

# I HAVE NOT GOT TIME!

By Geoff Serpell

We have doubtless all used the excuse about a lack of time, to avoid or postpone doing something which requires additional effort, mental and or physical, beyond our regular chores.

The current lockdown required to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, may just provide us with the time to turn to or return to a musical instrument hidden away in the back of a cupboard, collecting dust, or maybe a piano with a blanket covering it maybe stored in the garden shed?

As children, many of us were taught to play an instrument, usually the piano, but alternatively a violin flute or guitar. Many would be the reasons why tuition ceased. Lack of interest usually prevailed, and the instrument put away or sold. It has, in Australia down through the decades been rare for people such as Eileen Joyce or James Morrison to rise to world prominence as

a concert artist, no doubt being specially gifted and prepared to do daily practice.

Fortunately, my third son Andrew, persevered after a trombone was handed to him at school. There are water stains from years of playing still on the concrete floor of my insulated workshop. These marks attest to the hours he played without upsetting the neighbors during the night. Before the pandemic Andrew played and sang twice a week at a restaurant music hall at Docklands in Melbourne.

Is not this pandemic a golden opportunity to give music another go? Many an offer is awaiting us for example on U-Tube by a tutor. I have spotted one example of learning to use vibrato on a violin. Many an artist is available to hear and watch on any instrument or voice just by a few clicks on the internet.

## Reflection:

*Matthew 25:14-30 records the parable of the talents, meaning not just money but also including ability or a God given gift where the story relates to the servants who used their talents and then were invited to share in the "Master's happiness". Will you make the most of any opportunity entrusted to you by a gift from God?*