

THE HOBART SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS INC
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to this reception to mark the 50th anniversary of the Hobart Society of Recorder Players.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

As you may be aware, the duties and responsibilities of a Governor are constitutional, ceremonial, and a significant and broad community engagement role.

In respect of my community engagement role, I am the patron of many organisations and other entities in our State – currently, some 134.

These community organisations cover a wide range of areas, including health and medical; academic; youth; art; literacy; women; charities; military; sporting; and, of course, music. Currently, as examples, I have patronage of our Tasmanian Youth Orchestra, Hobart Orpheus Choir, and the Tasmanian Bands League. And through my formal associations with our Australian Defence Forces, some of our events are accompanied with musical performances by our Royal Australian Navy Band or Australian Army Band Tasmania.

Amongst all these musical patronages, I confess that I did not know of the lengthy existence of your Hobart Society of Recorder Players! I am now better informed, and I am delighted to welcome you all to Government House. This is a fitting location to celebrate your milestone anniversary for your organisation and membership, offering high quality musical performances.

I have been fascinated to discover that your instrument has such a noble history, being the, quote, “most highly developed member of the ancient family of internal duct flutes,” a quote from Tasmanian-based Nicholas Lander’s website,

Recorder Home Page, which is described as “the most comprehensive source of recorder information worldwide”.¹

I was also interested to learn that one of the oldest surviving recorders is the 14th century Dordrecht Recorder excavated from a well in Holland.

It is also interesting too to learn that recorders were made long ago of fruitwood, maple and birch, elder wood, and boxwood, among others.²

I understand the type of wood affects the recorder’s tone, the suggestion being that “soft woods produce a soft sound, hard woods produce a hard sound,”³ though I understand today they tend to be made of resin, being less expensive.

Talking of wood, you may know that next door in the Ball Room we have the world’s largest Huon pine floor, the beautiful golden soft wood found only in western Tasmania. Although I believe, quote, “Huon pine is not generally considered to be the king of tonewoods.”⁴

I invite you to look in the Ball Room once we have concluded our formalities. On Friday evening, we are hosting a concert by the Orava Quartet, as the opening event of this year’s Tasmanian Chamber Music Festival.

The Festival’s Director is Alannah Dopson, who has presented Government House with an extraordinary gift: 220 beautiful red velvet chairs. Friday will be the first time they are used here. Please do have a look at them.

May I conclude and mention that in our evening receptions, we like to include short musical performances where suitable. Perhaps we can invite some of your members to perform at a future reception, so that you can take full advantage of the magnificent acoustic and be enjoyed by guests seated on the lovely new velvet chairs!

Thank you.

David ... [invites members to perform for 10 minutes]

¹ The Sydney Society of Recorder Players, <https://www.sydneyrecorders.com.au/links-recorderandearlymusic>, accessed 15 October 2023.

² [Medieval period – Recorder Home Page](#), accessed 16 October 2023.

³ [Choosing a Recorder: Resin recorders and wooden recorders - Musical Instrument Guide - Yamaha Corporation](#), accessed

⁴ <http://www.anzlf.com/viewtopic.php?t=3039>, accessed 16 October 2023.