

MARGARET JORGENSEN FOUNDATION MEMBER.

Music and Me

Apparently, it all began when I was only 18 months old. My cot was in the bedroom at our home in Brighton Victoria and behind the cot was a tall chest of drawers and on the top was a typewriter.

My mother and father used to sing to me to get me to sleep and the song was Percy Granger's Country Gardens.

The story goes (from my parents) that I used to stand up the cot and play Country Gardens in time on the typewriter singing in tune. So I was musical!!!!!!

At the Age of 8 years the piano lessons began of course! I took to the lessons like a duck to water.

Some amusing events took place that involved me musically until the age of 13 years.

The first was my first solo performance in the Brighton Town Hall at the age of 9 years. Playing Three Mendelson pieces. I was nervous. Only the presence of my piano teacher and her encouragement kept me from falling apart.

The second amusing event was the arrival off my Great Uncle from England. He was sailing out for a holiday on the ship "Dominion Monarch" and my father who was always my encourager advised me to practice all my classical repertoire to entertain him as he enjoyed music very much.

At that age I loved the popular hit tunes and preferred to play those rather than practice the classical music I had to. Everyone in our family was in awe of him. I practiced and practiced the requested classical music – not that I really minded as I got out of doing the dishes at night – had to practice the piano you know!

The day came and Great Uncle Bill arrived,. On Board the ship Band had played "Buttons and Bows" a popular hit at that time. Uncle Bill loved it, was I happy, You Bet. I put away the classical as he encouraged me to play the pieces I wanted to.

I moved from Primary school at the age of 8 going to an exclusive Girls Grammar school in Brighton.

Sport was on the curriculum and I hated it. However, as I was musical I managed to get out sport and played for the school assembly each day.

Music became my saviour.

I passed H.S.C with the help of Music.

I avoided household chores with the help off Music

I avoided participation in sport with the help of music.

What a valuable asset I had.

My music training after leaving school was at the Melbourne Conservatorium being taught by Vera Bradford who was a student of Eileen Joyce.

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My father always dreamed off seeing my name up in lights outside the Melbourne Town Hall. My mother was always the stabilising influence in our family.

Anyway Vera Bradford organised concerts in the British Music Society Hall and a concert held in the Assembly Hall in Collins Street Melbourne. Well, here was I giving the concerts that my father always wanted. The only thing was that my name wasn't up in lights outside the Melbourne Town Hall.

I was extremely nervous. We had family and friends and a full house of very serious musical critics. I hated it!!!! I was only 19 years old. Perhaps my mother was right. She believed that my nervous stamina wouldn't survive. Afterall, she had accompanied me to all the music exams at the conservatorium and knew just how nervous I was.

I married at 21 years or age and music took a back seat although I was lucky to have a piano always. A great Aunt left me her piano and all her classical music. She had been an extremely good pianist and taught at the Melbourne Conservatorium.

The back seat didn't last for long.

I had 2 children, Catherine and Stuart. The Kindergarten that Catherine was attending was without a directress (she left after term one of Catherine's first year). I was asked to fill in as I was musical and music was essential for Kindergarten teaching. I lasted just over 2 years at that job. All this happened in Brighton, Melbourne.

1965. We moved to Queensland. The Children attended Somerset Hills Primary school near Chermside and again half way through the year the music teacher quit. I was asked by the Principal If I would fill in until another music teacher was found. Of course I agreed. The school had entered into the Toowoomba Flower Festival School Band Competition and without a music teacher couldn't compete. So there I was, without a husband. We had separated. I had 60 children in my home sitting on the lounge floor each Tuesday and Thursday, practicing the recorder Band. We competed in the competition and won!! Very emotional time for me but how rewarding that effort was.

I had 2 jobs while living in Chermside and at the second job I met a poet. He wrote beautiful lyrics and we got together and I wrote the music, The poet got a band together and we took it to the musical director at Channel 10 Ricky Farbach who did the arrangement for the band. We had lots of fun with the band practicing at home each Tuesday night. Poor Neighbours.!

I decided to return to Melbourne where I would have family support.

The Children started High School. Music again as each year the school performed their musicals, mostly Gilbert and Sullivan performances and I was the pianist.

I became friendly with a family, the husband was set designer and set maker for Channel 2 productions and various theatres in Melbourne. He was putting on Salad Days, a musical at Latrobe University and asked me to play the 2 pianos.

13 performances, lots of fun playing an upright piano with drawing pins in the felts to give it a real "honky tonk" affect. I swivelled around on the piano stool and then played on a lovely Steinway piano.

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I joined classical music group. Violin, cello and piano and singer. We gave many performances around the southern suburbs in Melbourne.

I moved to Noosa with my second husband Neville. In 1994.

Have been involved in music up here. **Life of retirement.**

Probus Club. Gympie Extravaganza competitions

First year as a non competing club. Opening the day with Sounds of Probus with apologies to the Sound of music.

Second Year. Nursery Frolics with apologies to Handel and Mozart. Words by Sheila Wolverson. **Winning item.**

Third Year. Find yourself something to do. With apologies to Salad Days. **For the Club meeting**

Fourth Year. Snow white and the seven dwarfs. Words by Sheila Wolverson. **Winning item**

Noosa Arts Theater.

Musica Director South Pacific, 1999

Pianist for Carousel 2000.

Pianist for Oklahoma, Oliver Cabaret, Funny Girl, &10 more productions

Good Shepherd Lutheran College. 5 years Senior school Choir Music teacher

Probus.

Foundation member, Secretary, 6th President, convenor Probus Players and Tipplers.

30 years a member.

Wonderful experience making new and lasting friends.

- FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN.

WHY MUSIC.

- MUSIC IS SCIENCE
- MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL
 - MUSIC IS HISTORY
- MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- MUSIC DEVELOPS INSIGHT AND DEMANDS RESEARCH
- MUSIC IS ALL OF THESE BUT MOST OF ALL MUSIC IS ART.