

PETER WALMSLEY O.A.M., A.MUS.A., L.T.C.L., F.T.C.L.

Peter Walmsley commenced his musical career under the tuition of his father, Harold Walmsley in Broken Hill with the award winning BIU Band in 1955. Commencing on tenor horn he also played soprano cornet and Bb cornet being the principal cornet of the band when it won the Australian Championships in 1961 and 1963. As a soloist he has won over 40 first prizes in State and National competitions including the Australian Champion of Champions (the first occasion at the age of 15, the youngest to date) and also the NSW Champion of Champions. During this period he studied piano to diploma standard with Lance Dossor at the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide.

Playing trumpet he won the instrumental section of the ABC's Concerto Competition in Adelaide in 1964 and was a Commonwealth finalist in Melbourne. In 1965 he studied with the late Mervyn Simpson, conducted the Footscray-Yarraville Band and did casual orchestral, theatre and dance band playing. On returning to Broken Hill he was appointed conductor of the BIU Band and formed a very successful junior band. He also formed his own dance band which played for balls, dances and club engagements and commenced teaching private students.

In 1967 Peter was appointed to the trumpet section of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and retired in 2001. As well as orchestral work he has performed as a soloist, directed and played with many brass ensembles, orchestras and choirs and worked in all types of professional orchestras - chamber, opera, recording for films and commercials. He retired from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2001.

Teaching brass has occupied much of the past forty years and a number of his former students hold professional positions in the major Australian orchestras. He has been a member of the staff at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Sydney University, the Nepean Advanced College of Education and University of NSW.

He has adjudicated in every State of Australia and New Zealand at all the major contests and eisteddfods and has conducted workshops at most metropolitan and country centres and is instrumental advisor to Boosey & Hawkes (Australia). Peter is a senior examiner for the Australian Music Examinations Board. He is brass adviser to the AMEB in New South Wales and this year has compiled a series of orchestral excerpts for trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba, bass trombone and euphonium.

Bands, both brass and wind, have been a major part of his activities for over fifty years. Peter has enjoyed great success with the Willoughby Senior and Junior Bands winning a record number of National and State championships and numerous other competitions. He is in demand as a guest conductor and coach. Peter formed and directed a number of successful bands at primary and high schools on Sydney's North Shore. He was voted by his peers as NSW "Conductor of the Century" in 2000 and featured as one of only two living "legends" in a book featuring legendary conductors and soloists of the 20th century. He has been Director of Bands at Barker College, Hornsby for over thirty years. The band programme there is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere with six large concert bands, five stage bands, a cadet band and numerous brass, woodwind and percussion ensembles. Barker bands have been successful in competitions throughout Australia and have toured New Zealand, England, Scotland and the USA.

Peter has been made a life-member of the Band Association of NSW, is a member of their music advisory board and was the inaugural recipient of the Boosey & Hawkes Musical Director of the Year in 1985 for innovation and dedication to the band movement in Australia. In 2001 he was appointed to the National Band Council Music Advisory Council. Also in 2001 Peter was awarded the inaugural "Frank Wright" medal in Ballarat for his services to the Australian band movement.

From 1987 to 1994 Peter was the senior brass tutor at the Pan Pacific Music Rotary International Camps and directed the brass ensemble.

In 1990, he was appointed Musical Director of the NSW State Youth Band.

In 1992 Peter conducted the Willoughby Band on a highly successful tour to Tokyo, Japan, performing varied styles of concerts and playing to capacity audiences.

In 1998 the Australian Music Examinations Board commissioned him to write a syllabus for wind and brass ensemble examinations, Grades 2 to 8.

In 1999, together with SSO colleague, Ronald Prussing, Peter was involved in a Youth Music Australia project "Sounds in Time" working with young brass players from the Australian Youth Orchestra and young players from country areas. Due to the success of this program a similar project was held in Tamworth in 2001 and October 2003 in Grafton.

In January 2002 he was appointed conductor of the leading wind band, the "Grainger Band" at the Australian Winds National Band Camp at Broken Bay.

In 2003 Peter was appointed auditioner for the 2004 Australian Youth Orchestra and travelled to each capital city in August to audition brass, woodwind and percussion players.

In June 2003 he was awarded an Order of Australia medal (OAM) for his services to community music and brass bands.

In 2004 Peter compiled a book of Orchestral Excerpts for Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tenor Tuba and Tuba Grades 5 to 8 for the Australian Music Examinations Board.

After 35 years with the Willoughby City Band Peter retired at Easter 2005.

Peter was appointed Lecturer at the University of Western Sydney for the Master in Music Education Course in the second semester 2005.