

# Brian Evans

Brian Evans (trumpet/cornet/voice) began his 62 years in music playing the banjo mandolin at age seven, and took up the tenor horn in his school band at age twelve. While attending Sydney Boys' High School under band director Cliff Goodchild (former tubist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and father of Paul Goodchild) he studied trumpet with Alan Mann and Arthur Stender. He attended Sydney University in 1972, studying with John Battersby at the Sydney Conservatorium. In 1973 aged 19, he joined the Eastern Command Band (now the Australian Army Band Sydney) as principal cornet, and in 1974 went into the Australian Broadcasting Corporation National Training Orchestra (NTO) for fourteen important months of education under Gordon Webb and the NTO conductor, Robert Miller.

Evans, at 21, joined the Opera Australian Orchestra (OAO) in 1975. During his lengthy tenure with the orchestra, which ended when his position was abolished due to Covid cut backs in 2020, he has played every chair in the section but specialized as Principal Cornet, becoming one of the most respected orchestral cornetists of his era. (In recent years, he has also returned to brass banding, after a hiatus of 40 years, performing solo cornet with premier A grade band, Australian Champion, Sydney City Brass) He has also performed with most of the major ensembles in Sydney, and has worked as a commercial, jazz, and chamber musician. Since being retrenched, Evans has continued to be engaged by OA on short term contracts.

Across almost 50 years performing with Opera Australia (OA) at the Sydney Opera House he has covered a vast range of opera and ballet repertoire, especially enjoying principal and solo roles in works such as A midsummer Night's Dream (Britten); Don Carlos and other multiple "Verdis"; Romeo and Juliet (Prokofiev); numerous Tchaikovsky ballets; Die Meistersingers von Nuremberg and the world premiere season of Madeline Lee (Haddock) . He appears on most OA and some Australian Ballet recordings and videos and has worked under conductors including Richard Bonyngue; Edward Downes; Sir David Wilcox; Richard Hickox; Carlo Felice Cillario; Willem van Otterloo; Stuart Challender; John Pritchard; Mark Elder; Elgar Howarth and Christopher Hogwood...

The range of singers include: Dame Joan Sutherland; Luciano Pavarotti; Norman Bailey, Donald McIntyre; Marylyn Horne; Grace Bumbry; Leona Mitchell; Anna Netrebko; Jonas Kaufman; John Shaw; Donald Shanks; Joan Carden; Donald Smith; Marylyn Richardson...

He was a regular member of Opera Australia Brass (OAB) which performed in many combinations from quintet through to large brass ensemble. Scheduling has curtailed OAB's activity in recent years. He also played lead trumpet in Opera Horns, an ad hoc big band formed out of orchestra players and some managers.

Evans demonstrated his love for the experience of being a pit musician in his ITG2003 lecture "The Operatic Trumpet".

