ORCHESTRAL MOVE

Director Chris Freeman (illustrated) loves threats but freely admits that his daughter used to drag him kicking and screaming to the ballet. That’s a Bad Habit, since the former Mirage top gun grew up in a very arty household and has been actively volunteering with artistic and cultural groups over the past 15 years.

Freeman, who formerly chaired CPMC and the Brisbane Festival, has just scored another big win to add to his already impressive CV.

It emerged yesterday that he will chair the Queensland Symphony Orchestra starting in January, replacing current head Greg Worchep.

“They didn’t engage me because I play the violin,” Freeman joked.

“Orchestras have intrigued me for years. They’re such complicated structures and organisations. The way it all comes together, it’s visually exciting plus you get the enjoyment of the music.”

Freeman comes on board as the QSO celebrates its 70th birthday in a pretty robust shape.

Ticket revenue for its 188 concerts last year swelled 28 per cent to nearly $33 million.

It finished the year with a $250,000 surplus, although state and federal subsidies still account for almost 60 per cent of the income.

It said he’d like to address the challenge of encouraging a younger audience to attend the symphony. “I think there’s a much broader demographic that...

FILLING A HOLE

YOU might fill a hole in England.

Brisbane hospitality supremo Dominon Griffiths jetted off to London this weekend to launch his first Doughnut District.

Eating floors have started operating across the UK by the end of 2017. There are...