A PERFORMER’S GUIDE

What the performing arts can teach us about success in the workplace
My background

- Former professional musician

- Bmus and Mmus from UniMelb

- Played with many orchestras, including Melbourne Symphony, Orchestra Victoria, Victorian Opera, Australian Youth Orchestra
My transition to the ‘the other side’

EXPERIENCE
• Found myself organising many events
• Thought I might be more suited to management

FEARS
• What experience was needed?
• Am I too old to change?
• Would my skills be transferrable?
Building my Career

• Realisation that my past a strength

• Good lessons learned from great people

• Formed a disciplined approach to preparation and performance
Preparation = Good Habits

- Daily Routines
- Nothing achievable without hard work
- Repetition, continual improvement
Preparation = Good Habits

• Auditions are just like Interviews
• You prepare ‘Excerpts’
• Nothing should be left to chance
Leadership

• Established hierarchies

• Had many examples of great leaders

• Conductors – the ultimate leaders

• Two Great C20th Conductors

• Leonard Bernstein

• Carlos Kleiber
CARLOS KLEIBER

“When he beat the first bar of a great work, in his mind he was already in the last.“
- Charles Barber
Accountability

• It’s you – own your mistakes
• You don’t get better by always focusing on positives
• Learn to give good criticism, and to receive it
In rehearsal – Leonard Bernstein, Jose Carreras
Risk Taking

• Great performances are always the goal
• Visualise the best outcome, don’t focus on unlikely consequences
• All great performances contain mistakes
To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan, and not quite enough time. – Leonard Bernstein
The finished product (6:54)
Celebration

Artists know how to celebrate!
• Builds loyalty
• Creates closer teams
• Gives closure, for better or worse

• Pay your way!
and Martin Frost...?