

Bulletin

Issue No. 1
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Editor: Aaron Taylor

SEASON GREETINGS

The committee and all those involved in the running of Maitland Musical Society would like to wish our members and their families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Society has been celebrating the festive season with numerous concerts where our members have been performing and playing Christmas Carols. We are always grateful for the time and energy that people exert in putting together events such as this.

Our *Into the Woods* cast will enjoy a short break over the Christmas holidays, with their last rehearsal being on December 21. Rehearsals will re-commence on January 5, 2015.



INTO THE WOODS

The directors for *Into the Woods* wish to extend a massive thank you to the cast and production team for the standard of work that they have delivered thus far in the rehearsal process!

By the end of the year the cast will have blocked and learnt most, if not all, of Act 1! This is a great effort considering the show has only been in rehearsal for less than a month. The level of talent and expertise involved with this production is a dream for most directors.

Into the Woods will open on May 8 at Maitland's St Johns Hall (old Pro Cathedral). It will then tour to Newcastle, performing at Wests New Lambton and Hunter Valley Wetlands (outdoor performances).

Tickets can be purchased online from maitlandmusicals.org or by calling 0456 727 861.

CALENDAR

2015

January

5	<i>Into the Woods</i> rehearsal re-commence
TBA	Orchestra Concerts

February

7	Bunnings BBQ
TBA	Trivia Night

May

8-10	<i>Into the Woods</i> (Maitland)
16	<i>Into the Woods</i> (Wests New Lambton)
23-24	<i>Into the Woods</i> (Wetlands)

July

TBA	Annual AGM
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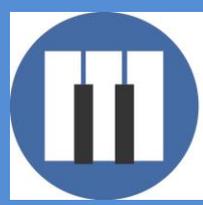
October

TBA	Show #2 Performance Season
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November/December

TBA	Christmas Carol Concerts
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ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

Our very talented orchestra are in the process of organising a full orchestra concert to be presented in various locations in early 2015. Committee member, musical director and orchestra member, Callan Creed, is generously leading the arrangements of this concert along with fellow orchestra member and one of our very valued repetiteurs, Linda Hamilton. Several other orchestra members are also involved organising this event and we thank them all for their efforts.

Exact dates and venues will be announced shortly via our website, Facebook page, our next newsletter and through other means of communication. Watch this space!

2014 TRIUMPHS

2014 has been an amazingly busy year for MGASAMS turned MMS!

Annie saw us having our first January season and worked really well because of the nature of the show and the amazing cast that we had. This production was well-received at all venues. It was particularly successful in the Starlight Room at Wests New Lambton. This was an experiment, working in partnership with Wests' events booking company. We will be returning to this venue in 2015 with *Into the Woods*.

Pirates of Penzance once again proved the range of our Society as we stepped back to a slightly more traditional production of one of Gilbert and Sullivan's classics. Under the capable direction of Jeanette Massey and Geoff McLaren, with an orchestra led by Ian Massey, this show enabled us to maintain relations with our audience base in the Hawks Nest and Port Stephens area.

Beauty and the Beast was huge in terms of the production size! This show proved how skilled our production and design teams are, making massive sets work in small backstage areas! Well done to all involved!

CONDAS

The City of Newcastle Drama Awards (the CONDas) were held on Saturday November 29 at Wests New Lambton. MMS was well represented among the nominees on the evening.

Jordan Warner – nominated for best young actress in a musical (*Annie*).

Annie Ensemble – nominated for best ensemble in a musical (*Annie*)

Guilherme Noronha – nominated for best actor in a supporting role (*Beauty and the Beast*)

Jane Martin – nominated for best actress in a supporting role (*Beauty and the Beast*)

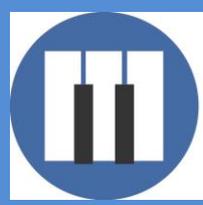
Congratulations to everyone involved in these productions for representing the Society and showing the region the level of talent and skill our members have.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Geoff McLaren will be organizing a trivia night fundraiser to take place in early 2015. The aim is to hold this at some point in February, more details will be made available as they are confirmed.

In the meantime, we are asking for any donations that might be used as prizes for the night. If you would like to make a donation please contact us using the details on the front of this Bulletin. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated as it will help make the fundraiser a success.

Information for bookings will be published as soon as possible.



UPDATE TO CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Important changes have recently started to be implemented by the NSW Government as it begins to introduce a new Working with Children Check (WWCC). This will be phased into our sector as of **April 1, 2015**.

As of this date any person working on a production or a concert that includes children will be required to obtain a WWCC.

A Working With Children Check is a prerequisite for anyone in child-related work in NSW. The new Check covers more people, is more comprehensive and provides better protection for children than the previous model. It is also more consistent with other state and territory Checks, giving us the starting point for a national Check.

A Working With Children Check includes a national police check and review of findings of misconduct involving children. The result is either a clearance or a bar. If the outcome is a clearance, the Check is valid for five years and may be used for any child-related work (paid or voluntary) in NSW. Cleared applicants will be subject to ongoing monitoring and relevant new records could lead to a bar and the clearance being revoked.

(Office of the Children's Guardian, NSW Government, p.1, 2013).

Volunteers are required to have a WWCC, however, they are not required to pay any fee. To apply for a WWCC, you can complete an application form at <http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/Working-with-children/Working-With-Children-Check/apply/-apply>. You will then be required to take your application number to your nearest RMS office for processing. A link to the application is also available from our website.

As an organisation, we will be legally responsible for checking that everyone working for the Society has clearance to work with children. We are also required to exclude any person who has not had a check by the necessary time or who has a bar. As part of our commitment to our legal and moral responsibility, we would urge you to make yourself familiar with our **Child Safe Policy** available under the Work Health Safety section of our website.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET

Get thee to Maitland Markets!

Our stall operates at the Maitland Markets on the first Sunday of every month between 8am-2pm. We will be returning to the markets in February. You can drop by and purchase delicious cupcakes and slices and help us raise important funds for our productions – all proceeds from this stall go towards the financial operations of the Society.



An infinite thank you must go to Coralie Lewis and Amber Lewis for the tireless effort and commitment that they continue to display in making sure that this venture operates every month!

