

MAGA MUSIC ARRANGERS GUILD OF AUSTRALIA INC.

The Industry Benchmark in Professional Arranging.

60
years

MAGASCENE

60
years

Secretary's Report

It has been an incredibly busy start to the year from a MAGA perspective with many things keeping the Executive Board (and Secretary) busy!

We have launched the National Youth Arranging Competition for 2021! This year, the competition will feature arrangements for **String Orchestra and Solo Vocalist with optional rhythm section**. The winning entry will receive \$1000 as prize money and have the chance for their entry to be performed by the singer/songwriter and String Orchestra in Sydney.

The two works for the competition are by two Australian Indigenous songwriters. *Heartbeat* by Deline Brisco and *Red* by Djolpa McKenzie. The competition closes at the end of June so please promote this far and wide and refer to the MAGA competition page <https://magainc.org.au/competition> for more information.

Many members in WA, SA, NSW and VIC celebrated MAGA's 60th anniversary on Wednesday 10th February 2021. A great night was had by all. Please see the article in this issue for photos from the evening.

The "MAGA Music Catalogue" is starting to take shape and we have a functional prototype which will be further enhanced over the coming weeks and months. The purpose of this catalogue to showcase members arrangements and also to promote MAGA to the wider community. If you want to take a look, go to <https://magamusiccatalogue.com/> and send any feedback to The Secretary on admin@magainc.org.au. The look will most likely change soon but we are keen for feedback on functionality as well.

As we move into 2021 and vaccines are just around the corner, the Executive Board hopes that members are doing well and work is picking up again. 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.

Sit back and enjoy issue #47 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
Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636
Lifeline 13 11 14

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

National Executive for 2021

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

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



President's Message

WHAT A FABULOUS YEAR! - WHAT A FABULOUS SIX DECADES!

I am delighted to have had another opportunity to celebrate MAGA Inc. achieving 60 Years of continuous service to its members.

That is an amazing accomplishment. In acknowledging that, I wish to personally congratulate all of those dedicated people that have served on the many Executive Boards, Trustees & Patrons. I also wish to extend our thanks to all those members that have supported MAGA Inc for many years. Thank you!

The 60th Anniversary went off without a hitch, as many of you that took part in the various dinner parties would already know. What I thought was overwhelming, is the great dedication shown by some of our longest standing members and in particular one of our "forever" Trustees Doc Bertram (age 100).

I am not sure what the influences may have been, but following that great night, I was contacted by another long standing member, Billo Smith. Bill had been another one of our "early entry" members. His membership had lapsed for some reason, but wanted to rejoin, Billo is 91 years old and a good friend of Doc Bertram, both having played in the same bands for years. One of those bands was *THE PRESTON STAGE BAND*, which in their time were the best "backing band" around, sight reading anything and transposing and playing at sight if necessary. Billo had many stories to tell as I am sure Doc also does.

To pay tribute to these two members, I have posted below a photo that Billo sent to us for our records. A humble acknowledgement of the sentiments that members hold for our great organisation.

With warm regards,

George Bruno - President

MAGA Inc

BELOW: *The Preston Stage Band - 1981.* Players from left: Billo Smith (saxophones, clarinet, flute, chordal harmonica); Henry (Doc) Bertram (bass, bass harmonica); Wally Kafoa (drums); Don Pullen (trumpet, bass); Vern Moore (trombone, saxophone, flute, guitar, chromatic harmonica); Ted Preston (piano).



Congrats to Freddie Hill
and Terry McDonough for
40 years membership!

Significant Anniversaries

December 2020 - March 2021



December

- #9 Jim Somerville - 58 years
- #3 Julian Lee - 58 years
- #198 Paul Baker - 52 years
- #76 John Black - 41 years
- #163 Freddie Hill - 40 years
- #128 Terry McDonough - 40 years
- #205 Ross Salomon - 20 years
- #222 Kerri-Ann Lacey - 19 years
- #220 Lisa Crouch - 19 years

January

- #417 Peter De Visser - 59 years
- #137 Dale Ringland - 56 years
- #244 John Pickworth - 52 years
- #265 Thomas Leroy - 51 years
- #135 Ed Wilson - 47 years
- #117 Derek Strahan - 47 years
- #351 Margaret Brandman - 45 years
- #425 Matteo Accadia - 44 years
- #455 Andrew Batterham - 22 years
- #557 Rhonda Towner - 20 years
- #209 Joan Thorp - 20 years
- #206 Libby Bee - 20 years
- #584 Mace Francis - 16 years
- #585 Andrew Partington - 16 years

February

- #2 Ross Connors - 46 years
- #353 Graeme Brown - 38 years
- #25 Guy Cundell - 31 years
- #566 Vincent Elt - 18 years
- #592 Richard Godfrey - 15 years
- #613 Nicholas Goulding - 13 years
- #610 Rob Smithies - 13 years
- #620 Grant Eaton - 12 years
- #638 Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer - 9 years

March

- #169 Lionel Huntington - 53 years
- #525 David Krygger - 49 years
- #27 Garry McDonald - 46 years
- #301 Derek Pearce - 44 years
- #212 James Humberstone - 20 years
- #535 Adrian Kelly - 19 years
- #615 Andrew Moschou - 13 years
- #614 Lachlan Davidson - 13 years
- #642 Peter Alexander - 7 years
- #643 Jennifer Fung - 7 years
- #655 Kathleen McGuire - 5 years

Freddie Hill #163 - 40 years

I first came to Australia in 1979 to visit my family who were already resident here. At that time there was a resurgence and in the arts, letters, cinema and music and a spirit of inquiry which had made itself evident during the Whitlam years. My own areas of endeavour- classical music and jazz - were especially well served by the opening of the Sydney Opera House -surely the most iconic building in the Southern Hemisphere - and by a series of summer jazz clinics presented by some the world's foremost jazz musicians and educators direct from the US. Altogether the prospect of relocating from the UK, where I had gained valuable initiation as a composer, arranger and trumpet player, was there for the taking.

It was a few months into my residency that I happened upon the Arrangers' Guild. A professional association of musical arrangers was a new idea to me and I presented for examination to the then secretary, John Pickworth, and treasurer, David Jones. The arranging requirement consisted of 8 bars (4 fully harmonised) of a song of my choice for 5 front-line with a 4-piece rhythm section. Brim-full of confidence, I chose the Gavin Sutherland hit "Sailing" voiced for wind quintet.

The allocation was 2 hours; I completed the test in 15 minutes and earned the first part of my MAGA ticket. The copying unit was more exacting; even armed with the approved MAGA fountain pen I failed after 3 attempts to attain the required level of penmanship. Having since viewed the exquisite calligraphy of such departed desk warriors as Kevin Robinson, Ron Brown and Mal Francis I cannot but be saddened by relegated of the copyist's art into redundancy by the universal music processor, which for years I resisted with Luddite determination before conceding to it as the only way to maintain a career in the modern music industry.

Among the "gongs" that membership of MAGA has earned me are - staff arranger for the Gaiety (later Shownuff) Swing Band during its 30-year revival period under the leadership of veteran drummer Jimmy Shaw, the highlight being the Woody Herman revival tour of SE Australia featuring Woody's "first call" drummer Don Lamond; and the big band arrangement of Radiohead's "Creep" which launched the career of Aussie crooner Dave Wray (aka Frank Bennet) on his inaugural CD, Five o'Clock Shadow .

A footnote:: For Don Lamond and his wife, the singer Terry Swope, it was their first visit to Australia- and what does every tourist to Oz want to see? - A kangaroo, preferably live and in the bush. On this tour however, the rain followed our bus relentlessly, and no self-responding wildlife would show itself. The final date of the tour was for the staff of Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo, who generously shouted the band and their American guests a free tour of the zoo. Don and Terry are both gone now, but they were able to tell their friends back home " Yes, there are kangaroos in Australia."





New MAGA Members

Rebecca Hall #686 Copyist

Rebecca has always been immersed in music. Born into a musical family who sang together in beautiful acapella harmony every day, music is a normal part of life and language. As much as she loves music and singing together, one of her favourite sound is the sound of rain on the roof. She grew up in a rural community in a time of intense drought. The sound of rain was the melodious sound of sweet relief.

Moving to Brisbane to further her musical studies, Rebecca gained her Bachelor of Music performance with honours at UQ, and her Amus A (violin). Then began her musical career teaching strings.

In 2005, a new musical direction presented itself. In this new season, Rebecca ventured out into the world of music copying, transcribing, arranging, directing, music administration, performing, conducting, recording and composing. She managed and produced the music copying for numerous events each year: internationally, nationally and locally, with music produced specifically for each event.

Since 2005, she has worked on thousands of songs, scoring music for vocal, orchestral, piano, jazz and folk ensembles. She's loved working with hundreds of composers and arrangers to see their music realised. She's lost count of the collections of music that she has been crucially involved in, from the seed thought right through to the end publication.

"I'm joining MAGA because, having been in the industry for many years, the time has come to access a community with other professionals with insight and industry experience. I recognise that you uphold high standards and integrity in this field, to which I also subscribe."



Minnie Hill #687 Arranger

Minnie Hill is a Melbourne based composer, arranger and saxophonist who is making her mark in the music scene as a talented and energetic writer. Writing for both big band and smaller jazz ensembles she regularly leads sold out ensembles at the Paris Cat Jazz Club in Melbourne.

Her debut big band album; 'The Remarkable Dave Brubeck', is set to be released in June 2021 and features Brubeck's compositions arranged for the 'Minnie Big Band'. The album features many of Melbourne's best jazz musicians such as Jack Earle and Carlo Barbaro. The original bonus and title track on the album (Remarkable) features renowned trombonist Marshall Gilkes.

2020 also saw Minnie win 1st place in the inaugural Musician's Arranging Guild of Australia 'National Youth Arranging' Award with her arrangement of 'Play Crazy for Me'. This saw her collaborate with both national and international artists for the virtual recording.

While Minnie spends much of her time writing and playing, she has also been the guest junior adjudicator for the Australian Guild of Music's 2020 'Unlock'd' composition competition.

"I am joining MAGA so that I can be a part of a recognised and established organisation while connecting with a large community of arrangers from around Australia."



Billo Smith #18 - Rejoined!

Most of my MAGA career was spent in arranging music for the print media, often via third parties. I did do band arrangements for the odd club artist. As a full-time muso - apart from my first 9 years doing my apprenticeship with my dad Billo Snr at Cloudland Ballroom in Brisbane from 1948 - 1957 - I did long lasting jobs with clubs, and had the opportunity to meet many acts who needed charts.

You may ask, why would I want to reconnect with MAGA after all these years of (seeming) inactivity? I have done many arrangements and compositions for choirs with piano etc, but now want to arrange for unaccompanied voices. This is an entirely new field for me. There, you have the simple answer.

Kind regards, Billo

PS Thanks for giving me back my old MAGA 18 stamp.



ABOVE: Billo Smith's Brisbane Trocadero Dance Band – 1936. Players from left: Jack Blakeway, Bert Smith (my mother), Bert

My father, Billo snr is playing clarinet in the Troc group and my mother, Nessie is at the mic. She was the pianist and also sang the up-tempo numbers while another band member dropped out of his usual position to fill in at the piano.

MAGA 60th Birthday Celebrations

A fantastic time was had by all who attended events held on February 10th around the country!

Thanks to the board members in SA, VIC, NSW and WA who organized dinner and drinks and a huge thanks to our Secretary Tim Middleton for putting together a video highlighting the long history of the Guild.

Thanks also to President George Bruno and Ross Maio for conducting an interview with Ed Wilson, excerpts of which were in the anniversary video, and now the full interview can be viewed online (go to the MAGA website member portal to access it).

View the Anniversary video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uX4udCWgd8>



SYDNEY



Graham Jesse, (Mike Goorevich), Jess Wells (Vice President), George Brodbeck, (Peter Bailey), Julie Simonds, George Bruno (President), Margaret Brandman, Nerida Tyson-Chew, (Paul Chew), Ross Maio (Treasurer), Graeme Brown



ADELAIDE



Andrew Georg,
Ian Boath (Board Member),
Kerin Bailey,
Dale Ringland

PERTH



Paul Millard, Greg Schultz
(Board Member), Tim
Middleton (Secretary),
Nunzio Mondia, Sam Pizzata

MELBOURNE



Rob Smithies, Jared Haschek, Matt Amy (Board Member), (Zoe Bertram), Henry "Doc" Bertram (age 100!), Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer, Stephen Gray, Peter Casey AM (Board member), John Foreman (MAGA Patron), Paul Woodward



Peter Casey AM and John Foreman



John Foreman and Paul Woodward



The Annual General Meeting of **MAGA Incorporated** was held on:

Monday, 14th December 2020

A motion was passed to change the below rule (which reflects the fact that we no longer issue physical stamps - but electronic JPEG stamps instead):

Rationale

To reflect the fact that MAGA no longer issues physical stamps to members.

Item for amendment - **5. Resignations**

Current wording

Any member, who has paid all amounts payable by him/her to the Guild in respect of his/her membership, may terminate membership of the Guild by furnishing notice in writing to the Secretary, such notice to be no less than one (1) month. Upon the expiration of the period notice, the member ceases to be a member. The member shall be required to return to the Secretary his/her Guild stamp(s). A member of the Guild is not entitled to resign such membership except in accordance with this rule.

New Wording

Any member, who has paid all amounts payable by him/her to the Guild in respect of his/her membership, may terminate membership of the Guild by furnishing notice in writing to the Secretary, such notice to be no less than one (1) month. Upon the expiration of the period notice, the member ceases to be a member. The member shall be required to return to the Secretary his/her Guild stamp(s) or, in the case of electronic stamps having been issued, to delete the electronic stamps and cease use of them. A member of the Guild is not entitled to resign such membership except in accordance with this rule.

MAGA National Youth Music Arranging Competition 2021



The second song to be arranged for strings and voice (with optional rhythm section) in our National Youth Music Arranging Competition is "Heartbeat" by Deline Briscoe.

Yalanji woman of song Deline Briscoe is an international vocalist, composer, record producer and creative producer. Deline has toured along side some of this nations most respected voices. such as Tiddas, Ruby Hunter, Bart Willoughby and Archie Roach.

Deline Briscoe is an internationally acclaimed singer songwriter hailing from the Gugu Yalanji of North Australia. Her soulful intimate sound has defined her as one of Australia's finest voices. A principal artist in Australia's leading performing arts company Black Arm Band, Deline has performed to over one million people worldwide, alongside artists such as Archie Roach, Geoffrey Gurrumul and Emma Donovan.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KQKsPd4_yk



YOUTUBE.COM

We have launched the 2021 National Youth Music Arranging Competition!

The instrumentation is:

String Orchestra with Solo Vocalist (optional rhythm section).

First prize is \$1000 and the chance to record the winning arrangement.

Second prize is \$500.

Third prize is a \$200 voucher supplied by ADLIB MUSIC.

One of the two songs to be arranged for strings and voice (with optional rhythm section) in our National Youth Music Arranging Competition is "Red" by Djolpa McKenzie

Maningrida born Djolpa is the front man for Darwin band Wild Water. He has his own solo career and is a featured member of the Black Arm Band!

His accomplishments include:

2 Independent Cd's, Baltpa in 1996 and Rrawa in 2007.

Awards include:

Most Promising New Talent - 1996 Deadlies!

Youth Music Category - 1997 National Reconciliation Award!

Music Education, Special Contribution - 2007 NTIMA!

Song of the Year - 2008 NTIMA!

Education Award - 2008 Deadlies!

NT Artist of the Year - 2011 NAIDOC!

NT Song of the year Awards - NT Tourism's - Song of the year - 2018.

Djolpa has toured extensively across Australia and also Internationally. He has received great reviews on an International level.

His songs weave a tale of his JOURNEY and his life between two worlds! balanda world and Un-Barra world! He sings in his mothers tongue and many of his songs are written in both English and Burarra language. His vocals will leave you with goosebumps as the hair on the back of your neck stands up! His all original songs will tell you a story of his life!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8i2rn9M2n-g>



YOUTUBE.COM

DJOLPA | RED

Djolpa McKenzie "RED" Winner of the 2018 NT Song of the Year....

MAGA MUSIC CATALOGUE

By Tim Middleton (Secretary)

The idea of a Music Library has been on the Executive Board's agenda for the last year and a half and was initially brought up by our President, George Bruno. We have gone through a number of iterations discussing this and we settled on a **Catalogue** rather than a **Library**.

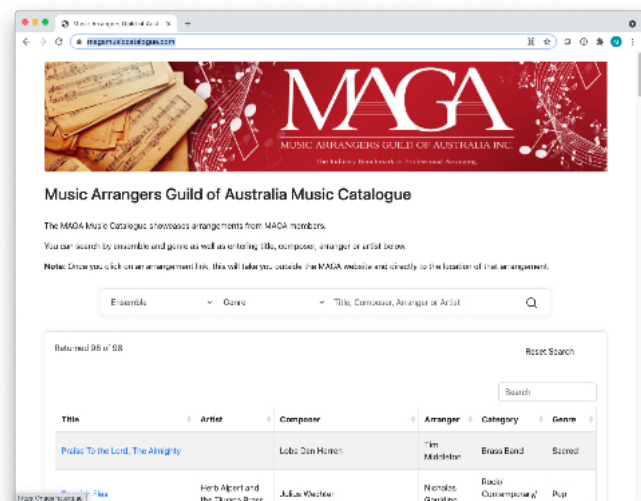
The reason for the change to a Catalogue was that having a Library as such, people would expect to be able to borrow or buy music naturally. Having MAGA as the entity between the "buyer/lender" and "arranger" became problematic when we considered the copyright and ownership issues around selling and collecting \$\$ for the arrangements.

So, with that in mind, our "MAGA Music Catalogue" is now going to be a website where people can search for quality arrangements from our members. An initial prototype can be found at <https://magamusiccatalogue.com/> and has been populated by some volunteers and has around 100 arrangements.

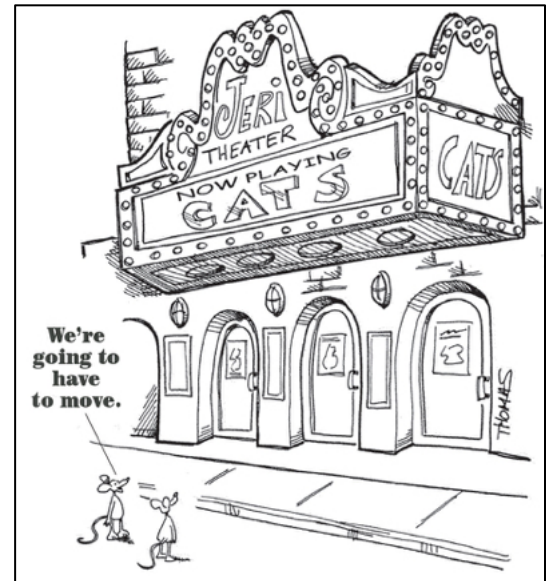
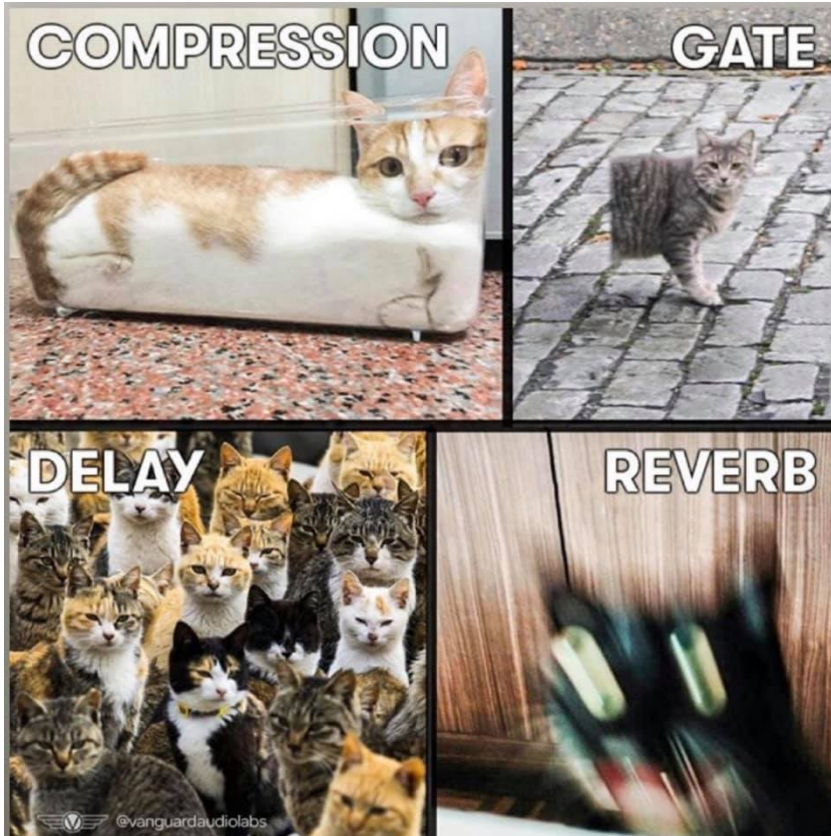
Currently the look and feel is quite "dry" as we are just trying to get the functionality going and then once we are happy, we will embellish it and make it much nicer. Currently it allows someone to search for *Title*, *Composer*, *Arranger* or *Artist*, and also refine by Ensemble and Genre. When the list of arrangements is displayed, the user can then click on the arrangement and be taken directly to the arranger's website to view/ purchase the arrangement. The current list of Genre's and Ensembles are below.

We welcome feedback on this and hope to get around 1000+ arrangements up there which will make it a great resource.

✓ Genre	✓ Ensemble
ALL	ALL
Ballad	Brass Band
Musical Theatre	Chamber (Brass)
Children	Chamber (String)
Classical	Chamber (Woodwind)
Christmas	Chamber (Other)
Education	Choral/ Vocal
Folk	Concert Band/Wind Band
Jazz	Electronic and Sequencing
Film/ TV/ Games	Folk/ Cultural
Opera	Instrumental (Solo instruments)
Pop	Jazz (Big Band/ Jazz Band)
Rock	String Orchestra
Sacred	Symphony Orchestra
Wedding	Percussion Ensembles
Other	Rock/ Contemporary/ Club
	Solo with Accompaniment
	Other



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cat: *walks on piano*

any jazz pianist: that's actually
a C13#5b9sus4m7#69sus2b13



CONTACT US

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

National Executive 2021

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