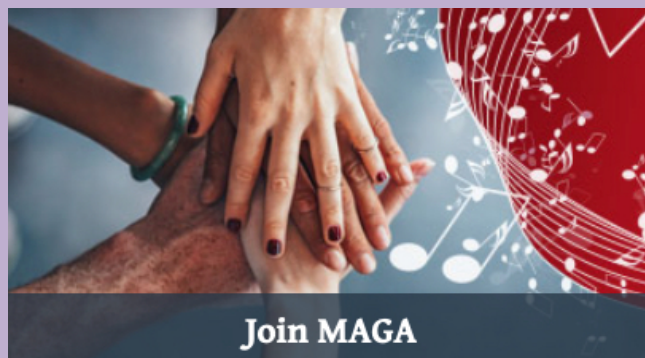
In "Find a Copyist / Arranger" page you can list the software that you use and what specializations or genres you work in.

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



50 Years of Membership - Phil Crawshaw

In Phil's words, after letting him know of 50 years' membership.

What a pleasant surprise! I didn't realise that it had been this long for me. I would like to share my music journey to encourage the younger members starting out in the industry now.

After finishing my 4-year University degree in arts/music, I spent 2 years doing National Service in the Eastern Command Army Band under Band master – Major Tom Whalan. I came into the band as a trumpet player, but I have never forgotten Major Tom's opening sentence to me, and I quote: "Private Crawshaw I believe you have a Music Degree?" – (I wondered where this was going). Then he said, and I quote, "OK – you have joined us as a trumpet player. How many French horns [players] do we have in the band"? Of course, I answered quickly "You have [three]". Then Tom said to me, "How many horn players should I have?" Of course [Mr QUALIFIED me] ANSWERED: "You should have 4". His answer floored me: "Very good private – a man with your musical experience should be able to pick it up to play" (now I was getting worried). Then he said "Congrats you are my new 4th French horn player. Get one out of the Q store and see Sgt Digger Burgess to show you the ropes and how to play it – you will sit in the horn section from tomorrow". I now wondered where the hell this was going – but this was to be the beginning of my greatest learning curve.

In the 18 months I was in the Army Band, he had me playing all brass instruments as well as Flute, Clarinet, Sax, Percussion, Drums, and Piano. I have thanked God and Tom for this wonderful learning curve, his encouragement and patience.



After leaving National Service, and starting teaching at North Ryde High School, the school band I inherited only had 8 music students at that time. By the time I left teaching in 1977, we had a full co-ed marching and playing military band – from years 7 to 12 – with an all-girl drum corps – and concert-type military band that played in shopping centres, marched in parades in Sydney and even performed on Channel 10 in Simon Townsend's Wonder World.

Fairfax media quoted Mr. Phil Crawshaw as, "the Music Master at North Ryde High School who has revolutionized the teaching of music by making use of an electric organ and a number of synthesizer keyboards".

Pictured: Mr. Phil Crawshaw at his electric organ demonstrating his technique.

We even had roadies – and in the last 2 years of teaching, the students even played a couple of times at the Sydney Opera House. The headmaster and I were proud to sit in the audience at these public concerts.



The band leaders were lads in year 11 and our conductor was a year 12 pupil! The band had become 167 personnel out of 900 school kids in total. Also, many of the people in this band went on in adult life working in professional bands. The Conductor went on to become a Doctor of Music and Lecturer at Newcastle University, and the band master became headmaster in the system.

I don't know how many times I would read a program when I would go to the theatre and recognise the people I had taught, playing in the pit.

I caught up with one of them about 10 years ago, just before I retired. He had won a Moe award for his backing and playing in shows and charts – Steve Isoadi. I also came across one of the trumpet players from yester-years who had just retired himself. (He was 10 years younger than me when I was a teacher). He retired from his job with Fox Television in a manager position. As a former music teacher, I am very proud of my pupils' achievements in their own lives.

From my earlier days in the Army Band, Major Tom Whalan had given me the drive and ability to perform later in life in my professional career too, playing multiple keyboards, orchestrating in my head and even playing a trumpet in one hand while playing the keyboards with my left hand. With the advent of MIDI, I was able to play live – not relying on pre-programmed tracks on disc. Hence, I became known as **Phil Crawshaw and his "Phil harmonic orchestra"** not only backing many of the club acts in Sydney and overseas – but performing in Australia and America as a Panasonic Concert Artist from 1980 up until 2010.



Phil's promotional photo used for 3 USA tours: 1986, 1990 and 1992.

With Regards, Phil Crawshaw

Vale Niels Rosendahl #700

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of MAGA member Niels Rosendahl (#700).

Niels had only recently joined MAGA and was an amazing saxophonist and arranger based in Perth. He was originally from Canberra and would be well known to many of us around Australia.

We wish to pass on our sincere condolences to Niels' family and friends at this sad time.

In the heart of Canberra, a city known for its political hustle and bustling government activities, lived a man whose life made a profound impact on the local community. Niels Rosendahl, a beloved figure in the capital, passed away on September 12, 2023, leaving behind a legacy that will forever be cherished. Born in Denmark in 1940, Niels immigrated to Australia in his early twenties, seeking new opportunities and adventures. Settling in Canberra, he quickly became an integral part of the city's fabric.

Niels had a diverse career, spanning from engineering to environmental advocacy. His passion for sustainability led him to be a driving force behind numerous green initiatives in the region, earning him the nickname "Canberra's Eco-Champion." Niels was not only known for his professional achievements but also for his warm and friendly personality. He was a mentor to many, always willing to lend a helping hand and share his wisdom. His ability to connect with people from all walks of life was a testament to his genuine nature.

Beyond his professional life, Niels was an avid outdoorsman, often found hiking and exploring the picturesque landscapes surrounding Canberra. He was a firm believer in the healing power of nature and worked tirelessly to preserve it for future generations. As we bid farewell to Niels Rosendahl, we remember a man who left an indelible mark on Canberra. His commitment to environmental stewardship, his kindness, and his dedication to building a stronger community will continue to inspire us. Niels' legacy lives on in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him, and his contributions to the capital will forever be celebrated.



Vale Billo Smith #18

In the last newsletter we had learned of the passing of MAGA Honorary Member Billo Smith (#18) who left us peacefully on July 31 aged 92.

Billo was a long time MAGA member and played Saxophone and Harmonica. He joined the Musician's Union in 1948 where he started work playing 3rd alto with his father Billo Smith Snr who was leader of the band at Cloudland Ballroom, Brisbane.

W. J. "Billo" Smith (1930 - 2023) was born to professional musicians at Brisbane, Australia. He studied piano from age five, but his musical career really began at 13 when he studied clarinet with his father, a prominent Brisbane musician and band leader. At 17, the younger Billo joined his father Billo Smith senior's 12 piece band at the famed Cloudland Ballroom, playing sax and clarinet. Aspiring to a classical career, he won the Queensland clarinet championship at Brisbane Eisteddfod in 1956. A scholarship to enter the New South Wales Conservatorium followed, where he studied clarinet, piano. Whilst there, he took up oboe, flute and double bass, playing for many classical recitals. Billo jnr was appointed principal clarinetist with the Conservatorium orchestra. He also sang in a Minotti opera. After 2 years full-time study he realised his forte lay in the jazz arena. In 1972 he moved to Queensland's Gold Coast where he teamed up with ex Horrie Dargie men, Vern Moore and 'Doc' Bertram, to form a vocal and harmonica trio with the Ted Preston Band, which was based at the Tweed Heads Bowls Club. Although Billo retired from playing professionally in 1995, he remained heavily involved in composing, arranging and publishing music in all styles. His musical focus shifted to more Christian themes in the latter decades of his life. He also recorded several CDs which were published independently, playing the lead on his alto saxophone.



Billo Smith's Dance Band at the Trocadero Dance Hall, Brisbane ca. 1931

Who's Doing What?

Tim Davies - MAGA Patron

2023 started with a concert for Ne-Yo and the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The summer (US/Europe) was super busy with arrangements for Sophie Hunger and the Bern Symphony, Gustavo Santaolalla and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Rampage at the Barbican with the Jules Buckley Orchestra, Stevie Wonder and Sheela with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra for Quincy's 90th celebration, Corinne Bailey Rae with the Metropole Orkest at the North Sea Jazz Festival, and finally Cory Henry at the BBC Proms with the Jules Buckley Orchestra. I also worked on several adaptations for Steve Vai and the Metropol. Performances of existing works included Anoushka Shankar with the National Symphony and Maxwell also with the NSO and San Francisco Symphony. I am currently working on arrangements for Pete Tong Ibiza Classics and a very special arrangement for the National Symphony.

There are also several movies that have come out this year for which I conducted and orchestrated, including *Antman and the Wasp: Quantumania*, *Shazam! Fury of the Gods*, *Cocaine Bear*, *The Magician's Elephant*, *Vacation Friends 2* and *Blue Beetle*. In August *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* premiered a musical episode that I orchestrated and conducted. I also contributed orchestrations to *Transformers: Rise of the Beasts*, *Fast Charlie*, and TV shows *Outer Banks* and *Fire Country*. In the can but not out yet is Jerry Seinfeld's *Unfrosted*. I have just started work on *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes* which I will be conducting the score for in Australia early 2024!

Kieran Hurley (MAGA 644) has had a busy year so far, with more to come. His 4th full show for the Darwin Symphony Orchestra, a 20 song show called "The Rhythm of the 90's" was performed in front of 8000 people at the Darwin Botanic Gardens Amphitheatre in July. Kieran was also commissioned to compose a Kids Medley for the Arafura Wind Ensemble, premiered in June 2023, and continues his partnership with the Northern Territory School of Music, writing music for their 2023 and 2024 'Beats Festival' held in Darwin and Alice Springs.

In Perth he has just completed and conducted another show for Akanna Entertainment. This show, titled "The Music of the Night: An Enchanted Evening with Andrew Lloyd-Webber" involved orchestrating for a 20-piece Orchestra, 50-piece WASO Chorus and 3 soloists. He has continued writing for many schools within WA, the Perth Symphony Orchestra and is writing and recording with his String/Vocal Sextet "Court in the Crosshairs". He is looking forward to performing, conducting, and arranging his way into 2024 with another 2 full show commissions (DSO and AKANNA) and many other individual projects (Manteca Fusion Band, Arafura Wind Ensemble, Court in the Crosshairs, PSO and WASO) coming into view. He has also started on his first Concerto, a Concerto for Jazz Saxophone(s) and Orchestra, that should be finished and premiered in late 2024.

Jeremy Boulton (MAGA 685)

Dear MAGA Team,

I write to you from Munich in Germany where I am currently working in the Gärtnerplatztheater as a member of the brand-new opera studio for the next two seasons (September 2023 - July 2025).

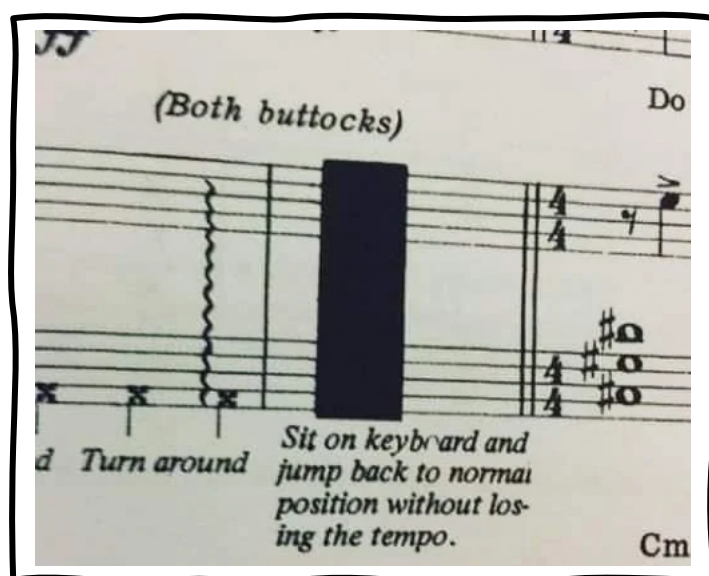
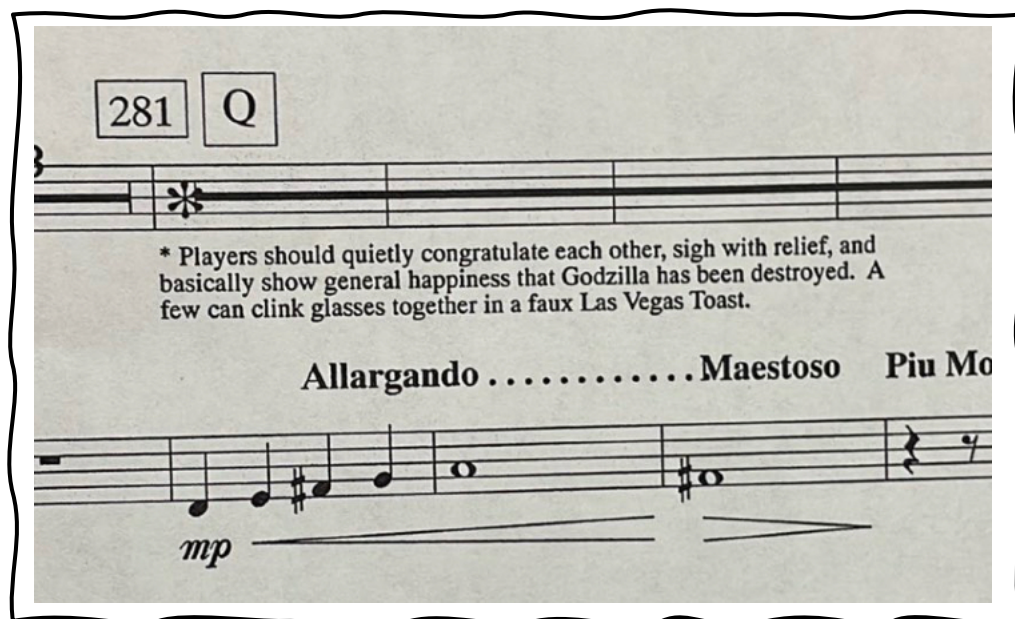
As well as the obvious process of integration into Germany (which is rather difficult as one might imagine!) It has been in real eye-opening experience, realising that I can work as a full-time opera singer in one theatre as a soloist, whilst developing under the banner of the opera studio - an initial training ground for solo opera singers beginning at a young age in the industry in Germany.

Now working full time in this theatre in Germany, I have unfortunately much less time for arranging work and composing in my spare time. However, I love receiving updates from this group and am keeping the door open on returning to arranging in the future as I work on my own projects and completing client work.

I wish all members the best and hope that everyone is busy doing projects that they love in Australia. Please get in touch if MAGA or anyone else in this wonderful association requires anything mailed from, or delivered to Munich in Germany.

Cheers, Jeremy

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CONTACT US

GPO Box 1647
Sydney, NSW, 2001, Australia

Email: admin@magainc.org.au



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