



YOUR NEXT CONCERT! Friday 7 October 7.30pm Australian Octet plays Schubert, Dvorak & Koehne



Be enthralled by one of the greatest works of chamber music

In 1828, two months before his untimely death at the age of just 31, Schubert completed what would be his only string quintet. Unperformed for more than two decades after his death, it has risen to be admired as a work of extraordinary emotional range and great beauty, demanding exceptional skill from its performers.

This performance of the Schubert Quintet by members of the **Australian Octet** is matched with Dvorak's atmospheric Sextet and a newly commissioned Octet from one of our finest living composers, Graeme Koehne. See you there!

Melbourne Brass Quintet - 12 August

Dr Malcolm John's review

For any sceptics, wary that an unknown group of Brass troglodytes might intrude upon their concept of chamber music, the delightful variety of sonorities ranging from C16 to the present, presented with considerable skill and much panache, relieved their anxiety with a resounding response from young and old in last night's McAuley Hall concert by the Melbourne Brass Quintet. This relaxed group of top musicians, 2 trumpets, horn, trombone and tuba, not only recently toured country Victoria and schools but spent 4 months coalescing to perform this concert; serious work for players in demand both nationally and internationally.



Able led by trumpeter Joel Brennan, with fellow American trombonist Don Immel as raconteur, the Scheidt's *Battle Suite* arranged by Philip Jones from the original Viols, showed how technically advanced the early C17 composers were, and how apt this many-layered music was for this ensemble, with its mood changes and suitable instrumental range.

Likewise, the *Colchester Fantasy* a modern-day pub tour, whose names and past associations of 4 pubs inspired USA composer Eric Ewazen to present a kaleidoscope of impressions, the most appealing being the Marquis of Granby, with its sonorous faded glory. *Fire Dance*, by Anthony Di Lorenzo, was spectacular in its splashes of colourful brilliance from all players, particularly the horn and tuba.

The *Scherzo* by John Cheetham was quirky in its approachable harmonies and simple structure. Australian composer Andrew Batterham's commissioned *Melbourne Mosaic* was inspired by 2 iconic buildings and their place in our culture. The serious and sonorous Shrine (of Remembrance) hinted at bugle calls near the end. The sparkling Spire of the Arts Centre began with punctuations of scattered light, gradually building to an impressive wall of sound.

Astor Piazzolla's *Suite*, based on his opera Maria de Buenos Aires, displayed a fine sense of ensemble in depicting various moods and styles of the 1974 Nuevo Tango. Trombone solos were particularly effective. The program ended with an encore of Canadian Brass's arrangement of *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*, and was given the full blues treatment, displaying once again the varied skills of these excellent players.

AYCMC Final

Wendy Galloway sums up the event

On Sunday August 21 the 26th winner of the 2016 Australian Youth Classical Music Competition was chosen. Flautist **Rosie Gallagher** was awarded the \$10,000 traveling scholarship which she plans to use to further her studies and performance skills with a Fellowship in New York.



Riley Skevington (violin) Rosie Gallagher (flute) Hannah Shin (piano) Xenia Deviatkina-Loh (violin)

This Geelong-based competition has been awarding substantial cash prizes to young classical instrumentalists for 26 years - the first award was to pianist Philip Johnston in 1991. The list includes pianists Rebecca Chambers and David Tong, cellists Li Wei Qin and Karol Kowalik, violinists Sophie Rowell and Zoe Freisberg, and flautist Timothy Munro.

The standard is very high and the competition intense. Around 40 musicians send in an application CD which goes to a panel of elite musicians who select 10 semi finalists. These 10 young musicians play in Geelong where four are selected as grand finalists.

This year it was a difficult task for the Adjudicator Stephen Snellemann who selected Rosie Gal-lagher as the winner and decided that the other three finalists should all receive equal 2nd placing. They were violinists Xenia Deviatkina-Loh and Riley Skevington and pianist Hannah Shin.

The Trust of the AYCMC has been delighted to form a partnership with the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust and this collaboration has given important financial support. The costs of running a competition such as this one are considerable and financial assistance is always very welcome.

In conjunction with the National Competition open to Australian citizens up to the age of 25, there is a Regional competition which offers performance opportunities and cash prizes to young instrumentalists up and including the age of 18. This is restricted to young musicians who live in the Geelong region. The performances and the judging of the Regional competition is separate from the National competition.

It is a hard road for our gifted and hard working young musicians; competitions such as this one are important in giving performance opportunities as well as the chance to win substantial cash prizes. If only our young musicians were given the support and money that is on offer for our sportsmen and women!

If you would like more information about this program please go to the website: www.aycmc.org.au.

Sounds like Paradise

Helen Jordan recalls the Townsville Festival of Chamber Music

Balmy weather and a week of wonderful chamber music makes a trip to Townsville beguiling and satisfying.

This was the tenth year that Piers Lane has been Artistic Director and brought a selection of the best Australian musicians together with a sample of international ones, to play some of the classics of the repertoire and, with such a breadth of talent at hand, many compositions that one would have heard rarely, if at all. At the Farewell concert, Piers was presented with a piece, composed by Elena Kats-Chernin, to celebrate his anniversary in the role.



Everyone would have their favourite items but some stood out as particularly memorable, such as Schubert's *Die Winterreise* sung by English baritone Roderick Williams and interspersed with readings from the diary of Scott's fatal journey in the Antarctic. These added to the poignancy and intensity of the music and matched the changing moods and final bleakness of the musical journey. Other highlights were the Mendelssohn *Octet* and Osvaldo Golijov's work *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind* for clarinet (David Griffiths) and string quartet performed in the intimate St Joseph's Church.

Another was the winner of the Sydney International Piano Competition, Andrey Gugnin and English violinist, Tasmin Little, thrilling listeners again with Beethoven's *Kreutzer Sonata* for which he had won the prize for the best Sonata performance in the chamber music section of the competition. We were

also delighted when Piers interviewed him as part of a morning Concert Conversation. These are a very interesting part of the program, a relaxed setting when the audience learns something about the people behind the instruments, their often amazing, and always focused, life journeys, and also their sense of humour.

The delights of the AFCM week in Townsville are too numerous to catalogue, but it is a treat worth saving for to bask in the sunny weather and indulge in the cornucopia of wonderful chamber music, performed by some of the world's best musicians. Dates for 2017 are 28 July to 5 August. www.afcm.com.au.

Membership

Geelong Chamber Music Society relies on its valued members to keep fine concerts alive in Geelong and to continue supporting young musicians. Just \$20 a year makes you a member... so why not encourage a friend also! Members are treated to an **end-of-year musical soirée** with refreshments and details of the new concert series! It's members and donors only!

Membership/Renewal and Donation forms are on the wrapper of this newsletter or available from our website.

Concert Diary

Sunday 9 October 3pm

Australian Boys Choir @ St Mary's - Tickets \$25/20 from musicatthebasilica.org.au

Friday 28 October 8pm

Geelong Symphony @ Costa Hall - Tickets \$45/40/20 from GPAC

Tuesday 8 November 11am

Benaud Trio @ Melbourne Recital Centre - Tickets \$56.50 from Musica Viva

Sunday 11 December 2.30pm

Opera Australia Chorus @ Sacred Heart - Tickets \$50/45/10 from gcms.org.au or GPAC

2017 Concert Series

We're excited! The artists in our new series are exciting also! Watch our website for details!



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