



The Score

Issue 31. August 2015

**GCMS Concert: Friday, 11 September 2015, 7.30 p.m.,
McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College, Aphrasia Street, Newtown
Australian Octet presents
*Souvenir de Florence***



Image of Florence from <en.wikipedia.org>

Our September Concert brings us the MCO's flagship chamber ensemble -- Australian Octet.

One of only two professional string octets in the world, Australian Octet is dedicated to performing music for five to eight strings.

Their performance on September 11 features two of the greatest works of festival chamber music: Tchaikovsky's string sextet, *Souvenir de Florence*, and Bruch's lustrous final masterpiece, *Concerto for Octet*. As well, we shall hear a new work for double string quartet by the Australian composer, Paul Stanhope: *Nephesh*, commissioned for Australian Octet and receiving its world premiere in their current tour.

The enthusiastic response to the MCO's June Concert, which featured William Hennessy and Beethoven's *Violin Concerto*, will surely have many music-lovers in our region eager to hear these gifted instrumentalists again.

Members of Australian Octet, who last performed for GCMS in 2014, are: William Hennessy, Anne-Marie Johnson, Helen Ayres and Robin Wilson, violins; Caleb Wright and Merewyn Bramble, violas; and Paul Ghica and Michael Dahlenburg, cellos.

Come, and bring your friends, for what is certain to be a stand-out performance!

Save the dates! GCMS's 2016 Season

Full program details will be released with our 2016 brochure later this year, and at the Members' *Soirée* on October 23. Meanwhile, conscious that concert-goers are already filling up next year's diaries, the Committee is pleased to give advance notice of dates and artists for our 2016 program.

Friday, March 11: Elena Kats-Chernin and Tamara Cislowska

Friday, May 20: ANAM chamber ensemble with pianist Paavali Jumppanen

Friday, June 17: Melbourne Chamber Orchestra with soprano Sara Macliver

Friday, August 12: Melbourne Brass Quintet

Friday, October 7: Australian Octet

Sunday, December 11: Special Extra Event: Members of Opera Australia Chorus

What a feast of musical genius is in store for us next year! We are again excited by the calibre of our artists as well as by the diversity of genres represented in our program. As this list indicates, in addition to our five regular concerts of chamber music, the Society will offer a special concert in December sure to appeal to lovers of voice, especially in opera.

Review of our July Concert: Recital by Daniel de Borah

Malcolm John, OAM, has contributed the following appreciation of last month's Concert:

The refreshing thing about GCMS's recital in McAuley Hall on Friday 24th July was pianist Daniel de Borah's choice of program and his considerable skill in making stylistic idiosyncrasies invisible.

Haydn's *F minor Variations*, so seldom played due to its technical demands, was clearly explained and was performed with understanding. The repeated sections and the mixing of major and minor in tandem kept the audience involved. 'What is Haydn going to do in the next variation?' Challenging ornamentations and a demanding cadenza showed a genius of creative organisation at work 'before his time'.

The tragic events surrounding *The Ghost Variations*, Schumann's last piano work, and his young friend Brahms' first *Piano Variations Op. 9* had many listeners, so used to the latter's impressive diatonic orchestral symphonies, hearing for the first time Brahms' great rhythmic variety and more stringent tonal explorations. Daniel explained this work as 'a joint effort with Clara as part of their grieving.'

The highlight of the evening was Prokofiev's own transcription of one of his great ballets from 1934 - *Romeo and Juliet*. Ten selections from the full ballet were performed. De Borah's physical resemblance to the composer was uncanny, as he applied considerable technical prowess and tonal imagination to the highly original compositional style of this composer, who was himself a brilliant pianist.

Schumann's *The Poet Speaks*, as encore, was a fitting close to a fine recital by one of Australia's top musicians. The audience certainly appreciated the privilege.

City of Greater Geelong Community Arts Grants

The Society has again lodged a submission for a Grant under the City Council's current round. We are indebted to Peter Horan and Irene McGinnigle especially for the work required to present the submission. In turn, Peter and Irene thank the Members and Subscribers whose letters of support and responses to our Survey are valuable evidence of local appreciation for the Society and our program. We are also, of course, most grateful for the Council's Grant of \$6000 for our program this year: it provides a major contribution to our activities.

Membership and Donations

On the inside of the wrapper for this issue of *The Score* you will find forms for renewing membership and for making a donation to the Society.

Membership 2014-15 memberships expired in June. If you have forgotten to renew, or if you would like to become a Member, please complete the form on the reverse side of the wrapper for this issue of *The Score*. Annual membership fee is \$20 per person. This gives support to the Society, entitlement to vote at general meetings and stand for the committee, and to attend the annual Soirée, which will be held on October 23.

Donations are gratefully received, both for the material assistance these provide for fulfilling our purposes (especially local educational projects) and also as a clear indication to external funding bodies of the extent of local support for the Society and our program.

Free music courses on the Internet

Committee Secretary, Irene McGinnigle, has recently come across a website called *Coursera*, which offers a huge range of free university courses across many subjects. Music courses can be found in the Music, Film and Audio category. Current courses include "Fundamentals of Music Theory" from Edinburgh University; "Explore Beethoven's Piano Sonatas" and "The World of the String Quartet" both from the Curtis Institute of Music; "Developing your Musicianship" from Berklee College of Music (a great basic course from an engaging jazz pianist); "Teaching the Violin and Viola" from Northwestern University; and many more. Irene thoroughly recommends these courses.

Irene has been working through "The World of the String Quartet", and enjoying it. The course provides excerpts from selected music and, after listening to this and the comments, she goes onto the Geelong Regional Library Corporation website to listen to the whole piece via *Naxos*. "Great fun!" she reports. Thank you for the recommendation, Irene.

Australian Youth Classical Music Competition

This issue of *The Score* goes to press on the eve of the National Finals of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition, which this year celebrates its Silver Anniversary. The Competition's Trustees are delighted that the Inaugural Winner of the Competition, Clemens Leske, is returning to perform and to adjudicate.

The GCMS Committee is very pleased that in future years the Society will be sponsoring the First Prize for the Regional Finals. This continues a tradition of financial support for AYCMC by the Society, in keeping with one of our objectives, namely the encouragement of musical performance by local students.

Australian Festival of Chamber Music

A number of our Members flew north to Townsville this month for the 25th anniversary of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, directed by Piers Lane, AO.

For our Vice-President, Helen Jordan, "the highlight of the week was, unarguably, the recitals by Polish pianist Piotr Anderszewski. His performances were spell-binding, and the music seemed to emanate from the stillness that surrounded him, especially in his Schumann and the Bach suites in which each voice could be clearly heard."

There were world premieres of works by Elena Kats-Chernin, David Sampson and Robert Keane. Many other rarely-heard works for strings, woodwind and combinations of these could be programmed because of the more than thirty world-class musicians participating. Helen says that "the atmosphere was always one of sheer enjoyment and collegiality among both musicians and audience." Townsville's balmy weather helps, too! Next year this Festival will be held from July 29 to August 6.

Geelong Music Diary, August-October, 2015

Friday, 28 August, 8.00 pm: MSO Mozart Piano Concerto No. 17 (Sir Andrew Davis/Jean-Efflam Bavouzet) and Brahms's Third Symphony, Costa Hall, Geelong

Friday, 11 September, 7.30 pm: GCMS Concert: MCO Octet, Souvenirs de Florence, McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College, Aphrasia Street, Newtown

Sunday, 4 October, 3.30 pm: Music at the Basilica, St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, "Magnificat," Sacred Music for Choir and Organ from Palestrina to Rutter, Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, 136 Yarra Street, Geelong

Friday, 9 October – Sunday, 11 October, Port Fairy Spring Music Festival (Anna Goldsworthy, Director)

Sunday, 25 October, 3.00 pm: Trio Anima Mundi, Schubert Notturmo; Beethoven Piano Trio Op 1 No 3; Prize-winning work from Trio Anima Mundi Composition Competition, Keith Humble Centre, Geelong College

Friday, 30 October, 7.30 pm: GCMS Concert: Duo Chamber Melange [works for violin and piano by Kelly, Beethoven, Smetana, Schumann, Gershwin arr Heifetz] McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College, Newtown

GCMS Website

Peter Horan has been busily refreshing and augmenting the information on the Society's website www.gcms.org.au.

You'll find the calendar for our concert schedule, reviews of GCMS concerts, current and past copies of the newsletter, and general information about the Society.

A link to the website is a handy way to provide friends with details of upcoming concerts.

Like us on Facebook!

Our enterprising Treasurer, Anne Powers, has brought the Society into the twenty-first century by initiating a Facebook page. There's a link to this on our website (gcms.org.au).

Now Facebook users can easily encourage Facebook friends to enjoy GCMS concerts by forwarding dates and other information available in postings there. Thanks, Anne!

Contacts

Should you wish to contact the Society, you may find one of these avenues useful:

Website: www.gcms.org.au

Email: admin@gcms.org.au

Mail: P.O. Box 988, Geelong 3220

Phone: (03) 5243 6931

GEELONG CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY INC
Application for Membership/Renewal of Membership 2015-16

Name(s)

of

wish to apply for/renew membership of the Incorporated Association for the year 2015-16. Renewal of current membership is payable by 30 June 2015.

Enclosed is cheque/money order for the **annual membership fee of \$20 per person.**

If you wish to have the newsletter and notices of meetings sent to you by email, please complete the following:

I/We wish to receive the society's newsletters and notices of meetings by email sent to the following address:

.....

I will inform the Secretary at admin@gcms.org.au if my email address changes.

Signed

Date

Please post this form with your fee to GCMS, PO Box 988, Geelong 3220 or hand in at the Box Office at the September concert.

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GEELONG CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY INC

An organisation listed in the Australian Register of Cultural Organisations and having Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for tax purposes.

DONATION FORM

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support the work and objectives of Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc.

Enclosed is the sum of payable to Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc Donations Account.

Please send the Society's receipt to me at:

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Your financial support for the Society is very much appreciated.

Please post to GCMS at PO Box 988, Geelong 3220 or hand to a committee member at a concert.

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