

Reception for Darwin Symphony Orchestra's Administrator's Medal
SPEECH by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC
Administrator of the Northern Territory
Government House –22 July 2009

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Government House. I acknowledge the Larrakia people and their ancestors, traditional owners of the land on which this house stands.

The person I am honouring tonight with the 2009 Administrator's Medal is no stranger to award ceremonies - a former Territorian of the Year who has consistently contributed to our community.

In addition, the person I am honouring tonight has played an integral part in the history of orchestral music in Darwin. This is highly appropriate in the 20th year since the very first outdoor performance given by the Darwin Symphony Orchestra in 1989.

As your Artistic Director outlined in the 17th Eric Johnston Lecture in 2003: *the Darwin Symphony Orchestra didn't come about through some great planning exercise; but rather through the gradual process of natural development and the unintentional intertwining and connecting of various individuals.*

A few clues will alert you to tonight's medal recipient:

- Canadian born
- Former Concertmaster of the Darwin Chamber Orchestra
- Former First Violinist in the DSO
- Prominent violin teacher whose pupils included young musicians who, when they matured, went on to play in the orchestra
- Principal Second Violin with the DSO for many years

I refer of course to Adina Poole.

From Adina's playing of string duets in 1976, through on-off concerts such as Jean Johnston's Messiah performance in 1977 that *needed some sort of an orchestra*, there was, as she noted, *a growing need for more classical music in Darwin.*

There can be no doubt that Adina's enthusiasm for music-making and commitment to orchestral music led directly to the evolution of the Darwin Symphony Orchestra from its fledgling predecessors in the 1980s to what it is today.

Adina was a founder member of the Darwin String Group that became the Darwin String Orchestra, which in turn became the Darwin Chamber Orchestra and then finally the Darwin Symphony Orchestra.

She was a founder and teacher of the Suzuki Association and founding member and secretary of the Australian Strings Association NT. Adina served on the Management Committee of the DSO, including a term as Treasurer.

Possibly most bravely of all, Adina decided in recent years to take up the viola. This despite the plethora of jokes often lobbed across orchestra sections such as: *What's the definition of perfect pitch? Throwing a viola into a rubbish bin without hitting the rim. And what's the difference between a washing machine and a violist? Vibrato.*

Adina Pool is awarded this year's Administrator's Medal in recognition of an exceptional contribution to music-making as a community musician. She joins an esteemed rollcall of those whose support is an integral part of the history of the DSO.

It is also my pleasure to commend all those who have served the orchestra for the past twenty years, as well as the volunteers and this evening's other prize winners.