



Dear Wendy

On behalf of his colleagues here at OperaQ, I would be grateful if you would pass on to Harley Mead's family and friends (as appropriate), our sincere condolences for the loss of such an extraordinary man.

Unlike so many others, I didn't know Harley well. I met him in early rehearsals as chorus master for our Toowoomba performance of *La bohème*. I was immediately spellbound by his energy and positivity and seemingly boundless enthusiasm for Project Puccini and the people he was working with. He was rehearsing the Parpignol scene in Act 2 and I recall remarking after watching those kids, who sounded so confident and bright – that Harley had a very special charisma and communication skills, and that we were incredibly lucky to have him on OperaQ's Project Puccini team.

On the performance night, Harley's chorus did him (and Puccini) proud, and I will long remember the Toowoomba performance as one of the happiest nights in my time as Artistic Director of OperaQ, thanks largely to the terrific acting and singing of the chorus. They gave it all they had, performing with precision, poise, passion and a wonderful, infectious vibrancy – all qualities I'd equally attribute to their excellent chorus master. We'll value the memory of that exuberant performance all the more now.

OperaQ's association with Harley was all too brief, we had hopes our paths would cross again to make more great music together. His passing is an enormous loss to Australia's musical community and to everyone whose life he enriched through his very special talents.

Yours sincerely,

Lindy



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