



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

Anne Celia Christmass
Student at Perth Modern School 1977–1981
Teacher at Perth Modern School since 1988

MODERNA SCOLA 2020

Celia was born into a musical family. Her late father, John Christmass OAM Cit.WA, did much for music and music education at Perth Modern School as Senior Master of Music (1969-1976), and more widely in Western Australia. Celia studied in the Special Music Program at Perth Modern School from 1977-81, completed a Bachelor of Music Education at the University of WA, and in 1989 went to Hungary, to the Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute. Zoltán Kodály, a composer and music educator, had developed a methodology which spread through his native Hungary and to the rest of the world. Awareness of the body's natural rhythms, the child's developmental stages, singing, traditional folk tunes, enjoyment, creativity, collaboration, and a belief that the experience of music should come before academic learning, lie at the heart of the approach.

Following studies at the Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute, Celia went to the United States to complete a Master's degree in Music Education at Holy Names University. Since returning to Perth in 1992 Celia has taught at Modern School in all aspects of the music program. She has adapted Kodály's methods for work with the band. Under her direction Perth Modern School's choirs have performed on international stages, singing at venues including St Mark's Basilica, Villers Bretonneux and Westminster Abbey. Celia played a major part in co-ordinating the spectacular occasion at Perth Concert Hall when the 50th anniversary of Modern School's Music Program was celebrated, and a choir of ex-students joined with present-day students to honour the tradition of excellence in musical performance.

Celia's students speak of her dedication to music and to teaching, her warmth, and the support and encouragement she offers. Those who have heard the results of her work with students speak of the high standard of their performances, and of the delight the students show in their achievements, and in sharing that joy with their audiences.

Celia's contribution has not been confined to Perth Modern School. She has been involved with the University of Western Australia Junior Music School, the Aaralyn Children's Choir, and Naya Chorale. She is an Honorary Life member of Kodály Australia. Her expertise has been widely shared through workshops, and lectures. Her name is synonymous with musical excellence.

Celia, you have made a significant contribution to the Western Australian community and to Perth Modern School.

The Perth Modernian Society is pleased to bestow upon you the honour of *MODERNA SCOLA*. Your name will be permanently recorded on the Moderna Scola Honours Board in the Society's History Centre and Museum.

This award entitles you to particular consideration in all Society matters and functions.

13 September 2020