

## 'Music has been my life': Greg Paterson honoured

By Scott Bevan June 8 2020



For Greg Paterson, his life and music have gone together like rhythm and melody. "Music's been my life," Mr Paterson said. "It's what I did for a living, it's what I love, it's what I've always done and always will."

Which is why he was surprised to be recognised for what is his life. Gregory David Paterson has been awarded an OAM for service to the performing arts, particularly to music.

Music is one lifelong thread for Greg Paterson. So is Newcastle. He was born in Hamilton in 1947 and attended Newcastle Technical High School. He studied at the local teachers' college, where he met his wife, Denise, then taught music at Jesmond and Belmont high schools.

Mr Paterson has been a pianist, musical director and conductor for theatre groups and orchestras, small ensembles and grand productions. One highlight in his prolific musical life was the annual Star Struck schools' performing arts spectacular. He was a founding member in 1993, and worked on the production until 2007.

"You get a great thrill watching them [student performers] grow and develop," Mr Paterson said.