



Our Annual General Meeting

Thursday 26 April 7.30pm at 15 Cedmar Avenue, Highton. All are welcome (only financial members may vote) and refreshments will be provided after. The President and Treasurer will each present a report on the past year's activities and the committee for 2018-19 will be elected. Anyone interested in joining the committee can chat with a current member.

Helen Jordan

Firebird Trio

This varied program featured Josephine Vains on Cello, Curt Thompson, Violin and Benjamin Martin Piano in the first of five concerts in this 10th anniversary year of the GCMS. Local content was encouraged with the brief 4th Piano Trio by Malcolm John. This premiere performance was handled professionally, the contours of the opening movement balanced convincingly, and the buoyant spirit of this brief Allegro segued into a lyrical Arioso, with gentle conversations between the strings supported by sensitive touch from the piano. The final movement was mostly variations on a cheerful tune, the instruments taking turns to bring out the varied character of each section. The overall approach was positive and sympathetic.



Haydn's Eb minor Trio, in a 'dark and distant' key for the period, showed a not often heard dramatic side of this quirkiest of classical composers. The ascending leaps and unison hues set the tone for a lengthy and texturally varied first movement. The mood was brighter and harmonically more settled in the Finale, with very busy runs and leaps for all instruments, the piano in particular.

Benjamin's arrangement of 2 sections of Stravinsky's Firebird brought out some incredible sounds from the Strings, testing their rhythmic coordination and tone production to the limit. Very imaginative construction from the original full orchestra was convincing. The tour de force of the evening was Schubert's amazing Eb major Trio, completed not long before the composer died. Pointing to the future, with often terse and heavily punctuated textures, the expected lyricism of this composer's style took on new colours. Nevertheless, the unforgettable slow movement theme with its return in many guises, was the highlight of the evening, and brought out a warm response from the enthusiastic listeners.

GCMS partners Musica Viva in schools

As part of its celebration of 10 years in the Geelong community, GCMS will help to bring the Musica Viva In Schools program to about 500 students in the junior schools affiliated with Northern Bay College and other primary schools in the area. The \$4,000 required for this project will be drawn from the society's Donations Fund and will be supplemented by funds from the Musica Viva Equal Music Fund that assists schools in disadvantaged areas to access the program.

Small groups of instrumentalists and singers travel to schools Australia-wide, performing and showing children how they can make music too. The children are actively involved in music-making and, for some, it is their first such experience. The group that will come to these schools is 'Mara!', which is comprised of a singer and four instrumentalists. Their presentation is called 'Story and Song across the world', very appropriate for such a multi-cultural area as Norlane/Corio.



More information about the program, and pictures from past programs are available on the Musica Viva website musicaviva.com.au/education.

Next concert: Australian String Quartet

Our next concert is the amazing Australian String Quartet performing works by Mozart, Ligeti and Mendelssohn. For over 30 years, the Australian String Quartet (ASQ) has created unforgettable chamber music experiences for national and international audiences. From its home base at the University of Adelaide, Elder



Conservatorium of Music, the ASQ reaches out across Australia and the world to engage people with an outstanding program of performances, workshops, commissions and education projects. In recent years the ASQ has appeared at international music festivals and toured extensively throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, New Zealand and Asia.

Friday 20 April 7.30 at McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College