

SCRAPBOOK

SOUTHERN CROSS REGION ARRANGER'S PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

June 2006

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Current SCRAP status!

Hello arrangers!

I am happy to report that our program continues to do well. Although you are all a quiet bunch, we know that's how arrangers are! Most of you work best when working alone.

There are some of our graduates and near graduates, though, who would like to interact a bit more.

Would you be interested in sharing some work of yours? Would you like to swap arrangements with other like-minded people in Australia? The tyranny of distance makes socialising harder, but with email the way it is, it's pretty easy to do some digital interacting. It's especially good if you have arranger software, such as Finale Print Music. Even if you don't have the full version, you can download the free Notepad version to open someone else's file and print it off.

I am happy to be a go between if anyone would like to make contact like this.

The Program continues to be strong, with new members joining three or 4 times per year. It's been a while since someone graduated, so come on all you people in Level 3 – get it done!

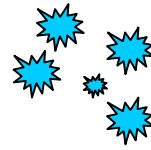


We have been lucky to have the last two music judges prepare and give arranging classes at the last two Conventions. What great people! We are lucky to have people visit that are talented but also generous and encouraging our own arrangers.

Below are things Jo Lund said are needed to be a great arranger :

1. Learning the *basic skills* needed to arrange a song in barbershop and make it singable
2. The barbershop *musicality* and *style* needed to know in which format and exactly how the song should be presented to display our barbershop style
3. *Tenaciousness, motivation* and *determination* to be the best arranger possible.

You need to know or learn music theory, but arrangers also need to work on substitute chords, and the creativity of presenting a song in barbershop style that most singers can sing well.



Arranger's classes at Convention

Thanks to Alexa Blonner who took the first level class at Convention.

There were 7 in attendance, and all were new to barbershop arranging. For some reason all were from Queensland. How curious! I guess there are always more new members when the Convention is in your own state!

They were provided with handouts and did some basic chord exercises. The purpose of this level class is really more about introducing concepts and sparking people's interest in arranging.

A few have already made contact and signed up for SCRAP. Yippee!

I haven't had a lot of feedback about the advanced level class. I'm sure that's because you all went home highly inspired and are busy arranging!

A couple found themselves out of their depth – but that's OK. Sometimes its good to see a bit of where you are heading. Don't be put off by what you don't know about yet.

The course is pretty good at taking you through step by step. Its just lots of practice after that.

Some thoughts from Lynell are mentioned on the next page...

Here are two tips from our recent visiting arranger:

Lynelle Diamond recommended that an excellent way of becoming a good arranger is to *attempt* an arrangement then *compare it with a professional arrangement* of the same melody. Look at where the differences are, and figure out why the professional arranger did it the way they did.

She very kindly offered to provide any arrangers who would like to do this, with her own arrangements, free of charge. This is on the understanding that they would be paid for if they were actually to be used for singing.

Lynelle also said that she would be happy to be contacted by arrangers who needed advice. Her email address is lynelldiamond@earthlink.net

Jo Lund's advice last year was along similar lines.

It is a very useful exercise to take a good arrangement of the song, and *compare it to original sheet music*. Why was that key chosen, or that song form? Is it an original intro or tag, or were the words taken from the song? What chord substitutions were made? Why?

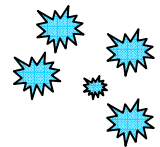
Keep those lessons coming in!

I try hard to keep up and return lessons within a month of receiving. Occasionally it gets out of hand and I take longer. Thanks to Gwen, who continues to mark for several members in Queensland.

CLASSIFIED:

Alexa Blonner is offering her SAI Arranger's Handbook for re-sale. Cost is \$25 plus postage. Contact her on hablonner@bigpond.com

Does anyone else have one they would like to sell? Let me know and I will pass on any details.



From: Jenny Fay SCRAP Coordinator
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TO: