

LAJOR CZUCZOR (LOLLY) (1921-2010)

Lolly Czuczor was an engineer by profession who had busked for over 75 years by the time of his death at the age of 89 in March 2010.

Following in the footsteps of the strolling troubadours of early Europe, Lolly began playing in public when he was just a teenager. He never stopped.

Lolly and his violin could be found on every form of Melbourne's public transport. However, he preferred playing on the train during the round trip to the city from his home in Heidelberg each working day.

On the train, Lolly would politely call people to attention and then, using his best Hungarian accent ask: "Ladies and Gentlemen, does anyone object to the violin?"

Upon arrival in the city, Lolly would stroll around various local restaurants playing at each one over lunch and dinner, all for free. Many offered him a meal in return, which he would gladly accept.

He then returned home by train, playing his violin all the way. He lived alone and this was his way of giving back to the community that had accepted him when he arrived from Hungary.

Lolly was a dapper looking gentleman who always wore a smart, well-worn suit with a mauve bow tie and a thick jacket over the top during winter months. In his later years, he spent several hours a day near Southgate by Princes Bridge where he would set up a folding stool and hold court.

Always up for a chat with passers-by, Lolly would entertain them with stories of his youth when he was forced to play a machine gun rather than his beloved violin. He used to say it didn't sound as good as the violin when he was fighting in Russia for three years and he was glad to leave and get back to his favourite instrument.

Lolly left Budapest in Hungary and come to Australia via France, Austria and Spain. It is unclear when Lolly arrived in Australia or where he worked before he became a full-time busker.

There is no doubt that Lolly brightened the morning commute for many passengers and he was sadly missed after he passed away. His cremated remains are interred at Lilydale Memorial Park.



Find out more

Cartledge, B. *The Will to Survive: a history of Hungary*, (2006)
Cohen, D. *Buskers: a history of street entertainment*, 1981
Grygier, E. *Street Music: a case study of three European cities*, (2015)



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Jan is a professional historian who has worked across the fields of heritage, education and tourism. She has taught at several universities, including Monash University where she delivered the master of public history course. She is also a former Chair of the Heritage Council of Victoria. Jan was appointed to The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust in 2010.



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