



The Idea of North (TION) is Australia's best and most successful contemporary vocal group. Each member of group has studied in some of Australia's foremost music schools – two of the group at the Elder Conservatorium attached to Adelaide University and two at the Canberra School of Music attached to the Australian National University. They have all been involved in performing in and/or directing smaller and larger choral ensembles and a cappella groups, most of which reflect their great love of the jazz idiom. TION became a fulltime, professional ensemble in 1998.

Studying and/or working with some of the truly great contemporary vocal groups and teachers has been an important part of TION's development. Mentors have included The New York Voices (USA), The Real Group (Sweden), Rajaton (USA), Tuck and Patti (USA), Gene Puerling (The Hi- Lo's & Singers Unlimited (USA)), Mark Murphy (USA) and Cheryl Bentyne (The Manhattan Transfer (USA)).

TION has developed an enviable reputation and has established a very significant reputation overseas where they travel many times each year for festivals, concerts, workshops and corporate events. The group has been travelling abroad to perform in Asia, the USA and Europe since 1998. They have hosted and/or performed at a number of major festivals in such arenas as The Lincoln Centre in New York, the Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington DC and similar venues in Asia.

In 2003 TION won The Harmony Sweepstakes in the USA, one of the largest international open a cappella competitions in the world, and in its (then) twenty year history, this was the first time that the winner was an ensemble from outside the USA. This is one of many awards for performing, writing, arranging and recording that TION has garnered over the years, including several Recorded A Cappella Review Board awards (RARBs) from the USA, and an ARIA award (The Australian Grammys) – the only a cappella group ever to be awarded an ARIA Award. 2013 represents 20 years since the inception of the group, and they have to date produced ten CDs and a live, in-concert DVD.

The following tribute comes from Don Burrows, an Australian icon, unsurpassed jazz musician and educator, whose lifetime of performing and teaching achievements, including his time as the Director of Jazz Studies at The Sydney Conservatorium, is now legendary:

*'The Idea of North is a truly outstanding vocal quartet. Their musical arrangements are spectacular in their conception and delivery, with colours ranging from the purest of unisons to some of the most intricate tensions and counterpoint. This is a wonderful group to watch in performance - truly a sight and sound experience of the highest calibre.'*

Don Burrows

“A cappella is sometimes thought of as being minimalist, but when you can sing and entertain like The Idea of North, a band would just get in the way...”

- James Morrison

“Weaving pure magic with just four voices, by the encore you'll forget that's all they use!”

- The Adelaide Review

"Strong, polished voices with a blend to envy - a welcome addition to the tradition of great vocal jazz."

- Peter Eldridge, New York Voices

“Impeccable a cappella...they have class stamped over everything they do. Catch them and marvel.”

- The Adelaide Review

“...measured and absorbing. Like ABBA dipped in velvet.”

- Sydney Morning Herald

“This a cappella outfit can't put a foot wrong...” Critic's rating: 10/10

- Sun Herald, Sydney

“A vocal quartet of wit, charm and breathtaking musical virtuosity

-The Adelaide Advertiser

“The Idea of North swept in and stole every musical plaudit at this year's Fringe... Australia has not produced a more sophisticated entertaining vocal group than this young quartet.

- The Adelaide Review

“...an impeccable standard of musicianship...”

- The Melbourne Age

“Smooth, sophisticated close-harmony arrangements...A pitch-perfect ensemble.”

- The Courier-Mail Brisbane

“In terms of quality of ensemble and elegance of arrangements, this group's work is in the same league as that of The Swingle Singers in their heyday. On top of that, they incorporate a wry, deadpan Australian sense of humour that made their performance immensely entertaining.”

David M. Schwartz, Sydney Morning Herald