

Perth project is a tribute to refugee Dorrieth



PROJECT DOWN UNDER: Launching the *In My Pocket* project outside Perth Hebrew Congregation are, from left, German ambassador to Australia Dr Markus Ederer, Rabbi Dovid Freilich, formerly of Perth Hebrew Congregation, Liverpool-born 104-year-old emeritus Chief Rabbi of Western Australia Shalom Coleman, Manchester-born Rabbi Dan Lieberman and We Are Here! Foundation chief executive Eli Rabinowitz. Below, Dorrieth Marianne Oppenheim Sim

★ THE legacy of a Kindertransport refugee who settled in Scotland is being kept alive on the other side of the world in Perth, Australia.

Its Western Museum Boola Bardip will be holding children's book readings and art and craft workshops, based on the life of **Dorrieth Marianne Oppenheim Sim**, until the end of the year.

Born in Kassel, Germany, in 1931, Dorrieth, left for Britain on the Kindertransport after Kristallnacht in 1938.

Her parents, **Trude** and **Hans**, were deported to Theresienstadt and then Auschwitz, where they died.

In the UK, Dorrieth was taken in by foster parents **Sophie** and **Fred Gallimore**, of Edinburgh.

After marrying **Andrew Sim** and having children and grandchildren, Dorrieth was reminded of her past by a talk on Woman's House by Kindertransport refugee **Bertha Leverton**, who was arranging the 50th anniversary Kindertransport reunion in 1989.

A year later, Dorrieth founded the Scottish Association of Reunion of Kinder.

She had also become interested in writing and became a founder member of the Ayr Writers Club.

In 1996, she published her autobiographical children's book, *In My Pocket*, which is the subject of the current Perth project.

The title alludes to Dorrieth's innovative way of teaching herself English.



When she was met at London's Liverpool Street by her non-Jewish foster parents, who addressed her in English, she replied, 'I have a handkerchief in my pocket'.

Dorrieth said: "That's how I began to teach myself. When I learned a new word I put it in the same sentence."

"I have a dog in my pocket. I have a house in my pocket. I have a teacher in my pocket."

After addressing many schools and adult groups about the Holocaust, Dorrieth died in 2012.

The Perth project was the brainchild of South African-born filmmaker **Eli Rabinowitz**, who lives in Perth.

He was brought back to his Jewish roots by filming Holocaust testimonies.

He said: "The UK is very familiar with the Kindertransport narrative, which is not known in Aus-

tralia, where only concentration camp survivors came after the war."

Eli also feels that Dorrieth's story is especially relevant nowadays when countries all over the world are receiving huge influxes in immigrants, some of whom are unaccompanied children like Dorrieth.

He said: "Dorrieth's story is the narrative of so many refugees today."

"The story gives children the opportunity to understand what she went through, not speaking English and being fostered by a family quite foreign to what she was used to."

"It mirrors what is happening in the world today. It is such a powerful story."

Dorrieth's book was written for children, aged nine to 11 — a younger age than 15, when Holocaust education begins in South Africa.

The Australian edition of *In My Pocket* is aptly pocket-sized.

In workshops, children paint Dorrieth's pockets and name tags that she wore when she arrived at Liverpool Street and receive a free copy of the book.

The programme was developed with the help of the Glasgow Jewish Archive Centre, Edinburgh University and Germany's Stadt-museum, supported by the Western Australia Consul with funding from the German embassy in Canberra.



SYMPHONY: Simon Caplan with Dania Mann-Wineberg

★ FOR 18 months, the Salford Symphony Orchestra lay dormant, its once-robust membership dwindling and its future uncertain.

But thanks to the efforts of **SIMON CAPLAN**, the orchestra has been resurrected and is once again bringing beautiful music to the people of Salford.

Simon took on the role of chairman and manager of the orchestra in 2021, following a break courtesy of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Undeterred, he resumed the orchestra after lockdown and now, as the world returns to normal, the orchestra is stronger than ever.

Serving as chairman and manager of the Salford Symphony Orchestra, he hosts weekly rehearsals, often with more than 30 participants.

It also holds seasonal concerts with their next one, the summer special, to be held in Eccles Town Hall, in July.

"It is a great honour and pleasure to be involved," the 64-year-old told the *Jewish Telegraph*.

"It takes quite a bit of time, but it is something I enjoy, and it's my hobby and passion."

"I make sure that the people of Salford have an amateur orchestra they can play in and I hope we can continue to grow and provide a great musical experience for our musicians and our audiences."

Simon, a violinist and teacher, joined the orchestra in 2001, shortly after relocating from London. He has been playing the violin for more than 50 years.

He had been the chairman of the orchestra for several years, but it was not until recently that he took on a more active role in running the organisation.

Founded in 1947, the orchestra has always had a strong connection to the Jewish community.

In its early years, it had several Jewish players and used to perform on Sundays so as to accommodate those who did not wish to play on Shabbat.

Today, its concerts and rehearsals are still held on Sundays or Wednesdays and the orchestra is open to all musicians who play at a decent standard, but it certainly has a special place in the hearts of the Jewish community in Salford.

As well as Simon, **DANIA**

The music plays on . . . thanks to Simon

MANN-WINEBERG, the daughter of *Jewish Telegraph* columnist **SANDI MANN** and **JONNY WINEBERG**, also plays.

The orchestra plays a wide range of repertoires, as selected by the committee, and sometimes that has included music with a Jewish flavour.

"One memorable performance was when we played **MAX BRUCH's Kol Nidrei**," Simon recalled. "We also had an excellent choir join us to sing Chanukah songs."

Despite the challenges of running an orchestra, Simon was determined to keep it going because he is a passionate

'One memorable performance was when we played Max Bruch's Kol Nidrei'

advocate for the benefits it can bring the local community and he has employed a new permanent conductor.

He and the rest of the orchestra rehearse once a week, something which he says is important for his well being and that of all the musicians who lost two years of playing together due to Covid.

And the orchestra has seen significant improvements over the years, particularly the string section.

"We have a lovely group of violinists and violas, a couple of double bass players, and strong woodwind," Simon added.

"We also welcome new musicians, particularly string players, and there is no audition, as long as people can play to a Grade 5 level or above."

"I really just wanted to keep it going or we wouldn't have an orchestra for these great musicians to play in."