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Title:

Statement: Australian Youth Orchestra

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date.....May 7, 1976.....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
228 4811

Twenty-five young South Australian musicians leave Adelaide today on the initial stages of a two month tour of the United States.

The musicians are members of the Australian Youth Orchestra, which will tour the United States in May and June as part of the country's Bi-Centenary Celebrations. The group leaves today for Melbourne to start rehearsals for the tour.

South Australians are the largest State group in the 79 strong orchestra and the leader of the orchestra is Adelaide violinist Miss Michelle Walsh.

Miss Walsh has just completed the first year of a two year post-graduate study course in London with the world famous artiste and teacher Mr. Szymon Goldberg.

The South Australian musicians leave tonight (Friday May 7) on TAA Flight 35 at 7.20 p.m.

Following the National Youth Orchestra's tour of America Miss Walsh will take up a State Government Grant from the Arts Grants Advisory Committee to return to London to resume her studies with Mr. Goldberg.

The orchestra will leave Melbourne on Friday May 14 for San Francisco.

The tour is being organised by the National Music Camp Association of Australia.

For further information contact: The National Music Camp Association, telephone 42 6172.

BIOGRAPHY OF
MICHELE WALSH

MICHELE WALSH

Born in Adelaide, South Australia, youngest of five children, Michele showed a love of both piano and violin while still quite young. At the age of eight she began to study the violin seriously with her father and the piano with Miss Thelma Dent who considered that she had an equal talent on this instrument. At the age of eleven she was accepted by Mr. Lloyd Davies as a pupil at the Conservatorium and later she was awarded the Eugene Alderman Scholarship for violin.

At the age of sixteen Michele matriculated with an A in music and decided that this was to be her career. She enrolled with the Department of Music, Adelaide University and Mr. Davies continued to be her tutor in violin until she graduated. Michele had been in the first violins of the Conservatorium Orchestra from early days and during her tertiary studies she became leader of both this orchestra and the University Chamber Orchestra.

Graduating as a Bachelor of Music with two top distinctions and two credits in her final year, at the age of nineteen she was awarded the Athol Lykke prize.

Concurrent with her degree studies Michele was a part-time member of the first violins in the South Australian Symphony Orchestra. She performed both as solo-recitalist and leader of several ensembles in A.B.C., Young Australia and Young South Australia programmes. She had also given several solo recitals for well-known Music Societies in the Commonwealth. From an early age Michele had been a participant in State Music Camps and graduated to National Music Camp eventually becoming Leader of the Bishop Orchestra at National Music Camp in 1973.

In May of this year Michele won the State finals and in September, the National finals of the A.B.C. Instrumental and Vocal Concerto Competition. She was presented with the first prize, a cheque for one thousand five hundred dollars. In December of the same year she performed as soloist with S.A.S.O. under Professor Henry Kripps.

Michele had played in the first violin section of the Australian Youth Orchestra from the age of fifteen and she was made Associate Leader of the Orchestra during its tour of South-East Asia. In May she performed in two concerts with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra under Ernest Llewellyn. Early in the same year she had been awarded an Australia Council Grant of two thousand five hundred dollars to enable her to study in London with Szymon Goldberg. She left Australia on May 6th to take up her post-graduate studies with this world famous artist and teacher and she has just completed her first year as his student.

Michele has been invited to be Leader of A.Y.O. in its forthcoming tour of the United States of America. After the completion of the tour she hopes to be able to return to London to continue studying with Mr. Goldberg who has advised her to spend at least another year studying under his direction.

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