

**TASMANIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 28 MAY 2018**

Good evening and welcome to this reception celebrating seventy years of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among you:

- the Honourable Will Hodgman MP, Premier of Tasmania;
- The Honourable Elise Archer MP, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Corrections, Environment and the Arts;
- Mr Johannes Fritzsch, Principal Guest Conductor, TSO;
- Mrs Patricia Leary, former Chair of the TSO, currently Foundation Board member;
- Mrs Alison Malcolm, who attended the TSO's first concert;
- Ms Maggie McKerracher, President of the TSO Friends;
- Mr Dick Shoobridge, Chair of the TSO Foundation.

Earlier this year Dick and I enjoyed hosting a TSO reception in the Ball Room – also to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with the guest list for that occasion comprising largely orchestra members.

And now we celebrate with TSO stakeholders and supporters, so this reception is, I could say, something of an encore – and a rousing one it will be no doubt! So I will be brief in my remarks.

The TSO has its roots in the ABC's Tasmanian Studio Orchestra of the 1930s and the Hobart Symphony Orchestra which from 1940 began to play in Launceston as well as Hobart when a regular Mercury newspaper columnist with the pen-name "Vigilant" wrote "So powerful a playing organisation has the orchestra become that with its Statewide activity and State membership it is steadily qualifying to become known as the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra."<sup>i</sup>

But that was still some way off, and it wasn't until 1947 that the then Tasmanian Premier Mr Cosgrove backed the idea of a permanent symphony orchestra for Tasmania (a few months before he had to stand aside temporarily while he faced charged of bribery, corruption and conspiracy).

He wanted to propose to his cabinet for its approval a suggestion that the Australian Broadcasting Commission provide approximately 50 per cent of the cost; that the larger municipalities contribute on a pro rata basis; and that the Government provide the balance, of an approximate £32,000 annual cost. The orchestra would initially comprise 44 players and undertake a tour of 34 concerts, inclusive of recitals to children in the schools.<sup>ii</sup>

After funding was put in place, the first concert was held in the Hobart City Hall on the evening of Tuesday 25 May 1948, with Conductor Joseph Post and Soloist Eileen Joyce, who was born and spent her childhood in Zeehan before moving to the UK and international fame as a pianist.

Admission fee scales for the performance were: 10 shillings; 7/6; 5 shillings; 3 shillings.

At the reception earlier this year I did quote from a review of that first ever performance of the TSO. Time prevents me from doing so again, but the next day's Launceston Examiner headline said it all in three words: "Eileen Joyce Brilliant."<sup>iii</sup>

On that happy note I congratulate everyone associated with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra in this its 70th year. The corporate and personal support of so many of you here this evening is no small reason why the TSO has got to

70 – and I have no doubt whatsoever that your continuing support will ensure a long future for this magnificent small orchestra.

Please now do enjoy the reception.

Thank you.

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<sup>i</sup> Regular column called “Day By Day”, Mercury, Thursday 14 March 1940 page 3, accessed 25 May 2018.

<sup>ii</sup> Examiner, Friday 11 July 1947, page 3, accessed 25 May 2018.

<sup>iii</sup> Examiner, Wednesday 26 May 2018 page 2, accessed 25 May 2018.