



NEWPORT
FIDDLE & FOLK CLUB

CLASSICAL MEETS FOLK

THE AUSTRALIAN FIDDLE TUNES SUITE

Vibrant Community Grants Project

A: Project

To take a number of outstanding and iconic pieces of collected 19th century musical Australiana and using the skills of a trained orchestrator, arrange them in a suite of material that is at once accessible, exciting and enriching, both for an audience and performers. I want to essentially commission a piece that will enable the NBO and Newport strings to come together as one and on the one hand expand the skills of the NBO as well as give the Newport Strings an entry to a wider world of collected Australiana. This material lies underutilized in the National Library of Australia and would benefit from their proselytization.

B: The Need

As leader of the NBO, I want to strengthen connections between us and the Newport Strings and our constantly developing extended community of the NFFC. The tunes I have selected are crying out to be used both by the folk orchestra and by the more sophisticated string ensemble. They both need a project to create ongoing focus and I see this as an opportunity to raise the profile of both groups as well as the actual material. The NBO has had over a span of ten years a reputation of re-invigorating adults to perform as has the String Group reawakened a number of trained classical players. They need something to play together.

C: Aspects

There are now 2 (and more) musical groups in our community that regularly perform for community functions, for heritage groups and the council, support groups and NGO's. They were not there 3 years ago. We have developed them.

The number of personnel involved in these 2 groups in their extended form exceeds 50. Every member has benefited in terms of socialization, self-esteem, status, mental health and technical skills. These aspects flow to the greater community. The project will create a focus and yield a performance piece that will be used over and over in the community.

In terms of the greater community the material chosen has great heritage value and is not often presented to the community at large. Getting this material scored both for folk groups and string orchestra will enable us to press other groups for its performance, particularly schools and the AMEB.

D: Access

Many people learn a musical instrument, but either are shy or unsure, rusty or distracted by family life or work to develop their skills. This project helps to provide a framework around which we can help participants enjoy their music again and feel they are doing something worthwhile. It gives the timid and unsure easy access to a performance that sounds well but is do-able with their limited skills.

Human Rights

The project is open to anyone who wants to be in the NBO. There are NO RESTRICTIONS in terms of who you are (only my right of veto on percussive instruments.)

Participation

Before the NBO and Newport Strings there was little grass roots musical activity in Newport and surrounds. NOW we have a 120 strong folk club, 50 people have upskilled through the NBO and Newport Strings has had at least 20 members and forms the core of community orchestras 50 strong. It also helped spawn Strings West which is now training the Wests' next string generation. This project gives all these present and future people a unique local quality product to perform. It helps guarantee more participation.