



## 2024: SEMESTER 1 (Term 1)

### Notes #1

## COZMO Ensemble & COZYMO Learning Group

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### COZMO REHEARSAL & COZYMO SESSION #1 (4 February)

#### Welcome back to COZMO Rehearsals and Semester 1 of COZYMO in 2024!

It's great to be back learning and playing music together again after the Christmas/New Year break. We hope that you have all had a very relaxing holiday period and are ready for more musical fun together.

**NB: OUR START TIMES continue to be:** LG Sessions: **3-4pm** & Rehearsals **4.15-6.30pm** (as per '22 & '23).

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#### In today's COZYMO Session:

Present: Col, Lea and Lyn, with Trevor arriving at 3.15pm to participate in our LG Session.

Absent: Jackie (in New Zealand – she'll be back in time for our 3 March Session).

Today we welcomed a visitor to our Learning Group, Alan Guy, a guitarist with experience playing in a Tuesday group and can read music. He arrived at 3.15pm was happy to listen & follow along reading the Gtr part.

#### We practised and played today:

1. **La Bella Siciliana** (S Tafarella, arr. A Ziri)

M1: Lea & Lyn (< 3.15pm, Trevor > 3.15)      M2: Lea & Lyn      Gtr: Col

(... and we segued straight into our COZMO Rehearsal time...)

#### HOME PRACTICE – COZYMO

Please practise *La Bella* and *Sheep*.

We've had interest from a person interested in playing Mandolin or Mandola with COZYMO (or COZMO) and may visit next Sunday (18 Feb).

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#### In today's COZMO Session:

Present: Col, Lea, Lindsay, Trevor – and Lyn and Alan stayed on (bravo!).

Absent: No-one.

#### A list of the pieces we practised and played today:

(... continuing straight on from COZYMO...)

1. **Sheep May Safely Graze** (Bach)

M1: Col      M2: Lea      M3: Lyn      Mdla: Trevor      Gtr: Alan (listening & reading his part)

2. **Chant du Soir** (Schumann, arr. V Billi)

M1: Col      M2: Lea & Lyn      Mdla: Trevor      Gtr: Alan (listening & reading his part)

3. **Liebesgarten** (Schumann, arr. V Billi)

M1: Lea      M2: Lyn & Trevor      Mdla: Col      Gtr: Alan (playing)

4. **Sonata a Due Mandolini e Basso** (Barbella)

M1: Col      M2: Trevor, Lea & Lyn      Gtr: Alan (playing)

5. **Moment Musical** (Schumann, arr. V Billi)

M1: Lea      M2: Col & Lyn      Mdla: Trevor      Gtr: Alan (playing)

We finished our COZMO Rehearsal at 6.10pm – as we hadn't really stopped for a 15-minute break! Well done Alan for staying, sight-reading and playing wherever you were ready to. It was a great Session + bonus Rehearsal time for you! You'll be a valuable student in the group, we reckon!

#### HOME PRACTICE – COZMO

Sonata VI: Please go over all pieces played in today's Rehearsal – we'll play some of them next Rehearsal (on 18 Feb). Col will bring the second Billi collection to that Rehearsal (6 new pieces) and we'll play through as many as we feel like!



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### OTHER STUFF

#### 1. IDEAS ABOUT EXPANDING COZMO

The COVID period has unfortunately decimated the ensemble, compounded by the passing away of two of our very stalwart members, a mandolinist Diana and a guitarist Julie, and a COZYMO mandolin student Steve. It could be time to act on a past idea: to access potential LG students and ensemble players from the ANU & UC residences. Many of these young uni students are from Asian countries with a history of violin and other instrument playing and music reading, and there may be many more from Oz or other countries with a desire to play music in their spare time. Many will have learnt instruments as children and played at school, and they could be looking for the chance to socialise and play music.

Some great ideas came up when this idea was raised in early 2023: approaching the Registrars/Deans of the residences with a view to including COZMO promo material and invitations to join in their online or paper residence news (still viable in mid-February); having a stall at the ANU and UC Orientation Weeks (too late this year unfortunately but we can prepare this year in order to do this successfully at the start of 2025); and applying for ACT cultural and arts grants.

Marie Schulz from WAMO (West Australian Mandolin Orchestra) had told Lea how WAMO had applied over past years to LotteriesWest in WA for grants to have new instruments made by well-known luthier Scott Wise (he's very good!) for about \$5,000 per instrument, and had been given grants every time! Perhaps an approach to a similar benevolent grant-giving body in the ACT Government might be willing to provide funds for us to obtain instruments for our expected (hoped-for) influx of players. All to be followed up on.

#### 2. FAME FESTIVAL, BRISBANE 2024 (30 June – 7 July)

Deadline: 29 February to get our Registration Forms in & pay the fee (Form attached to this *Notes*' email). Please see past issues of *Notes* & also recent emails about the Festival. Those who have registered: we can't wait until we're emailed the music! When we have it we'll be spending Rehearsal time getting to know the music!

#### 3. ENSEMBLE ETIQUETTE – an oldie but a goodie!

It is always good to think of how we can improve our rehearsals, so as to set an example for new members when they come in, and to allow us to use our time more efficiently. Werner Ruecker, the conductor for the Perth FAME Festival orchestra (Jan 2023), modelled several things that really did improve how the 60 members of that FAME orchestra were able to work together and respond much more quickly to his conducting, including:

- being on time to rehearsal – arriving early and tuning up so as to be ready to play at the start time,
- not talking while conductor is talking, and taking care to listen so as to not have him repeat himself,
- marking music straight way as instructed,
- not "noodling" any time there's a 'break' in playing, e.g. when the conductor is talking to the orchestra or to individuals in it, when bars for certain sections are being sorted out etc, and
- watching the conductor carefully at the start and end of pieces, easily doable if you've learned your first bar and final bar by heart! This way you can watch the conductor (not study your music) for instructions to ring on or damp or cut off, then wait until he signals the orchestra to relax; only after this do you relax, then turn the page to the next piece.

For reminders there is a document on "Ensemble etiquette" on the website:

<https://cozmomando.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/ensemble-etiquette.doc>

#### 4. OTHER MUSIC STUFF – 5 QUICK CHECKS

*A reminder to do 5 quick checks before you play a new piece:*

1. Check (and understand) the key signature
2. Check (and understand) the time signature
3. Check for an indication of tempo (tempo words like 'allegro', 'andante' etc., or a descriptive title (e.g. "Lizzie's Slow Waltz")
4. Check the arrangement (any repeats, DS, DC, codas etc) and be ready to follow those instructions
5. Check for any tricky notes/chords/phrases in any bars (spend a minute or two playing them to familiarise yourself with them so that when you reach them you'll have some idea already).

Once these 5 quick checks are done, you'll be much more ready to start playing a new piece.