




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

4MBS Festival of Classics

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.03 pm): There is a humble building on Old Cleveland Road that is home to a Queensland great, 4MBS, a community radio station that broadcasts classical music statewide.

Ms Pease: I love that!

Mr KELLY: I take that interjection. There is a lot to love. While it is a great radio station which has been running for 29 years, I want to talk about the 4MBS Festival of Classics which has been running for 29 years. The festival offers a program of over 30 events spread across South-East Queensland and two weeks of a Shakespeare Festival which is based in Sandgate and other locations. This festival is truly also a Queensland great. It employs solely Queensland musicians, actors and support crew. Only Queensland performers are employed. In 29 years there have been over 1,000 events that have been enjoyed by over 125,000 people. It has provided opportunities for 20,000 Queensland performers, many of whom have gone on to worldwide fame in both music and acting. The performances have seen the work of 30 Queensland based composers performed, including six works that were commissioned exclusively for the Festival of Classics.

Every year I attend at least one performance. This year, thanks to an invitation from the former member for Mansfield, Ian Walker, it was the performance by the Queensland Youth Orchestra conducted by Simon Hewett at the QPAC Concert Hall. The QYO performed the world premiere of John Rotar's *Symphony No. 1*. He is an exciting young Australian composer. It was a jaw-dropping performance, from a music lover's perspective, perhaps on par, if not surpassing, game 3 of this year's State of Origin series. That is how good it was.

This world-class youth orchestra is based at the Old Museum in Bowen Hills and was established in 1966. It provides outstanding training and performance opportunities for over 500 young musicians every year, including 10 who live in my community. The QYO welcomes the commitment by the Palaszczuk Labor government to invest \$1.6 million into investigating the feasibility of restoring fully the Old Museum. An anonymous philanthropist has given \$20 million towards the cost of achieving this work. That combined support provides an exciting opportunity to reimagine how the Old Museum can continue to serve not just the QYO but our entire community. It is a real investment in classical music in this state.

It is so important that we continue to support the development of young classical musicians and actors. I will always support and strongly advocate for more funding for 4MBS and the Festival of Classics because it does just that: it takes people from Queensland and gives them an opportunity to springboard to a world stage. Next sitting week, some of the fine performers who have cut their teeth at the festival and are now international stars will be performing in the red chamber, and I would encourage all members to come and listen to these wonderful performers and learn more about 4MBS.