



QCMF Advisory Meeting
Friday 22nd February 2019 at 1.00pm

Planned Dates

- Invitation to participate – Emailed to school principals and music conductors – 11th March (Week 7 Term 1)
- Entries Open: QCMF Portal: Online registration active from 11th March
- Closing date for entries: 7th May (Week 3 Term 2)
- Mail out of Performance Schedules – 7th June (Week 7 Term 2)
- Invoices emailed – 7th June (Week 7 Term 2)

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Mary Hehir, All Saints Parish Primary School: Cath Esbensen and Jonathan Bolt, Ambrose Treacy College: Aimee McDonald and Brian L'Huillier, Iona College: Ben Langford, Loreto College: Iris Wessling and Simone Fry, St Eugene Catholic College: Ross Capern, St Laurence's College: Kane McNally, St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe: Craig Kennedy, St Rita's College: Marianna Moes, St Oliver Plunkett School: Christine Byrne, Emma Jimenez, Gordon Hughes, Josh McKeachie, Raquel Bastos, Michael Jones, Sandra Magnus and Alison Schrauf, Villanova College

Skype:

Robyn Edgar, Shalom College: Martin Smith, Dominic College, TAS

Apologies:

Cathie Neil and Melissa Dineen, All Hallows' School: Mark Stower, Villanova College: Celia Dodds, St Columba's School: Cathy Gleeson, St James Catholic Primary School: Jan Hewerdine and Matt Cocking, St Joseph's College: Miriam Townsley, Mt St Michael's College

Welcome:

Michael Jones welcomed and thanked those present for attending the meeting. He passed on Mark Stower's (Principal, Villanova College) apologies. Mark was unable to attend the meeting due to a previous engagement.

Information: Planned Dates

Michael Jones pointed out the planned dates for this year's festival and asked everyone to please check the dates and watch for emails.

He asked that everyone check the conductors listed on their portal and make any changes to the names and contact details of involved conductors. Please delete contact details for

conductors no longer employed by your school. It is very important that we have the actual email address and mobile contact for each ensemble's conductor in case we need to reach them urgently during the festival.

The PURL (your link to the QCMF portal) will be emailed to the School Administrator listed on your portal. Please update your records if the person nominated as the School Administrator has changed.

Report on QCMF 2018 – Michael Jones

Last year's festival was the biggest ever with 113 school participating. It truly is an incredible celebration of music in Catholic schools. The trend regarding numbers seems to be up and down so the festival this year will most likely be down on previous years.

The festival's most valuable resource is the volunteers. Last year there were 800 volunteers filling 1,600 slots across the four days of the festival. The festival simply couldn't run without them. The volunteer portal will be updated this year making it easier to volunteer. We are hoping that more people volunteer on line this year.

Report on QCMF 2018 – Gordon Hughes:

Gordon advised that the QCMF 2018 Annual Report is on the QCMF website. Copies of the report were available at the meeting.

The festival's direct costs were approximately \$150,000 in 2018. Last year there was a small surplus, which goes toward this year's festival. The amount spent was \$107,000 and there is a surplus of \$43,000, which has gone into an interest bearing deposit to help run the festival this year. This money is not considered profit as it is used to go towards funding the next festival. Michael Jones clarified that the surplus was in an interest bearing account earning a small interest. It is hoped that we won't have to rely on sponsorship in the future to run the festival. Villanova College runs at a deficit to run the festival. We would like to recognise Brisbane Catholic Education who increased their sponsorship to \$10,000 in 2018 and who are contributing the same amount for 2019, for which we are very grateful.

Conductors were asked to complete an online survey and their comments are discussed as above. Facebook is the main communication to people throughout the festival. We would ask if teachers would spread the word and please get the message out to schools. Last minute changes regarding traffic issues etc. will be posted on Facebook.

General Business

- **QCMF 2020** (Michael Jones)

QCMF 2020 will be the first year of the new assessment program for the Senior School. A survey was sent to schools asking for feedback on how the festival would impact them and whether the date should change. Feedback suggested it was a quiet time as students were not completing assessment at that time. The festival will be at the same time in 2020 during Ekka week.

Preparations will begin soon for the QCMF 30th anniversary concert at QPAC. The QPAC Concert Hall has a tentative booking, with the concert being similar to the one held for the 20th anniversary. Any suggestions for the concert are welcome. A question was asked if any school had any well-known successful musicians who might perform at the concert. A large festival is predicted in 2020 and any help would be appreciated.

- **QCMF Mass** (Michael Jones)

Mass will be celebrated again at this year's festival and Michael will send out an invitation for everyone to come along and share the morning. Any musicians or singers who want to be involved are most welcome. We would like to see as many students from the various schools as possible at the Mass.

- **Payment of Invoices prior to the festival** (Gordon Hughes)

Invoices will be emailed out via the portal. Please check that the correct contact details for your school's Finance Officer are on the portal. The wording of the invoice will now say "Please consider this as a Tax Invoice."

If any schools require a purchase order the school administrator is asked to arrange this once the tax invoice has been received. We would ask that all invoices are paid by the due date please.

- **Suggestions/Concerns from Conductors**

Michael Jones assured everyone that all critiques are read, discussed at weekly meetings and action taken where possible.

Choral: Does choralography detract from good choral technique and tone?

Some conductors are concerned that adjudicators are favouring choralography as entertainment value over choral technique. There was a suggestion that there should perhaps be two different sections with all choralography going into one section. It was mentioned that schools with local knowledge of the venues may have an advantage over schools who travel as they know the space they have to work with. We don't have any groups who request to rehearse in the church, although they do have local knowledge to an extent. Do we leave out the reference to choralography in the criteria?

It was also mentioned that we need to look at the purpose of the festival, and if choralography helps everyone enjoy the experience then that is a good thing. Clear instructions need to be given to the adjudicators so that they don't discriminate between groups. Should the wording of the criteria be the same as the Drumline sections so the technique of the performance is looked at? As we don't want to add another section, we will work with adjudicators more closely and will discuss further.

Choral: Conductors are still entering the wrong sections and not taking the section criteria into account. E.g. the criteria states at least one song must be in parts and the choir sings in 4 parts or the sections state predominantly unison songs and the choir sings in parts. Should the word "predominantly" be removed from the section criteria?

Does the criteria need changing? We accept entries on good faith and it is frustrating when conductors continue to enter the wrong sections. The festival is not about the result – it's about the feedback and having a good experience. Some felt that the criteria for the choral

sections needs to be more clear, however the general opinion was that the section criteria is very clear and it is up to the conductors to enter their choirs according to the criteria. The adjudicators also need to be aware of the criteria.

Bands: There is no section for beginner secondary school aged/level concert bands – 0.5 to 1. Currently Concert Band 1C is at Level 1 to 1.5

Section CB2C will be amended to read:

CBC: Concert Band C: (Bands consisting of members in their 1st year of tuition).

The average level of repertoire performed is up to level 0.5). Performance time: 6 minutes

This opens the section to high schools. This section will be offered on Thursday and Sunday for primary and secondary school bands, however Friday will be restricted to primary school bands.

Strings: The string sections will be amended to come in line with the bands. SOC will be offered on Friday for primary school orchestras and Sunday for primary and secondary school orchestras.

- **Change of days sections are offered:**

- a. Concert Band 1B and Concert Band 1C – will NOT be offered to Brisbane schools on Saturday unless prior arrangements are made. These sections will be offered on Thursday evening and Sunday.

These change of days that sections are offered is because we are trying to cater to travelling schools. All schools can request a particular day but travelling schools will have priority.

- b. Instrumental Ensemble 1B and Instrumental Ensemble 1C – will now be offered on Thursday evening as well as Friday and Saturday.

This change is mainly due to the number of clashes. This change gives flexibility for scheduling.

- **General Business:**

Increasing the levels of music played: Next year Michael would like to discuss the possibility of raising the levels of music played. This will be discussed at next year's meeting.

Jazz Ensembles on a weekday? A question was asked if the jazz ensembles could be on a weekday but this is not possible as Friday is very full with the primary schools. It could be possible on a Sunday if schools were interested.

Instrumental Ensemble Adjudicators: It was asked if the adjudicators in the Instrumental sections could be knowledgeable about the instruments being played

as it makes a difference with the adjudication. Whilst every effort is made to do this, the instrumental sections are made up of many different instruments.

Contemporary Ensembles: There was a request for two levels of contemporary ensemble sections. As there were 32 entries in 2018 it was felt that there was a good argument for offering A and B sections. Ben Langford offered to put forward some ideas for section criteria which would then be circulated to the Instrumental Advisory Committee for comment.

The Advisory Committees for 2019 are:

Choral:

Michael Jones: Villanova College, Coorparoo
Mary Hehir: All Saints Parish Primary School, Albany Creek
Kate Albury: St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe
Madonna Forster: Iona College, Lindum
Simone Fry: St Eugene Catholic College, Burpengary
Marianna Moes: St Oliver Plunkett School, Cannon Hill

Instrumental:

Michael Jones: Villanova College, Coorparoo
Kane McNally: St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe
Emma Jimenez: Villanova College, Coorparoo
Craig Kennedy: St Rita's College, Clayfield
Raquel Bastos: Villanova College, Coorparoo
Cath Esbensen: Ambrose Treacy College, Indooroopilly
Aimee McDonald: Iona College, Lindum
Ross Capern: St Laurence's College, South Brisbane
Christine Byrne: Villanova College, Coorparoo

Meeting closed: 3.00 pm