



The Score

Issue 25. July 2014

Greetings to all our supporters,

Your 2014-15 committee is working well and we are currently arranging the program for the 2015 series. We will again present two concerts by the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra – one of which will be a very special program that we know you will enjoy immensely. The other concerts have not yet been finalised but we have been advised that Musica Viva will not have funding to support the travel and accommodation costs of artists booked through it. This affects particularly any artists that we might wish to bring from centres other than Melbourne. Nevertheless, we are confident that we will soon be able to confirm the artists who will entertain and move us in 2015. It is important that this process is completed before the end of July when the application for a grant from the City of Greater Geelong is due.

There is still a vacancy on the committee and we would love to hear from someone with financial/accounting skills who would be prepared to join the committee with a view to taking over as treasurer in 2015. It is not necessary, although it is an advantage, that the treasurer be a CPA as we use simple software and the number of entries during the year is not burdensome.

Renewals of membership of the Incorporated Association are now due. If you have not yet renewed your membership, but would like to do so, or if you would like to become a member of the association, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and send it with the membership fee to GCMS, PO Box 988, Geelong, 3220. It is not necessary to be a member in order to attend the concerts but members and donors are invited to celebrate with us at the end-of-year soiree and be the first to see the brochure for the following year.

May Concert by The Australian Octet

Here is the text of Dr Malcolm John's review of the concert on 23rd May 2014 by this wonderful new ensemble from the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra family.

The faithful, responsive audience was treated to a feast of Octet last night, 2 works by 2 teenagers – Shostakovich and Enescu – another by a dynamic home-grown contemporary – Mills – and a beautifully crafted quintet by a pre-20thC Brahms.

Shostakovich's Op.11 sinuously astringent *Adagio*, with much dissonance, particularly in the upper strings, captivated us with its rhythmic inventiveness, although the shifting lines of youthful harmony were unsettling, The *Scherzo* was full of energy and more diatonic in its approach. Following this wake-up call, aspects of the **Richard Mills** *Lachrymae, Chorales*. . . seemed unduly dense and heavy-handed at times, although the players sought out the structural layers and kept excellent rhythm in this new work dedicated by the composer to Bill Hennessy and the MCO. One was expecting the bouncy colourful Mills style, but this sombre approach took us by surprise with its seriousness. Thoughtfully played, the music became more and more transparent as it eased to its close.

Brahms wrote much chamber music, but felt that the *F Major Quintet* was one of his best. A product of happy times, the tonal landscape was beautifully depicted, with much fine playing from 1st Viola and 1st Violin in particular. The slow movement, with its fluctuating moods and speeds was quite the most satisfying performance of the evening.

Enescu, a brilliant violinist himself, wrote this *Octet in C, Op.7* with integration of themes in mind; ideas from the 1st movement being developed more fully in the other 3 movements. Unison playing, pedal-points and quasi modal (Romanian ?) themes dominated much of this magnificent work. Impressive was the composer's treatment of every instrument, giving important lines to individual players, with a wide range of dynamic and rhythms, and a mature development of themes.

We thank the Australian Octet for a most pleasurable concert.

Malcolm's reviews can be found on the society's website shortly after the concerts.

Coming Concerts

On Friday 25 July, the Melbourne-based ensemble *La Compañia*, with soprano **Jacqueline Porter**, will perform for us. If you enjoyed the recent ABC Classic FM 'Baroque and Before' broadcasts, but wished that more of the 'Before' music had featured, this is the concert for you. From the eleven members, who play a total of eighteen period instruments, ensembles can be formed to suit the selected program, which may showcase music from one or more countries and invariably includes song. La Compañia presents a four-concert series at the Melbourne Recital Centre. The following is drawn from the ensemble's website.

La Compañia formed in 1997 to perform music of the renaissance and early baroque. Directed by Danny Lucin, the ensemble brings together Australia's leading specialists on period instruments, creating a consort rich in possibilities. A line up of historically important instruments allows for exciting sound combinations reflecting the various instrumental groupings of the period.

The group follows the sixteenth century performance practice of ornamentation, diminution and embellishment. Their vibrant musicianship combined with their improvisatory skills has established La Compañia's reputation with both audiences and critics for presenting dynamic performances.

Setting benchmarks in Australian early music performance, their innovative programming has unearthed some of the most beautiful and fascinating music of the 16th and 17th centuries delighting audiences with many Australian premieres.

One of the musicians, Rosemary Hodgson, who plays vihuela, guitar, lute and theorbo, is a former student of Sacred Heart College.

Tickets are \$45 adult (include seniors card holders), \$40 concession and \$12 student. They may be purchased using the form on the last page of this newsletter, from GPAC (5225 1200 or www.gpac.org.au), or by phoning 5243 6931.

Friday 5th September brings a return of the full *Melbourne Chamber Orchestra* in a program of Elegies and Dances that spans the centuries from Bach and Purcell to Bartok and Stanhope. Artistic Director William Hennessy will be the soloist in Bach's *Concerto for Violin in A minor*.

The final concert will be held on **Friday 17th October** and given by the *New Sydney Wind Quintet*. In addition to Ravel's Mother Goose Suite and Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf narrated by Graham Abbott, they will perform works by Paul Taffanel and Percy Grainger.

Donations

Thank you to those who have made a tax-deductible donation to support the objectives of the society. Your support is greatly appreciated and the funds help us to present the concert series. This in turn makes it possible for the society to support young regional musicians competing in the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition and to subsidise the workshops and master classes offered by the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra.

Australian Youth Classical Music Competition

The semi-finals of the National Section of the AYCMC will be held on Sunday 20th July at 2.30pm at McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College. Entry is \$10 and students are free. This will be a wonderful concert of performances by twelve outstanding young musicians from various states of Australia, on a variety of instruments, competing for three places in the final. The prizes in the national section are significant, being \$10,000 for the winner and two prizes of \$2,500 each for the runners-up, and many of the past winners have gone on to professional careers in music. Hoang Pham, who gave a recital for us in 2013, was the winner in 2004.

The semi-finals of the regional competition have already been held and the Finals of both sections of the competition will be held at 2.30pm on Sunday afternoon 17th August at the Keith Humble Performing Arts Centre, Geelong College. Tickets available from GPAC.

First prize in the Regional section is the \$2,000 Harwood Andrews Lawyers Prize and the three runner up prizes of \$1,000 each are provided by the Geelong Chamber Music Society. We encourage you to support the musicians and enjoy two beautiful afternoons of instrumental and piano music.

Australian Festival of Chamber Music

The tickets have arrived and nine members and friends from GCMS are looking forward to travelling to balmy Townsville for the week-long festival commencing on 1st August. You can check out the detailed program on the website www.afcm.com.au. Piers Lane is the Artistic Director and his friendly manner, his interesting interviews, the wonderful local and overseas musicians and diverse compositions from all periods that are brought together make the festival Australia's most comprehensive and enjoyable. Maybe you will be tempted for 2016.

We look forward to seeing you at a concert soon.

GCMS Committee

President:	Kevin McAvaney	Vice-President:	Peter Horan
Treasurer:	Don Williams	Secretary:	Helen Jordan
Committee Members:			
Hugh Collins, David Eyres, Wendy Galloway, Jenny Horan, Irene McGinnigle and			

Noeline Sandblom

Email: admin@gcms.org.au. Phone: Secretary 5243 6931



The Geelong Chamber Music Society presents
Baroque and Before Specialists

La Compañia

in

A Renaissance Tour



Friday 25 July 2014, 7:30 p.m.

McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College,

Newtown

(Aphrasia St entrance)

GEELONG CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY INC
Application for Membership/Renewal of Membership
2014-15

Name(s)

of

wish to apply for/renew membership of the Incorporated Association for the year 2014-15.

Enclosed is cheque/money order for the **annual membership fee of \$20 per person**. Renewal of current membership is payable by 30 June 2014.

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.

.....

GEELONG CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY INC

Concert by *La Compañia*

I.....of

wish to purchase the following tickets to the concert on Friday 25th July:

..... Adult @ \$45 each Total \$.....

..... Concession @ \$40 each Total \$.....

..... Student @ \$12 each Total \$

Please choose from these payment and delivery options by ticking your selection:

..... Enclosed is cheque for payment.

..... Please post the tickets to me before the concert.

..... Please hold the tickets for collection at the door.

..... I will collect the tickets and pay at the door on the night of the concert.

Please post the completed form to GCMS at PO Box 988, Geelong 3220 or scan and email to admin@gcms.org.au