

woodwind players are happier than all others. While flautists, oboists and all perch contentedly at the top of the happiness league, the likes of string-players and, surprisingly, brass-players linger in misery down below.

SOLTI ON SHOW

To celebrate the centenary of the birth of Sir Georg Solti (see p28), the Royal Opera House is running a one-off exhibition. With artefacts on show including a bronze cast of Sir Georg's conducting hand, his scores for Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* and photos from the family archive, guided tours to the exhibition will be available from November onwards.

CHORAL CAPTAIN

Much celebration among choral types after it was announced that one of their own has been made the new captain of the England cricket team. Long before he devoted himself to life at the crease, Alastair Cook formerly used to fill the pews as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral – footage on YouTube shows him, in cassock and ruff, singing alongside Kiri Te Kanawa.

AFTER HOURS

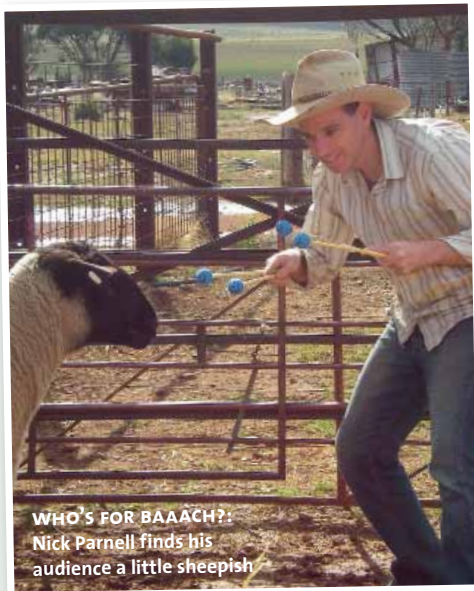
Musicians and their hobbies

NICK PARNELL

Percussionist

FARMER

My whole family except for me – my parents and both my sisters and their husbands – is in farming. So I'm the black sheep of the family, if you like! However, I like to help them all out wherever I can, particularly on my parents' farm which is about three hours' drive from where I live in Adelaide. My parents keep Merino sheep, and a lot of the wool from them ends up in departments stores in the UK, though I wouldn't be able to tell you which ones. On average, I'll spend about six weeks a year on the farm and I find it a really refreshing break from my music. It's a great way to de-stress. The jobs I do there can involve absolutely anything, from shovelling out all the manure that has gathered in the chook yard – that's the worst job and pretty hard work – to mustering, drafting and



WHO'S FOR BAAACH?:
Nick Parnell finds his
audience a little sheepish

vaccinating sheep and repairing broken-down windmills and fences that have been knocked over by kangaroos. The number of injuries you get on farms is quite high and possibly I ought to worry about it a bit more given my concert commitments. So far, though, I've been OK!

