



Orchestrating gastronomic hits

GEOFF SHEARER
 TV EDITOR



IT is a string to his bow that many fans of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra didn't know he had.

Craig Young (pictured) who has played cello with the QSO for nearly two decades and leads a 14-piece musical section for Queensland Ballet productions, is showing the world his other creative pursuit – cooking – on national TV.

The 43-year-old Brisbane musician was one of the first Queenslanders to make it through into the Top 24 on the third season of *MasterChef Australia* last week.

As the son of an orchestra conductor, it was always in Craig's DNA that he'd go into music, but it was his mum who inspired his love of cooking.

"Every holiday she would get my brothers and I into the kitchen to make each one of us cook a dish," he says.

"Mum is always telling people about my cooking and it's nice to be able to give something back to her after all those years she cooked for us when we were kids. It's now me kicking her out of the kitchen."

The Courier-Mail caught up with Craig on the set of the TV phenomenon in Sydney and he says the show's momentum and the fact that he is cooking in a



kitchen other than his own is getting the adrenalin pumping.

"At home you know where everything is, but here you're running from one end to another to get a pot or dish," he says. "It adds to the excitement. The whole room is abuzz."

"And it's been quite good so far," he adds with a laugh, "because I haven't really stuffed anything up yet!"

Desserts are his forte.

"I love desserts," he says. "I was recently in Singapore at Guy Savoy Restaurant and got to go into the kitchen and was just attracted straight to the dessert bench. Those guys are just so creative. It's amazing."

Meanwhile, Craig hasn't been able to resist showing off his musical skills to the other contestants locked down for the *MasterChef* series.

"It's great to bring the cello into the house – a few of the contestants are interested in playing it, and I've taught Hayden how to play half of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*," he says.

QSO chief executive office Patrick Pickett said the orchestra's "musicians and staff are excited to support Craig Allister Young in the third series of *MasterChef*".

MasterChef Australia,
 Ten, 7.30pm
 shearerg@qnp.news1td.com.au

GEOFF'S PICKS

MACHETE MAIDENS UNLEASHED

ABC1, 9.30pm

★★★★★

FILIPINO genre films of the '70s and '80s involving busty women with guns were known as the "drive-in filler from Manila". They boasted cheap labour, exotic scenery and non-existent health and safety. The titles speak for themselves – *The Hot Box*, *Beast Of Blood*, *Big Doll House* and *Mad Doctor Of Blood*.

HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER

Seven, 8pm

★★★★★

BARNEY finally meets his biological father Jerry and is shocked by the differences in their lives. Biggest shock for viewers is that Jerry's played by John Lithgow who we last saw on our TV screens carving up people as the Trinity Killer on *Dexter*. Thankfully he's more Dick Solomon from *3rd Rock From The Sun* here.

JANDAMARRA'S WAR

ABC1, 8.30pm

★★★★★

IN 1894, Jandamarra led a rebellion against invading pastoralists in defence of his people's ancient land and culture. Until his death in brutal retribution, this formidable Bunuba warrior waged a three-year guerrilla war. The story, passed on from one Bunuba storyteller to another for more than 100 years, is narrated by Ernie Dingo.