



Yass Music Club



Music
for 25 Years



Yass Tribune Courier

Monday, October 19, 1953

Musical Treat at Music Club's First Musicales

Three hundred people enjoyed a musical treat at the Yass Music Club's first musicale in the Memorial Hall on Friday night. There was approximately 100% attendance of members.

The visiting artists were Ronald Neill (tenor), Geza Bachmann (violinist) and Dorothy White (pianist).

Well Balanced Programme

The whole programme which comprised classical pieces and selections in lighter vein, was so arranged as to appeal to every member of the audience. It was a tribute to the musical director, Dr. R. A. G. Holmes, that such a well balanced programme was arranged, and he and the executive are to be congratulated on the choice of artists and the items they sang and played. The success of the concert last Friday night augurs well for the future of the club, which proposes to hold five concerts a year.

To those who are not conversant with such entertainment, the charming friendliness and more or less informal attitude displayed by the guest artists made a definite appeal to the audience. The explanation of each selection, and often its origin, created an intimacy between audience and artist, and assisted in a better understanding of the item. At times the artists showed a humorous vein and anecdote, which further enhanced the friendly atmosphere.

Good Impression

The artists themselves were delighted with their reception at Yass, and they no doubt carried away with them a good impression of our town, and its people which will be advantageous in procuring other artists for future musicales.

Ronald Neill came third in the recent Sun Aria competition in Melbourne. He is a young singer with a good range and stage personality. On his first appearance he sang a bracket of four songs, "Goodnight", "The Organ Grinder", "Who is Sylvia?" and "Impatience" (Schubert). Later in the programme he sang "All Hail Thou Dwelling" (Gounod's Faust) "The Stars Were Brightly Shining" (Puccini's Tosca), "Linden Lea" (Vaughan Williams), "The English Rose" (Edward German) and "The White Dove" (Franz Lehár). For an encore he sang "La Mattinata" (Leoncavallo). All his numbers were enthusiastically received by the large audience.

MEMBERSHIP OF 270

The President Mr. J. H. Horsey announced that the Yass Music Club commenced operations on Friday night with a membership of 270. That, he said, was very gratifying to the committee, and ensured the success of the club. He thanked all who had assisted in arranging the first concert, and particularly the Memorial Hall Council, which had purchased the piano used for the first time that night.

Gifted Violinist

Geza Bachmann displayed a touch and finesse in the violin selections that captivated the audience. As an instance of his ability he had not played the first selection for twenty-five years (in fact he borrowed the music from one of his pupils), yet there was sympathy and understanding in his rendition which proclaimed an artist of outstanding talent. His contributions were, Romance in F (Beethoven), Caprice Viennois (typical Viennese in its rhythm, Kreisler), Polonaise Brillante in A (a Polish Dance of great charm, Wieniawski), Meditation, Romance, Ritual Fire Dance, and as an encore and final number "The Canary". The latter was exquisitely played in its musical interpretation of a feathered songster.

Dorothy White had a charm and ability all her own. She was not only the accompanist for the other two artists, but also contributed Sonata Facile in C (Mozart) in three movements, allegro moderato, andante and allegretto; Nocturne in F Op 15 No. 1 and Ballade No. 1 in G minor Op 23 (Chopin). She was deservedly encored. Her complete control of the keys and interpretation was a delight to watch and hear.

At the conclusion of the programme a tasty supper was served in the lounge by women of the Nursery Kindergarten, when many members of the audience conversed with the artists.



Laurio Goodman

The current executives at a meal marking the retirement of Gwen Warrington, after eighteen years as Secretary.
(Left to right: Marie Smith, John Sutton, Gwen Warrington, Reg Holmes, Peg Knapp, Helen Woods, and Ron Hamblyn.



Our First Programme

YASS MUSIC CLUB

Patron:

Mrs. Mary Reid

President:

Mr. J. H. Horsley

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. R. S. Phillips

Mr. H. L. Hill

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. L. H. Grimble

Hon. Treasurer:

Mrs. B. M. Merriman

Hon. Musical Director:

Dr. R. A. G. Holmes

Committee:

Mr. F. H. W. Dabbs Mrs. J. H. Horsley

Dr. & Mrs. H. W. Fogl Mr. R. J. Sampson

Mrs. R. L. Henderson

**N.S.W. FEDERATED MUSIC CLUBS'
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Entries close 16th November, 1953, for examinations for Junior Scholarships of £30 each.

Further particulars from the Secretary of the N.S.W. Council, Mr. A. F. Thomas, 243 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 5742.

NOTE:—25 per cent of the payments to this Musicale will be contributed to the Federated Music Clubs' Scholarship Fund.

YASS TRIBUNE-DECEMBER 1953

YASS MUSIC CLUB

Affiliated with the Federated Music
Clubs of Australia

FIRST MUSICALE

of the First Season

FRIDAY, 16th OCTOBER, 1953

at 8 p.m.

in the

MEMORIAL HALL, YASS

This Programme, which is transferable,
is to be presented at the door.

Box Plan at Hill's Newsagency

Yass Music Club's Inaugural Programme Friday, 16th October, 1953

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

1. RONALD NEILL, Tenor
(a) Good Night
(b) The Organ Grinder
(c) Thine Is My Heart
(d) Who Is Sylvia?
Schubert
2. GEZA BACHMANN, Violinist
(a) Romance in F
(b) Caprice Viennois
Beethoven
Kreisler
3. DOROTHY WHITE, Pianist
Sonata Facile in C
Mozart

INTERMISSION

4. RONALD NEILL
 (a) All Hail Thou Dwelling (from "Faust") Gounod
 (b) The Stars Were Brightly Shining (from "Tosca") Puccini
5. GEZA BACHMANN
 Polonaise Brillante in A Wieniawski
6. DOROTHY WHITE
 (a) Nocturne in F Chopin
 (b) Ballade in G Minor
7. RONALD NEILL
 (a) Linden Lea Vaughan Williams
 (b) An English Rose Edward German
 (c) The White Dove Lehar
8. GEZA BACHMANN
 (a) Meditation (from "Thais") Massenet
 (b) Romanze Andalusa Sarasate
 (c) Ritual Fire Dance De Falla

SUPPER

Accompanist: DOROTHY WHITE

The Yass Music Club 1953-1978

Considering civilization, Lord Clark concluded his monumental television exploration that "even in the darkest ages, it was institutions that made society work". Notwithstanding the compulsion which appears to be experienced by many to tear down our institutions in many respects it is these very institutions which have permitted society to develop not as a group of individuals but as a leads to the development of an institution to serve those interests and contributes to the corporate nature of society.

The culture of our society, and although it is often criticised I am unaware of many people deliberately choosing an alternative, is based largely on communication with one another, with other societies, and with other individuals. We need our institutions to facilitate this exchange, whether it is a library, a broadcasting network, a club, or even the Post Office. Because of the smallness of our immediate community we are vulnerable to isolation and need to encourage communication ourselves.

It is appropriate on this occasion to look at our Club and ask what we have achieved during the last quarter century. Have we contributed to making life in our community more agreeable and less isolated than it would have been otherwise? What have we done to contribute to our community and those in it?

During the span of 25 years our Club has established itself as an institution reflecting the needs of members in the special field it serves and as an institution we add to society as we know it. Looking at it from this aspect our Club has for a quarter of a century brought people of similar interests together to communicate with one another, to talk with friends and to enjoy the company of others; it is often the enjoyment of a common purpose which provides the greatest satisfaction.

The Club has provided us with the means to enjoy music with each other. With our families and with our visitors, we have been able to welcome many of our members when first they came to Yass. There can be no better way in which to meet people than to come to a concert, to enjoy the music and the company of such occasions. We have kept the club available to families, these days the opportunities for families to enjoy activities together seem to be growing fewer and it is desirable to see that those opportunities which remain are maintained.

Our Club has become part of our community, we use it to gain access to the literature of western music, the vast collections of writings which know no national political or language barrier. This literature contains some of the most profound utterances of man, it is inspired by his feelings and emotions, and expresses some of his finest motives and aspirations. In its way our Club has through a quarter of a century helped bring this literature a little closer to us all; through it we have been able to share and experience thoughts and feelings, the despair, and love, the joy and elation of composers from the past and the present.

Although these characteristics of our Club are achievements in themselves, and they are not any the less real despite their apparent intangible nature, what have we achieved which is essentially more material?

First we have maintained the support of well over 200 members; from a population of some 8,000 in our district this is a remarkable degree of support. The list of artists who have come to our Club, and many have returned more than once, reads as a "Who's Who" of Australian musicians.

Possibly the most tangible measure of our success has been the acquisition of a new grand piano. The Club was originally made possible in 1953 when the Memorial Hall, which has always been our home, purchased a Furich grand piano. The instrument was not new



YASS MUSIC CLUB

Affiliated with the Federated
Music Clubs of Australia

Fourth Musical

OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SEASON

Saturday 14th October, 1978

8.30 p.m.

in the

MEMORIAL HALL, YASS

Next Musicale

November, 1978



PROGRAMME

THE TELEPHONE

G. C. MENOTTI

Lucy.....LYELL AUSTIN

Ben.....BARRY STRONG

Scene — Lucy's Apartment

INTERVAL

Pianist — NORMA WILLIAMS

Producer — PETER SMITH

THE SECRET OF SUSANNAH

E. WOLF-FERRARI

Countess Susannah.....JOAN SHUTE

Count Gill.....BARRY STRONG

Sante (a servant).....JOLYON BROMLEY-SMITH

Scene — The drawing room of the Count's home.

Period — Late 19th century.

YASS MUSIC CLUB

President:

Mr. R. G. Woods

Vice-Presidents:

Messrs. R. H. Hamblyn, A. J. Sutton

Honary Secretary:

Mrs. N. A. Keogh

Honorary Treasurer:

Mrs. E. A. Smith

Honorary Musical Director:

Dr. R. A. G. Holmes

Committee

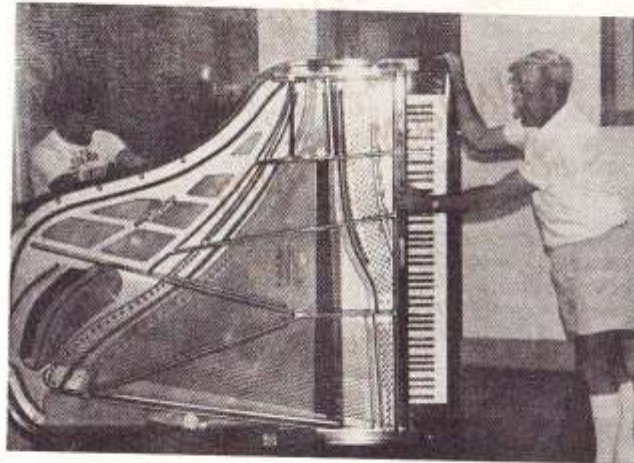
Mesdames A. Furner, E. Gunning, R. Hamblyn, J. Hancock,
H. Luscombe, D. Noble, A. Roche, J. Warmington, R. Woods,
Miss D. Carpenter, Messrs C. Barbour, T. Lock.

Life Members:

Mr. & Mrs. D. Reynolds

N.S.W. FEDERATED MUSIC CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS
Further particulars from the Secretary of the N.S.W. Council.

but provided a very sound foundation for our concerts, its warm resonance and tone in the hands of such artists as Isadore Goodman and Peter Cooper will be long remembered. Despite being rebuilt several times since it was brought to Yass it became apparent that we needed a new instrument.



Delivering the new Marshall and Rose Grand Piano to the Memorial Hall, March '78.

The new instrument, a new Marshall and Rose grand, was purchased through the generosity of a number of members and was delivered in March for the second concert of this season. It was used for the first time at a concert by Peter Cooper and Rag Holmes on March 17 this year.



Committee members with the new Grand Piano 17.3.78.

Our new piano, it has been decided, will be a fitting memorial to our two patrons, Mary Reid and Catherine Holmes, who stood firmly behind the Club through the early years of its establishment and through the difficult years of the early sixties when support diminished with the advent of television. It was our patrons in these years who both materially assisted our Club and inspired us by their presence and example.

The Club has survived and flourished because of the help of a number of people. In the first instance our Musical Director, Rag Holmes, who helped found the Club and who has been its Musical Director ever since, a notable achievement and contribution. Much of the success of the Club has been due to the continuity of many of its committee members who have served the Club well over a long period of years. The considerable expertise generated by the committee has not been lost by rapid changes of membership.

The Club has survived and flourished largely because the support of its members. While it continues to serve as a useful institution to help its members enjoy the freedom of communication through music it will continue to improve our quality of life and to have a place in our community.

Robin Woods
President 1961-1978

History of the Yass Music Club

Early in 1953, John Horsey, then CTBA manager, and Rag Holmes began discussing the question of forming a branch of the Federated Music Clubs of Australia in the town. Preliminary approaches were made to residents, and, when two hundred had agreed to become members, a public meeting was held on August 13, 1953 at which the club was formed on the motion of Dr. Fogl, seconded by Mr. Charles Barbour. The following office bearers were elected:

Patron	Mrs. Mary Reid
President	Mr. J. H. Horsey
Vice-Presidents	Messrs. R. S. Phillips and H. L. Hill
Hon. Secretary	Mr. L. H. Grimble
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs. R. W. Merriman
Hon. Musical Director	Dr. Rag. Holmes
Committee	Mesdames R. L. Henderson & J. Horsey Dr. & Mrs. H. W. Fogl Messrs. F. H. W. Dabbs & R. J. Simpson

Mr. Charles Barbour was prominent at the meeting, also seconding Mr. Horsey's nomination and proposing Dr. Holmes for musical director. An enthusiastic meeting concluded at 11 p.m. after the annual subscription had been fixed at 30/- for five concerts. (This subscription rose to £2. 2s. 0d. in 1961, to \$5.00 in 1972 since when, along with everything else, it has doubled.)

At the first committee meeting on August 30, 1953 it was arranged to hold the first musicale in the Memorial Hall annexe on Friday, October 16, 1953. During September the Memorial Hall Council under the enlightened chairmanship of Mr. E. J. O'Connor decided to acquire two pianos, a reconditioned Feurich grand, for use by the Music Club and Arts Council, and an upright for dance bands. The generous

decision to provide this fine old German grand was crucial, as it made possible the successful launching and subsequent smooth sailing of the club. It has remained one of the reasons why artists have always liked coming to Yass, the other being the traditional warmth of their welcome by our audiences. Two hundred and seventy members had been recruited by the first concert which therefore had to be held, as have all subsequent concerts, in the main hall.

For our first musical we engaged three excellent artists, tenor Ronald Dowd, violinist Geza Bachmann and pianist Dorothy White, a superb team. Unfortunately Ronald Dowd was unable to come and his place was ably taken by young tenor Ronald Neill, who scored a great success, along with his fellow artists. The club was safely on its way. Dorothy White commented on the beautiful piano we had been blessed with. The fee for each artist was £10! The programme and Tribune report are printed elsewhere.

The club has been fortunate in having had a succession of most industrious executive officers and a great continuity of committee members. Our first president Mr. J. H. Horsey (1953-54) was responsible for getting us off the ground. Mr. H. L. Hill, 1954-57 and 1958-59 presided over a club of 350 members which was therefore able to provide six concerts a year for the 30/- subscription. Dr. Fogl maintained the standard, though the members fell once the novelty of the new club wore off. In 1959, Robin Woods was elected president and immediately ran into the difficult early years of the sixties when T.V. began to paralyse the community each night. That he was able to cope with the problem is the reason we have such a stable and successful club today.

He was admirably assisted at this time by super-secretary Gwen Warmington who succeeded L. H. Grimble (1953) and G. K. Gittos (1954-57) and stayed for nineteen years. The indispensable Gwen was succeeded in 1975 by equally efficient Peg Keogh, a committee member since 1966.

The club has only ever had two treasurers. The late Barbara Merriman resigned in 1964, but stayed on the committee until 1971, as vice-president for the last three years. Marie Smith, first elected to the committee in 1956, has watched over our finances for the past fourteen years. Dr. Holmes is the only continuous member from the original committee, having been musical director since the club's inception.

Two remarkable women have been our patrons. The late Mary Reid (1953-63) and Katherine Holmes (1963-73) were two of a kind in their generosity to, and concern for, the club. In recognition of their services chamber music concerts have been held in their memory since 1974. Members have been introduced through these to some excellent chamber music by the top available ensembles. The moral, as well as financial, help of these two women enabled us to ride out the early impact of T.V. and climb back to a plateau of 220-240 members for some years now, an excellent figure for a town of only four and a half thousand inhabitants.

A club such as ours does not live by its executive alone. Charles Barbour has been a vice-president or committee member intermittently for most of the 25 years since he attended the inaugural public meeting. Doreen Carpenter, a committee member since 1954, has always looked after the flowers we give to female artists. Dr. & Mrs. Fogl (1953-59), Mrs. Clive Taylor (1954-62), Mrs. Gerald Doyle (1956-62) and Mrs. Joy Elliott (1956-67) gave early committees great continuity. Mr. & Mrs. Mervyn Gray were towers of strength during their seven years in Yass. Of the current committee Ron Hamblyn has been a vice-president since 1968 and John Sutton since 1972, and June Noble (1964), Belle Luscombe (1968), Marie Hamblyn (1969), Tom Lock (1970) and Dorothy Roche (1971) are long-time members. Numerous others have served for shorter periods.

In the end, of course, it is the quality of artists and programmes that determines the success of a music club. We have tried to maintain a balance, with the emphasis on entertainment, but with an element of

education lurking in the background. Our numbers are evidence of the success of the first, while the fact that whole programmes of chamber music are now swallowed with relish suggests that the second aim is succeeding too. In this we have been helped by a roll of artists that reads like Who's Who in Musical Australia.

Vocalists we have had include Rosalind Keane, Marie Tysoe, Florence Taylor, Marjorie Conley, Valda Bagnall, Glenda Raymond, Roslyn Dunbar, Shirley McDonald, Helen Reddy, Ailene Fischer, Helen McKinnon, James Wilson, Harold Williams, Ronald Doud, John and Don Cameron, Ray McDonald, Ereach Riley, Geoffrey Chard, Raymond Nielson, John Larsen, Ronal Jackson, Raymond Myers, John Germain, Neil Williams, Alan Light William Herbert, Gordon Boyd, Ron Macconaghie, John Brosnan, and David Parker.

An impressive list, but equally matched by a succession of superb instrumentalists such as violinists Geza Bachman and Charmian Gadd, cellists Barbara Woolley and Piers Coetmore, clarinetists Anne Menzies and Clive Amadio. While among pianists we have had Dorothy White, Isador Goodman, Clemens Leske, Olga Krasnik, Igor Hmelnitsky, Raymond Fisher, Desiree McEwan, Lindley Evans, Mack Jost, Marie van Hove, Joyce Hutchinson, Romola Costantino, Henri Penn, Rachel Valler, John Champ, Beryl Potter, Albert Landa, Richard Meyrick, and Peter Cooper as well as many others.

Some fine groups have been heard over the years — The Geza Bachman Trio, Don Burrows Duo and Quartet, The Lyric Opera Group, Sydney Male Choir, members of the Carl Pini Quartet, and the Austral, Sydney and Canberra String Quartets. It is a measure of the enjoyment given us by members of the LYric Opera Group (Joan Shute, Lyell Austen and Barry Strong with accompanist Norma Williams) that we have chosen them to help us celebrate our Silver Jubilee.

Two of our original artists entertained us at our 21st birthday on 12th October 1974, Dorothy White and Geza Bachman. They were supported by Valda Bagnall, one of the singers chosen for our second

concert in 1953. Unfortunately Dorothy and Geza both have since died but they surely live on in our memories as two of the most popular artists to come to Yass, which they both did many times during our first twenty-one years.

This story should not conclude without reference to the work of Ron Hamblyn and Tom Lock in designing and building a most ingenious protective cover for the new Marshall and Rose grand piano which the club has purchased in its Silver Jubilee year as a permanent memorial to Mary Ried and Katherine Holmes. To christen the new instrument we were fortunate in enticing to Australia, New Zealand born, Berlin based pianist Peter Cooper. At this concert the musical director finally managed to insinuate himself into the programme as a soloist for the first time. With this beautiful instrument, which can only improve as the stiffness of the new action loosens, we look forward to the next quarter-century of fine live music in the tradition which has now become a part of Yass.

R. A. G. HOLMES,
Musical Director

Our One Musical Director



Rag Holmes is a graduate in Medicine of Sydney University. Following service with the A.I.F. he took up general practice in the country, where he also studied the 'cello at the Sydney Conservatorium with Gladstone Bell. That he has been able to keep up his 'cello playing is largely due to the inspiration of the 1697 Andrew Guarnerius which he has owned since 1936. This extremely fine example of the Cremona school of instrument makers' art has been in Australia since 1866. It is a full brother to the two Guarneri acquired by the Australian Government recently, one of which is used by the leader of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's 'cello section, the other by Nathan Waks, cellist with the Sydney String Quartet.

These fundamentals conceal the nature of the person who has been the principal source of motivation of the Yass Music Club since its inception. What can be said of a person whose profound commitment to the understanding of music combined with a dedication which has moved him to make it accessible to the community where we live and which has resulted in a cavalcade of music and musicians to Yass for the past quarter of a century?

Throughout the circle of Australian musicians the Yass Music Club is widely known and much of the success of the Club can be attributed to the personal interest shown by our visiting artists in our Musical Director. His skill as a musician himself, and his ability with his Guarnerius 'cello, have been the foundation for a great understanding of music which has been reflected through the Club's activities and programme.

Rag Holmes' work as Musical Director has brought a great many people together to appreciate and understand music and has opened the door to music for them.

The tribute to, and testimony of, his success and the regard in which he is held by the Club is verified by the Club's continued success.