



GEELONG CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY INC.

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The Score

Issue 1. December 2009

Welcome to the first issue of the society's Newsletter. We plan to distribute it four or five times a year to keep in touch with you and give you some additional information about the groups and music that is being presented, and also some of the other musical events happening in Geelong.

Review of our inaugural season

2009 was a great success from the point of view of our audience. Many of you asked us to 'keep up the good work' bringing to Geelong some of the superb chamber ensembles that play in Melbourne and we appreciate your encouragement. If you know of a chamber ensemble intending to present a concert themselves in Geelong, we may be able to publicise it through our mailing list. Please discuss it with a member of the committee before you commit the society to anything!

Special thanks are due to the City of Greater Geelong for the grant of \$3,300, our very generous donors and advertisers, and Arts Victoria, which provided over \$3,000 through its Guarantee Against Loss scheme to help us to break even on the concerts by the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. And, of course, to you, our audience, who contributed financially and to the wonderful atmosphere of anticipation and delight, and to Sacred Heart College and Wesley Uniting Church for permission to use their venues.

City of Greater Geelong Community Arts Grant

Our very exciting news is that the City of Greater Geelong has again promised its support and has awarded the society a Community Arts Grant of \$5,000. The funds and the recognition are both greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to our 'bottom line'.

Audience Survey

We value your input and thank those who completed the Audience Survey. In the expectation that our audience will grow as supporters bring their friends to share the music, we will keep concert ticket prices at the 2009 level and continue to offer a very low price for students. Most people said they learned of the concerts through a friend or teacher so please continue to spread the word. There are still plenty of vacant seats. In response to the preferences expressed, we have decided to distribute the program free but to continue making a separate charge for supper.

A clear majority of respondents voted for two concerts by the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and many said they would like more concerts, especially works with piano and Early Music. We are delighted that there will be **five concerts in 2010** and we have noted your suggestions for specific ensembles and musicians and will follow up on as many as possible over the next few years. We did enjoy those who responded to the question about what you would like to hear with "Surprise me", and "Any" and we *will* try to program the Brahms Horn Trio in E flat requested by one music-lover! Friday evening was the most popular but some ensembles are able to perform only on Saturday so we will still have at least one Saturday concert in 2010 and probably two.

2010 Series

The opening concert will be on **Saturday 13 March** at the Peter Cannon Performing Arts Centre, St Joseph's College, Newtown. This is a very good venue for about 250 in tiered seating. The featured ensemble will be the **Raga Dolls Salon Orchestra**, an unusual combination of instruments - strings plus guitar, clarinet, trumpet, piano accordion and percussion. The group includes Geelong-connected Michelle John, Nic Synot and Bruno Siketa and will launch our year with something a little different and light-hearted. We can imagine we are at the Melbourne Festival Spiegeltent.



The orchestra plays music composed for the group by its musical director, David Osborne. The program will be selected from the orchestra's most recent two CD's, 'Late Harvest', inspired by an exhibition of Australian Impressionist paintings, and 'Night Falls', evoking European dance rhythms and melodies that will make it difficult for you to sit still in your seats. Their music is sometimes broadcast on ABC Classic FM and the website is www.ragadolls.com.au .

On **Friday 14 May**, the **Melbourne Chamber Orchestra** will bring its program 'Birdsong' to McAuley Hall, with Bach, Telemann, Tchaikowsky and a fourth work to be advised. This concert will also be the culmination of the **Advanced String Players Workshop** to be conducted by William Hennessy and members of the MCO in Term 2. The selected students from various schools and colleges in Geelong will perform alongside their mentors in the orchestra in one of the items. The workshop sessions will be hosted by The Geelong College and information will be distributed to schools early in 2010 so watch out for that if you know someone who would like to participate. Mark Irwin at The Geelong College and Wendy Galloway are co-ordinating the workshops.

The second half of the year will bring a concert by **duo-pianists Igor Machlak and his wife Olga Kharitonova on Friday 30 July**. These beautiful pianists are well-known in Melbourne as soloists and as a team performing duets and duos. Earlier in 2009, they played the Mozart Concerto for Two Pianos with the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra at the Melbourne Recital Centre. We are hoping to be able to obtain a second piano for the evening so that we can have duos in place of duets along with the solos. Please let us know if you are able to help in this respect. We will also hear concerts by woodwind musicians from the **Australian National Academy of Music on Saturday 11 September**. Details of their program will not be known until next year. The final concert, by the **Melbourne Chamber Orchestra on Friday 22 October** will feature and a new work by Richard Mills and young Melbourne pianist, Amir Farid playing a Mozart Concerto. Details will be provided in our brochure to be distributed late in January, but please note these dates in your diary now.

Thank you for your support in 2009. It has been quite a steep, but exciting, learning curve for the committee but we have met many wonderful people who have helped in various ways to make the venture a success. We are sure that you will enjoy the concerts in our 2010 series and we will continue to offer a guest ticket to those who subscribe to the full series and hope that you will encourage a friend to join you at these beautiful concerts.

We wish you all a **Happy Christmas** and look forward to enjoying with you a very special Opening Night on Friday 13 March with the distinctive music of the Raga Dolls Salon Orchestra.

The Committee of the Geelong Chamber Music Society.

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please send an email request, including your name, to admin@gcms.org.au, or a note to the Secretary, 15 Cedmar Ave, Highton 3216 or phone 5243 6931.