

**2021  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**ORANGE REGIONAL  
CONSERVATORIUM**

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*Lujia Zhang and David Shaw during 'Pianoforte' Concert*

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

## Our Principles

Quality | Inclusion | Identity

## Our Purpose

As an organisation the ORC strengthens and enriches community by sharing the joy and transformative power of music through quality education, performance, appreciation and engagement.

## Our Vision for the Future

In the next five years, ORC will transform from a well-respected regional conservatorium to a leading Australian regional conservatorium, offering our community access to world class musical experiences and becoming increasingly visible, inclusive, accessible, relevant, and valued.

## Strategic Directions

Expansion and Inclusion

-

Innovation

-

Quality and Excellence

-

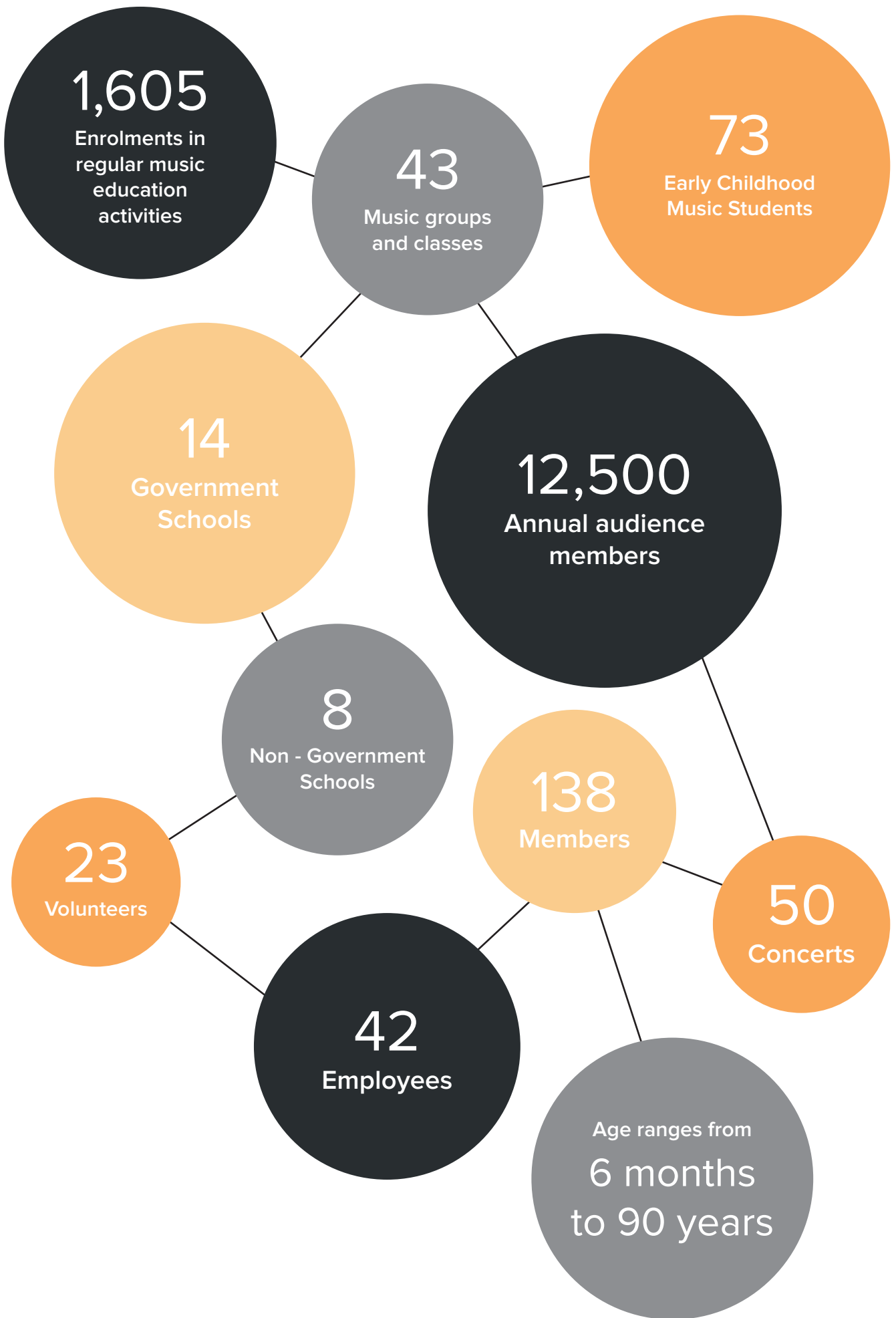
Working with the Community

-

Accountability and Transparency



Left Image: Ensemble Offspring | Right Image: Caribe



# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I am pleased to present this report to members of the Association on behalf of the Conservatorium Management Committee, and in doing so, I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we live and work on, the Wiradjuri people.

Firstly, I wish to report on the dedication shown by Management Committee members during the year. The Management Committee met on 11 occasions in 2021, sometimes face-to-face and on other occasions via Zoom. Most meetings were fully attended, and quorum was present on all occasions. The Committee worked well as a team with members often undertaking projects on behalf of the Committee outside meeting times. I would particularly like to acknowledge the work of our Chair, Trevor Hazell. Under Trevor's leadership the Committee has been proactive in its work and guided by a clear vision for the future of the Conservatorium. Trevor resigned from the Management Committee in December, having served three terms as Chair.

Governance of the organisation has continued to be a focus for the Committee this year as we explore future directions for the Conservatorium and prepare to relocate in 2024 to the new facilities to be built in March Street. Other key priorities for 2021 have been:

- Developing and refining of the 5-year strategic plan which has now been publicly released as the "Future Directions 2022 – 2026" document
- Updating the Constitution to broaden membership categories within the organisation and ensuring continuity of purpose of the Management Committee as all Committee positions are become elected annually
- Documenting the history of the Conservatorium in written and audio-visual form in preparation for the opening of the new Conservatorium premises
- Continuing to improve our financial management and accountability systems so that the organisation remains financially viable and has the potential to grow. The efforts of our Finance and Operations Manager, Tim Cummins and Treasurer, John O'Malley have been critical in this regard
- Participating (by delegation) in the detailed design processes of the new Conservatorium building
- Establishing the fund-raising sub-committee of the Management Committee



*Symphonic Wind Ensemble*

The Board continued to work productively with staff to support their efforts to provide a high-quality service in the face of the continuing COVID-19 restrictions. We have been impressed with the decisive and professional way that the Director and senior staff have responded to the challenges they faced for another year. Amazingly, enrolments in individual tuition have consistently remained at levels of previous years. This is due to the flexible strategies put in place and to the positive attitudes of management and all the staff as they successfully adapted their teaching to the online environment.

During large periods of 2021, it was not possible, with the coronavirus restrictions, to conduct rehearsals for choirs, bands, orchestras, and other ensembles or conduct school-based programs. I wish to thank all members and students who showed the staff their understanding. We are sorry for the disappointment this has caused.

Orange City Council have made great progress towards the realisation of their plans to build a new Conservatorium and Planetarium for Orange. We applaud the historical decision by Orange City Council to ensure funds are found to complete the building with or without further government grants. It is truly amazing that our local government body shows such commitment to the importance of learning music, participating in music, and being present at inspiring musical performances. We know from our relationship with other regional conservatoriums that this initiative will provide Orange with the optimal conditions for our association to do its job well and to continue to be a treasured and well-supported part of the regional community.

Finally, may I express the Management Committee's thanks and congratulations to the Director, Mrs Donna Riles, on her leadership during 2021. Donna has led a very good team in the face of continuing challenges, maintained a positive attitude and showed care and consideration for the health and wellbeing of our students, visitors, volunteers and staff.

PAUL KELLY  
*Vice-Chairperson*



*Choral Gala combined choirs*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

After another year of disruptions to music making, we have found ourselves more determined than ever to push on with our vision for the future and realise the dream of moving into the new Conservatorium.

While the pandemic put an end to performances at all levels, 2021 saw our community come together to devise a plan to see our wonderful Conservatorium transform from a well-respected regional Conservatorium to a leading community music hub in regional Australia.

We will continue to offer world class musical experiences, become increasingly visible, inclusive, accessible, relevant, and valued.

My heartfelt thanks go to our passionate team of teachers, conductors, administration and management who are so capably supported by the ORC Management Committee.

Our committed students, families, members, friends, and volunteers make our organisation the envy of many, and I thank you all for what you contribute. **BRAVO!**

DONNA RILES  
*Director ORC*

“Orange Regional Conservatorium is a dynamic Conservatorium, an excellent professional partner, and a tremendous resource for their community.” - Katherine Kemp | Director Concerts and Communities, Musica Viva Australia



NSW Minister for the Arts, The Hon. Don Harwin, Lisa Stewart, Stefan Duwe, Donna Riles and The Hon. Sam Farraway, MLC



# KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES SUMMARY

## Music Education

2021 began with the annual enrolment or 'Open Day' seeing increased enrolments experienced across all instrumental and vocal disciplines.

Musica Viva Australia and the Godfrey Turner Memorial Trust supported a Trumpet residency with renowned trumpeter Leanne Sullivan, and Woodwind students were treated to workshops with Arcadia Winds. Our Chamber Music Academy and Academy Strings run by David Shaw, Alina Zborowski and Stefan Duwe have continued to be supported by the Trust and featured in the Orange Chamber Music Festival.

Early Childhood Music classes expanded requiring additional floorspace and the purchase of further delightful gathering drums.

Singing and indoor density restrictions meant that choirs such as the Come Together Choir had to revert to outdoor rehearsals in Cook Park. 18 out of 32 ensembles ran online.

Workshops included live streamed interactions between Orange Youth Orchestra (OYO) and Opera Australia players then the Sydney Youth Orchestra.

## Performance

The performance year began well with the annual Program Launch featuring Cuban/Jazz fusion band, Caribe, selling out to members and the wider public. The program book designed in-house by James Buchanan continues to be an effective PR tool for the organisation and achieves our purpose of sharing the joy and transformative power of music through quality education, performance, appreciation and engagement.

Other popular events scheduled were a concert by Ensemble Offspring, the ORC's own chamber music program, Silk Road, Australian Horn Quartet, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellows, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and composer Elena Kats-Chernin who workshoped with local composers, the ORC Pianoforte Concert, Choir CONobolas Pub choir, the Arcadia Winds, our student String Spectacular, Orange City Council's Future Tunes in Robertson Park and a performance by Alina Zborowski for Orange City Councillors.

Sadly, once lockdowns were implemented, we had to cancel Lior, Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra, tours by Willoughby Girls High School, the Department of Education Arts Unit ensembles,

Victoria Chatterley instigated a new French horn workshop comprising students and community players of all ages. Central West Brain Injury support group engaged in workshops with us in singing and percussion and young vocal students prepared for Opera Australia's Children's Chorus in Bizet's Carmen at the Orange Civic Theatre.

Eight ORC students were successful entering the NSW Regional Youth Orchestra, 65 students applied for scholarships, 140 enlisted for AMEB exams with a 99% pass rate. Some face-to-face exams were interrupted by COVID lock downs, others were undertaken via video.

ORC staff Dahle Innes and Phil Moran were able to travel in regional NSW to examine in their respective disciplines, Brass and Classical Guitar.

The year concluded with Eric Driver receiving the 2021 Directors Award for extended commitment and application to music studies here at the ORC along with being successful as the OYO Concerto Competition winner 2021.

Sydney Grammar School and sections of the City of Orange Eisteddfod. All internal ORC concerts were cancelled apart from studio concerts which formed a fitting conclusion to the year.

The Big Phatt Jazz Band were able to perform at the launch of the Orange Winter Jazz Festival.

Other performances included the ORC ensemble and soloists at Carols by Candlelight, ORC staff lockdown videos, Breaking the Silence Orange.



*Wula Gurray (Voice of Change) choir in rehearsal*

## Partnerships and Stakeholders

We are extremely grateful to our donors who contributed so generously to scholarships at the end of the year. We also continue to remain grateful for the support of NSW Government through the Department of Education, Orange Regional Arts Foundation, the Godfrey Turner Memorial Music Trust, Musica Viva Australia, Orange City Council, Arts Out West, the City of Orange Eisteddfod, Orange North Rotary Club, Orange Daybreak Rotary, the newly formed Olive Dunk Chamber Music Fund, district schools and the Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums.

The ORC is delighted to partner with Orange Symphony Orchestra, the Orange Chamber Music Festival, The Orange Winter Jazz Festival, Orange Male Voice Choir and JAM Orange.

We are grateful for the support of Phil Donato Member for Orange who supported the purchase of the community choir risers. We have also formed an agreement with Whitney's Restaurant and Bar to house the white Kawai grand piano for use by ORC performers and the public.

The Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums (RC's) who represent the 17 Conservatoriums around the state, continue to offer strong support to Heads of Agency and advocate to the Department of Education for program support. An online conference in November invited teaching staff from all RC's to share resources, future plans and professional support. The ORC was well represented here.

## Schools

In summary, 2021 was a disappointing one for music programs in schools. The two-year hiatus experienced in programs will be felt for many years to come and is of great concern to the ANSWRC and The Roundtable of Instrumental and Vocal and Music Education Organisations (RIVMEO).

However, ORC school highlight's included the Wula Gurray (Voice of Change) indigenous choir performing for their member schools at assemblies. We live streamed a NAIDOC week performance by Orange High School students to local primary schools and hosted Musica Viva's Music in my Suitcase ensemble for district small schools.

The ORC school music program run by Elyse Adams at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Manildra, received an extremely generous donation of \$5000 towards the purchase of new musical instruments.



*Cello teacher Stephanie Li*

## Profile

There had been much interest around the ORC throughout the year about our programs, concerts, and the new building developments. Our social media presence was strong with recorded performances by staff and students very well received.

Film and video recordings were made by James Buchanan for AMEB exams, social media and our popular slideshow on display in the Link.

Timely COVID communications were made to our people via email and e-newsletters.

We were in regular contact with local politicians, councillors and concluded the year with Andrew Gee and Deputy leader of the National Party, David Littleproud announcing the handover of \$10M to Orange City Council of their contribution to the new Conservatorium Planetarium project.

Unfortunately, a visit by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO, Governor of NSW, Patron of Association of NSW Conservatoriums had to be cancelled. We did receive a late year visit from the Dean of the Sydney Conservatorium Professor Anna Reid who met with Team Leaders.

## Human Resources

Our community were saddened in May by the passing of long-term piano teacher, AMEB examiner, accompanist and mentor, Meriel Owen. The Senior Piano Scholarship will be named in her honour. We recruited Stephanie Li cello Leon Just, guitar, Elina Yasumoto piano, Dahle Innes brass and musicianship, Anna McPhail piano, Bridget Kerr Events assistant, Tim Oram Jazz and associates Isabelle Clarke-Randazzo, cello Hazell Bingon, voice. We farewelled Rod Mason Jazz Band conductor and Andrew Callaghan cello. We supported our staff in extended lockdowns with gift vouchers.

Our staff received Professional Development in several areas such as instrumental pedagogy, anaphylaxis, Child Safe Training, CPR, Resource Therapy, other creative and administrative qualifications, were led in strategic planning by Dr Pam Ryan, addressed by keynote speaker Karen Carey (Mrs Careys Concert) and welcomed work experience students.

Donna attended two Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums on-line conferences and Tim updated his CPA training. Tim also relieved in the role of Director while Donna took long service leave in June.

## Physical Resources Management

We were pleased to be able to receive a number of valuable instrument donations throughout the year and purchased a number of new instruments and music, ensuring our students and ensembles have access to highest quality repertoire and publications. Ergonomic office furniture was purchased for our permanent office staff, computer upgrades were also undertaken, and our Music Monitor database received an upgrade.

Brass instruments were repaired and catalogued with thanks to Victoria Chatterley, repairs to other instruments were undertaken, more music stands purchased. With a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place, our white Kawai Grand piano has been installed at Whitney's, restaurant. In line with this, insurances have all been updated.

The contract to design the new building was awarded by Orange City Council to Brewster and Hjorth Architects. Further to this the building team travelled to Sydney with Ian Brewster to view The Concourse Chatswood, Musica Viva Performance/recording space, The Independent Theatre North Sydney, City Recital Hall and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

We have continued to maintain the safety, utility and warmth of our current building, although it continues to provide difficulties for us especially during rain events.



*NAIDOC Week live streamed performance by Talara Croker and Luka Smith*

## Governance, Finance and Risk Management

The most significant task undertaken in 2021 was to formulate the new five year plan that resulted in the Future Directions 2022-2026 Document. After considerable consultation with the community the strategic direction has been established as we prepare to move into the new conservatorium building.

In addition to this, Building, Fundraising and History sub-committees were convened. The fundraising committee have received advice from Creative Partnerships Australia and a scholarship was awarded to James Buchanan to attend a training course throughout the year.

We have been extremely grateful to our community for generous scholarship donations of \$19,730 for 2022 Scholarships (a record!), we received a one-off payment of \$16,500 from the Department of Education intended to support regrowth, recovery and sustainability support learning through COVID, and received support from Orange Regional Arts Foundation (ORAF) for the commissioning of 3 works for the ORC Chamber Music Academy. We continue to be supported by the Godfrey Turner Memorial Music Trust for chamber music programs.

With support from the NSW Governments Community Building Partnership Program, ORAF, Orange Eisteddfod and the Orange Male Voice Choir, we were able to purchase choir risers to the value of \$14,684 for use by the community. Thanks to local member Phil Donato for his support of this project.

Changing COVID plans threw many challenges to us throughout the year, but our staff and student body handled every change with grace and professionalism. We thank Tim Cummins for his careful consideration of Public Health Orders and Government Guidelines. The ORC did not succumb to a COVID outbreak.

Throughout the year our WH&S policies and procedures were updated, Dine and Discover Vouchers were introduced to our audiences and the Creative Kids voucher was used extensively by our students and families.

The greatest gift came at the end of 2021 in the form of our successful application to Create NSW Creative Capital Infrastructure Grants program for \$250,000 being for the purchase of a Steinway C-227 Grand Piano for the new Conservatorium Recital Hall. Minister Don Harwin visited to announce the successful application.



Left Image: Opera Australia 'Carmen' Children's Chorus | Right Image: Wula Gurray choir perform at Glenroi Heights Public School.

# Orange Regional Conservatorium Staff 2021

**Donna Riles**

*Director*

**Tim Cummins**

*Finance and Operations Manager*

**James Buchanan**

*Head of Guitar and Contemporary Studies,  
Marketing and Events Manager*

**Jenny McMillan**

*Administration and Finance Support Officer*

**Bridget Kerr**

*Marketing and Events Assistant*

**Marianne Bangert**

*Piano*

**Samantha Bartholomeusz**

*Head of Voice*

**Cassandra Bennett**

*Flute*

**Hazel Bingon**

*Associate Voice*

**Victoria Chatterley**

*Brass Coordinator*

**Isabelle Clarke-Randazzo**

*Associate Strings*

**Mitch Davis**

*Percussion*

**Elyse Denham**

*Music Education*

**Stefan Duwe**

*Viola*

**Carmel Follent**

*Early Childhood Music, Violin, Keyboard*

**Dahle Innes**

*Brass, Musicianship*

**Laith Ismail**

*Conductor, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon*

**Leon Just**

*Guitar*

**Stephanie Li**

*Cello*

**Prem Love**

*Flute, Saxophone*

**Ben Macpherson OAM**

*Conductor, Choral Director*

**Kyle Manning**

*Keyboard, Contemporary and Voice*

**Anna McPhail**

*Piano*

**Philip Moran**

*Classical Guitar*

**Alan Moxey**

*Double Bass*

**William Moxey**

*Voice*

**Amelia Nell**

*Contemporary Voice*

**Tim Oram**

*Conductor*

**Jacob Pickett**

*Percussion*

**Glenys Ramage**

*Clarinet, Recorder*

**Philip Rees OAM**

*Piano, Brass, Conductor*

**Kate Rose**

*Keyboard*

**Liz Sargeant**

*Conductor*

**David Shaw**

*Head of Keyboard, Schools Liaison, Flute*

**Stephen Somerville**

*Guitar*

**Lisa Stewart**

*Violin*

**John Tallis**

*Highland Bagpipes*

**Emily Thorburn**

*Violin*

**Elina Yasumoto**

*Keyboard*

**Alina Zborowski**

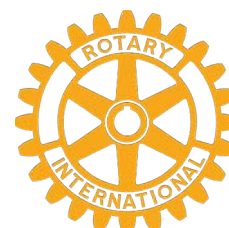
*Head of Strings, Student Engagement Officer*

**Lujia Zhang**

*Keyboard*

## ORC Partners

*We thank the following organisations for their continued support:*



## Our Donors

*The ORC acknowledges the contributions of:*

- NSW Department of Education
- Orange City Council
- Blayney Shire Council
- Orange Regional Arts Foundation
- Musica Viva Australia
- Godfrey Turner Memorial Music Trust
- Olive Dunk Chamber Music Fund
- James Byrnes Award for Strings
- Arts Out West
- City of Orange Eisteddfod
- Robin Thompson
- JPA Business
- Christine Hannus
- ADFAS
- Orange North Rotary Club
- Rotary Club of Orange Daybreak
- Orange Symphony Orchestra
- Helen Rutherford Memorial Scholarship
- The Karbowski Family
- Charles Stuart University
- The Orange Music Foundation
- Other Anonymous Donors

## 2021 Management Committee

- Trevor Hazell, Chair
- John O'Malley, Treasurer
- Paul Kelly, Secretary
- Sarah Carter
- Maria Edwards
- Roslyn Hodges
- Paris Willis



*ANSWRC Patron Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, Governor of NSW*



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