

My trip to Singapore and Japan.

In december I was fortunate enough to tour with the West Australian Youth Orchestra to Singapore and Japan.

I have been playing with WAYO for three years and two years of being the principal bassoonist. I can describe how amazing the tour was, definitely the best musical experience I've had and a great way to celebrate the end of my Bachelor of Music degree. We performed in 6 concerts, with Canadian soloist Alexandre Da Costa (WAAPA's wonderful Head of Strings) and played with Orchestra of the Music Makers and OMM Camp Orchestra (Singapore), Mukogawa Womens University (Japan) and Aoyama Philharmonic (Japan). It was a pleasure to meet and play with these musicians. In Singapore we performed Mahler 1 with OMM, it was an incredible experience conducted under Tze Law Chan and play with such talented musicians. In Japan we got to hear Mukogawa Women's university Orchestra perform Beethoven 9 after we played Beethoven 5. Aoyama Philharmonic consisted of enthusiastic high school age students. Although there was a language barrier they were so friendly and welcoming to share the stage with us.

My favourite concert of the tour was at Hyogo House. This very important concert which was in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the sister state relationship between Perth and the Hyogo Prefecture. The Audience certainly loved the concert and we played our encore of 'Swagman's Promenade' twice for them.

I am very proud to have represented our state by playing beautiful repertoire with the WA Youth Orchestra. I greatly appreciate the financial support from The Friends, the cost for this tour was quite large as it included flights, accomodation, transport including coach buses (every day) and the bullet train from Kobe to Tokyo, and hire of rehearsal space at the 5 different concert venues. I was very worried about the cost but travelling with music is such an unforgettable and rewarding experience. Thank you so much for your support.

Kind regards,
Natalya