

## Loosely Woven brings 'Trial by Jury' to the NFF



Who would have thought that a community group of Loosely Woven singers and musicians could put on such a brilliant performance of this Gilbert and Sullivan operetta?

Of course, by the time of their two final shows, at the National Folk Festival, they had already performed it in several northern Sydney suburbs, including Humph Hall, and in actual old courthouses in Carcoar, Murrumburrah, Boorowa and Gunning. So they had really honed it.

They were fortunate to have an expert director in Christine Logan, from Endangered Productions – who really helped the performers add an entertaining sparkle to the show. As she wrote, "Trial by Jury is a theatrical gem – short, witty and musically wonderful."

Lesley Braithwaite was a delightful Angelina, totally in character as a self-absorbed young woman determined to get her due for breach of promise of marriage. And Greg Thompson, as the 'rock star' defendant, made a good job of playing an unconcerned philanderer.

The rest of the cast rose to the challenge – Judge and Jury, Usher and Counsel, Women's Chorus – and the seven-person Band. As for seeing our Wayne Richmond as a dodderly old Judge!

And that's not forgetting the nine named people behind the scenes, who all contributed to the success of the show – Assistant Director, and people responsible for the poster, photography, make-up, sewing, and props; and the three rehearsal pianists.

Clever advertising around the Festival – "Jilted Fiancee Sues Rock Star" – brought many to the shows, packing out The Terrace. There was a steady procession of chairs being brought up from the Session Bar, as more people kept arriving. (I confess to arriving early, for a front row seat – not only once, but twice, selfishly.)



At the end of the second show, I felt quite sad that it was the last presentation ever. It was so good, I wanted it to keep going! But I know that all the people involved do have other lives to live.

Julie Bishop

## The Balkanics



The Balkanics play high-energy music from the Balkans (especially Macedonia). The music is energetic, infectious and very danceable. As well as traditional tunes, many of them Gypsy or Roma in origin, their original compositions are inspired by many years of studying, playing and living these most vibrant of musical cultures. Featuring five accomplished musicians who have been playing together in different combinations for several decades, The Balkanics will intoxicate you, the hypnotic energy of their improvisations dragging you onto the dance floor. Cast away your worldly woes and be transported to a universe inhabited by extravagant rhythmic variation and catchy melodic invention.

The Balkanics are appearing at the Petersham Bowling Club at 3pm on Sunday 16th June. Bookings, trybooking.com/497908. 9569 4639. thepbc.org.au