

80th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
A NIGHT FULL OF STARS

What an extraordinary performance and let's again congratulate the Senior String Ensemble's Performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture - Directed by Ms Bates.

I think of our College's 80th anniversary and our history, so beautifully portrayed this evening and we give thanks for the Priests and Christian Brothers who had the foresight, drive and persistence to establish this great school in 1937. Tonight they have been represented by Fr Paul Finucane and Fr Andrew Kim, Brother Carl Sherrin, and Br Tony Whelan who I am sure have undoubtedly enjoyed walking in the footsteps of the St Pius' tradition and story. The historical narrative and photography have been brought alive through the skillful work of Mr Tony Cunneen and Mrs Michele Waterson along with the expertise of students and staff and the Archives so lovingly cared for by Br Sherrin. From a humble beginning in 1937 of just 6 Brothers and 137 students, we are now a student body of 1140 and an extensive expert teaching staff supported by an equally dedicated and invaluable non-teaching staff who serve together in meeting the needs of this contemporary school of the 21st century.

At our recent 80th Anniversary Mass Bishop Comensoli concluded with warm blessings for our school. He prophetically exhorted us to:

“Know your past, test your present, and live your future. Happy Anniversary.”

Tonight in performance and historical recount we have celebrated the past and demonstrated the present. We know that we have challenges before us for the future but we steel our resolve to meet them and just as the Brothers, parishioners and especially the parents built this College brick by brick, Bingo night by Bingo night, we too will build our future on that witness, example and resolve.

It is so great to see that a good number of ex-students have joined us on stage for tonight's performance and I welcome them back to their musical foundation where they first began to master their musical talents. I thank them for joining us.

We all gather so very proud of our College. So tremendously proud of the students, our sons. Their talents and gifts enriched by a loving learning environment showcased this evening under the patronage of their expert teachers, Ensemble Directors and music tutors who make up the fabric and the tapestry of Performing Arts at St Pius X College.

Behind the scenes this evening and back in the school, the performers have been assisted by many of the teaching staff. They have all been watching the performance and through the wonders of technology there has been a live stream into the College gym. I thank the staff back there and those here behind the stage for their contributions tonight and over the many months of preparation and rehearsals.

In welcoming our special guests this evening, Ms Bates made special mention of 2 particularly special guests who are visiting our College from Melbourne. We warmly welcome Mr Brian Bates and Mrs Margaret Bates who, for the very first time have witnessed the exceptional work of our Performing Arts Team under their daughter's leadership. Please welcome them once again. We celebrate Ms Bates' incredible expertise, her drive and vision and we thank her for leading this exceptional evening.

What are the highlights for you tonight? Truly the best of boys' education on display. For me it has been undoubtedly every student performance. Everyone so brilliant. As an audience we have been privileged to enjoy the gifts and talents of our young men today. Confident, courageous risk takers who with shining spirits and energy give such happiness and hope to us all. Music lifts the soul to higher things and we have journeyed to great heights this evening and we delight in this Night Full of Stars.

Behind me look and see the very stars are shining brightly.

Ladies and Gentlemen it is with pride and admiration that I introduce this evening's finale – with the combined talents of the Senior and Junior Choir, the Senior Concert Band, Senior String Ensemble, Senior Guitar Ensemble, Senior Percussion Ensemble, the full College Orchestra along with the Ensemble Directors, St Pius staff and Old Boys. We are in for a treat as their talents combine to perform Coldplay's

A Sky Full of Stars