



Law Orchestra Gala Speech

Speech given at the Old Museum Building

3 December 2019

**The Hon Justice A Philippides
Court of Appeal**

Distinguished guests, colleagues and former colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather and pay my respects to their elders past and present and the community today. And I also acknowledge the central importance to us all of Indigenous culture and all that we have to learn from it.

I am delighted to be present tonight as patron of the Law Orchestra, LawchestraQ.

It was only in March this year that the Law Orchestra was launched in the Banco Court of the Supreme Court. The launch was a wonderfully uplifting occasion. It is astonishing to consider how much has been achieved in just eight months. The orchestra has met fortnightly here at the Old Museum and has performed publicly as an orchestra and in smaller ensembles to support worthy causes.

The thinking behind the formation of the orchestra was to integrate music into everyday life as a means of social engagement, in a manner that provided for a genuine and relaxed interaction that is grass-roots driven, empowering and allowing for balance in stressful working environments.

Music and in particular musical performance, whether as an orchestral, choral, or other group, is a pathway for social engagement and well-being. There has been much discussion in recent times about the cancer of social isolation. The story of this orchestra is about remedying that by reaching out, being inclusive and demonstrating a welcoming generosity and kindness to others. Tonight provides strong evidence that

nothing can replace the deep multifaceted connections we make through direct face-to-face engagement, especially when that engagement is communal and focused on the sheer pleasure and joy of being creative together.

The orchestra has been supported by a number of sponsors who will be mentioned later and who are to be applauded. They were quick to appreciate that, as in many areas, self-empowerment, through initiatives such as the Law Orchestra, is an excellent model for achieving real outcomes. We can see those outcomes in the joy evident in this amazing group of students and young professionals who have come together to do something important and valuable for themselves and for each other. That joy and exuberance is reflected in the palpably warm and vibrant atmosphere amongst the nearly 300 in attendance tonight.

I want to acknowledge and congratulate the committee of the Law Orchestra, an amazing, inspirational group – it is comprised of Alice Chester, Claire Cottam, Jasmine Miller, Jessie Schreiber and Daniel Trigger. The orchestra has been guided by their brilliant conductor, Nickea Warrener. Tonight, they are joined by the Crown Law Choir led by the wonderful Linda Tolmie.

Please give them all a very big round of applause.