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## **Condolence Motion: George Hogg OAM, founder Ipswich Orpheus Chorale**

### **Ordinary Council | Thursday, 21 October 2021**

I move that Council express its condolences, on behalf of the city, to the family of Mr George Hogg OAM.

We wish to celebrate George's life and his immense contributions to our city's performing arts community.

George passed away on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2021 at the age of 86.

George was a musician, choral director, conductor, teacher, and singer - winning awards since his first Eisteddfod in 1947.

He was a highly accomplished vocalist, having undertaken vocal training at the Queensland Conservatorium and gaining AMusA and LMusA qualifications in singing.

During his active singing career, George was an ABC recitalist as well as soloist with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland State and Municipal Choir, and the Australian Army Band Brisbane.

George was just 11 years old when he won his first eisteddfod competition, and it fanned the flames for a lifelong love of performance.

He competed continually for 72 years in Queensland, around Australia and even overseas in Wales – the spiritual home of the eisteddfod.

In the Queensland State Eisteddfod, he won a total of 34 Championships and 22 Champion of Champions Awards – a remarkable achievement.

Though his voice changed over the years, his passion never wavered.

And he shared that passion generously – mentoring generations of young Ipswich vocalists, helping to improve their technique and encouraging their best efforts and performances.

As one of George's many former students, I can attest to the expertise, dedication, and zeal of his teaching.

But for George, teaching was more than just about developing the vocal skills of his students – he was a person who strived to make a positive difference in the lives of those he taught – *and he did!*

George also adjudicated at Queensland and interstate competitions for many years, passing his knowledge to competitors with a kind word on how they could improve.

His legacy as a life member of the Eisteddfod Council of Queensland and a long-term former president will live on in the memories of the countless musicians he inspired to reach for greatness.

George founded our city's iconic Ipswich Orpheus Chorale in 1969, serving as conductor and musical director for 30 years.

He is the first musical director in the history of the Queensland Eisteddfod to lead a choir to win all eight of the senior choral sections in one competition.

He retained an 'emeritus' conducting position within the Queensland Eisteddfod movement, and for several years, until recently, conducted the massed choirs at the Opening Ceremony each Easter.

Ipswich City Council is particularly grateful to George for his impact and influence as manager of the Ipswich Civic Hall, as it was known then, where for 20 years he helped develop the facility into our city's premier cultural destination.

Throughout these years, George cultivated local talent and promoted live musical performance in Ipswich.

In tribute his achievements, the auditorium at the Ipswich Civic Centre is named after him, as is the Ipswich Orpheus Chorale's headquarters at East Ipswich.

In 1984, George was announced as Ipswich's Australia Day Citizen of the Year for his service to the musical community.

In 1992, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to music.

George once said of singing:

*"It's an emotional experience to perform and that feeling of performing on stage and singing, it never leaves you. Your voice may deteriorate over the years, but the feeling it gives you never changes."*

On behalf of the city, I pass on my sincere condolences to George's wife Jocelyn, and their children and grandchildren.

We are forever grateful for the time and passion he invested into Ipswich.

His contribution to musical performance and culture in our city is unparalleled – he was a one-in-a-million.

While George will be well and truly missed by his family and friends - and by those who sung and played with him, those who learned from him, and those who just appreciated his performances – his indelible legacy and achievements surround us and will continue to enrich us.

Vale the great George Hogg OAM.