

Leon M Paix
Music Director, OMVC.

Leon, named after Leon Goossens (oboe virtuoso), graduated from the NSW State Conservatorium of Music in 1969 with Diploma of Music (Education) and A Mus A for piano. Since 1970, he has taught Music from Kindergarten to Year 12 (NSW HSC 3 Unit). He has lectured in Choral Technique at the tertiary level and has been an examiner for HSC (Music).

While Music Master at The Kings School (1974-1980), his choirs performed with The Second Military District Band in the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Town Hall. He was appointed Conductor of the Sydney Male Choir (1979-1983) and also the Nepean Choral Society in 1983 directing performances which included Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius', Handel's 'Messiah', Vivaldi's 'Gloria' and Faure's 'Requiem'.

To commence as Director of Music at Kinross Wolaroi School, he moved to Orange in 1986, where his department progressed to a staff of 23 with some 440 students studying music. In his time there, 26 students graduated to full-time tertiary Music studies in NSW, Victoria, ACT and Queensland. He initiated and directed state-wide Music and HSC preparation camps, inter-school camps and teacher In-Service conferences. He trained six of the school's choirs and supervised the instruction of the four bands and orchestra. In 1994, he directed the KWS Orchestra tour to the United Kingdom.

He has been Music Director of the Orange Male Voice Choir (formerly Rowland Gregory Orpheus Singers) since 1995, where the choir's membership has doubled to its present number of 65. Under his leadership the choir has produced 3 CD recordings, undertaken 2 highly successful tours to New Zealand, and another to Wales, Ireland and England. He was instrumental in gaining the choir's clubhouse home, Newstead Bowling Club and worked tirelessly to see the choir's fine historic record put onto the honour boards now on proud and permanent display there.

Leon is an accomplished pianist, pipe organist, piper, trumpeter and accompanist. He also enjoys arranging and composing music ('My City of Orange', 'Come to Orange', 'Across Australia' – an anthem for the new millennium). Since leaving KWS, Leon has adjudicated at the Ryde (Sydney), Orange, Dubbo and National (Canberra) Eisteddfods. 'While having been a Music Educator for 32 years, my greatest joy was to motivate others to excel or even to exceed their greatest expectations in creative performance. Now that I have retired from the teaching profession, that joy is fulfilled largely by the choir', he said.

In 2008, Leon was Music adviser to the Male Choirs Association of Australia where their crowning achievement was the festival entitled 'Maestro and the Men', a gathering of great male voice choirs from NSW and the ACT.