

The Melbourne Chamber Orchestra presents our final concert for 2017, Letters from Tchaikovsky, a program of Russian music by Arensky, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky. Violinist Shane Chen will feature in Souvenir d'un lieu cher, Tchaikovsky's ensemble piece arranged for violin and string orchestra. There is also the much loved Serenade for Strings - listen for that famous waltz!

GCMS celebrates 10 years

From our Patron



Since age 14, when I first heard the newly established Musica Viva Quartet in Camp Street, Ballarat, the importance of quality chamber music-making in our society loomed large in my mind. Through Helen Jordan's initiative and strong support from music lovers in Geelong, where

there had been a lack of Musica Viva presence for several years, the Geelong Chamber Music Society was formed. Sacred Heart College warmed to the idea of opening up their splendid new McAuley Hall to quality groups performing on campus, particularly since a fine Yamaha grand piano had recently been purchased by the College, without which the project could not have proceeded.

Concerts began in 2009 with two appearances of Melbourne Chamber Orchestra (MCO), whose lively director, William Hennessy had strong connections with our city via the Brockman family. His fine ensemble returns, usually twice a year, to the present day, and has formed a quality backbone to the many varied programs. Trios and String Quartets - Hamer, Tinalley, Goldner, Australian and Flinders - were balanced with Piano Duos and soloists, including Igor & Olga, Piers Lane, Hoang Pham, Daniel de Borah and Stephen McIntyre. Anna Goldsworthy illustrated her autobiography with piano.

The broad brush of 'music for a small room' encompassed guitarists Slava and Leonard Grigoryan, ANAM Wind Ensemble, Melbourne Brass Quintet, Sydney Wind Quintet, recorder & guitar with Genevieve Lacey & Karin Schaupp, La Compania, with their medieval instruments, the Arcadia Winds and composer Elena Kats-Chernin with pianist Tamara-Anna Cislowska. Singers have also participated. The standard of performance has been consistently high, and the eclectic audience greatly appreciated the wide variety of styles, even when the challenging music of Penderecki was performed by the ANAM Orchestra with Richard Tognetti.

One of the educational initiatives has been to involve local youth in String Workshops with tutors from the MCO organised by Wendy Galloway, with the support of The Geelong College. Similar workshops with Bay City Strings and St Joseph's College will run in 2018.

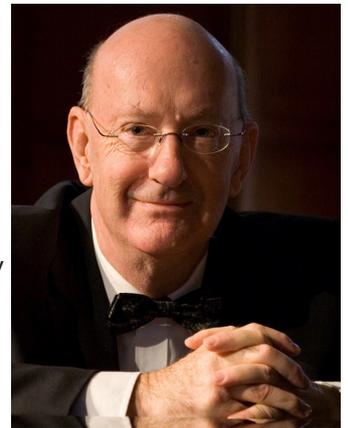
The GCMS Committee has worked hard to make the programs special, and has received support from several private sponsors as well as the City of Greater Geelong and Creative Victoria. It is to be hoped that GCMS will, with the support of Geelong's music lovers, continue to flourish. It is a jewel in the crown of our fair city's musical life.

Well done!

Malcolm John OAM

Stephen McIntyre

An appreciative audience enjoyed a great recital of works by four innovators of music for the keyboard/piano given by Stephen McIntyre, one of Australia's finest pianists and teachers. Stephen's introductory remarks assisted greatly in our understanding of the music, especially the Prokofiev Sonata No.7 which is difficult for both audience and performer.



Stephen's program opened with four of the 550 odd short sonatas or 'exercises' written by the Italian Scarlatti, mostly when he was living in Spain in the early 18th century. These works are known for their harmonic inventiveness.

Stephen gave a stirring account of Chopin's famous 'funeral march' Sonata No.2 in B flat minor, Op.35, written at Nohant in 1839 (though the funeral march had been written two years earlier). Schumann suggested Chopin bound four of his most unruly children together - the work is certainly tumultuous especially the last movement, a mysterious bumpy ride lasting only a little over a minute.

After interval Stephen captured the essence of each of five Debussy Preludes from Book 2 - written in the winter of 1913 - finishing with the evocative *Feux d'artifice* (Fireworks).

Prokofiev's great Sonata No.7 in B flat major, Op.83 was written in 1942 after the composer had returned to his homeland and was subject to the will of Stalin and his music police. It is a work of power, sadness and great beauty with a toccata-like finale, Precipitato, which Stephen played with great authority.

A beautiful encore by Galuppi, the little-known but prolific composer of the early 18th century, brought a wonderful evening of music-making to a close.

And the performance by the Cats by the third quarter was the icing on the cake!

David Eyres

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.

Shall we dance?

Orchestra Geelong presents its final concert for 2017 on Sunday 12 November at 3.00pm in the Keith Humble Centre, Geelong College. The Dance is the theme, with music by Smetana, Strauss, Tchaikovsky and Saint-Saens. Dancers from the Geelong Ballet Centre are guest performers, and two concerto movements will be included, Audrey Moore with the Weber Bassoon Concerto and Meissa Murphy playing Malcolm John's Oboe Concertino. Guest Conductor is Dylan Edge. Tickets at the door \$20/15, Students free. All are welcome.

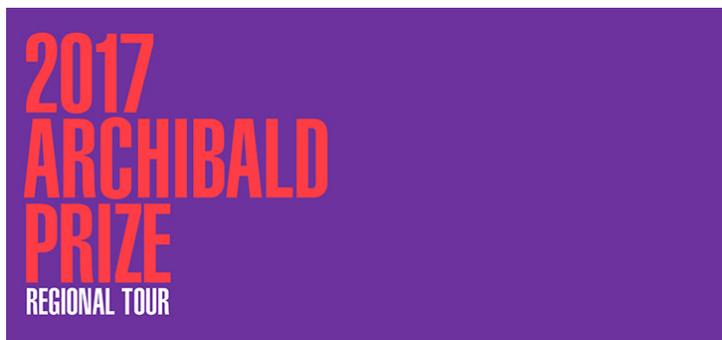
10th Anniversary Concert Series Launch

The 2018 Concert Series was launched at the Soiree for members and donors at Celie's Dining Room, on Friday 20 October. Details of the programs were unveiled by vice-president Hugh Collins, with portraits of composers and artists screened by David Fox, and accompanied by musical excerpts.

There was unanimous approval of the artists and programs that will be heard throughout 2018 and everyone agreed that it will be a truly celebratory year. The response of delighted anticipation by the audience was very rewarding for the members of the committee who had been determined to make 2018 a landmark year.

Entertainer for the evening was well-known Geelong guitarist Peter Huf, director of music school 'Bach2roc'. Peter performed a little Bach and other pieces by more contemporary composers including Sting. Some of our audience were clearly fans of Sting and delighted to hear his music live.

Geelong Gallery



Geelong Gallery welcomes you to the newly designed foyer, gallery spaces and shop. The Gallery is open daily 10am-5pm. Come in and find out about member benefits and stroll through the 2017 Archibald Prize exhibition. It's on until December 10.

Sunday Serenade at Sacred Heart College

On Sunday afternoon, November 26, from 2.30, McAuley Hall will be filled with the beautiful sounds of tenor, french horn and piano.

Kent McIntosh, tenor with the Opera Australia Chorus, will sing some of the most loved songs by Schubert and Richard Strauss. Kent was part of the OA Chorus members concert here last December. He will be accompanied by Saul Lewis, french horn player with the MSO, and concert pianist, Kristian Chong. They will also perform folk songs by Vaughan-Williams and Britten and finish on a light note with Gilbert and Sullivan, and Flanders and Swann.



The proceeds of the concert will help to provide a scholarship for a girl who could not otherwise afford to attend the College.

Tickets to the concert, including afternoon tea, are \$40/35/10, available from www.trybooking.com/SOSN. Alternatively, you can phone Helen Jordan 5243 6931 or book with her at the GCMS concert on Friday evening November 24.

Concert Diary

- **Sunday 12 November 3pm Orchestra Geelong - Shall We Dance**
Keith Humble Centre, Geelong College
- **Friday 24 November 7.30pm Melbourne Chamber Orchestra - Letters from Tchaikovsky**
McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College
- **Sunday 26 November 2.30pm - Sunday Serenade**
Kent McIntosh, Saul Lewis, Kristian Chong
Tickets \$40/35/10 www.trybooking.com
- **Sunday 15 December 8pm - Wind ire Chamber Choir Music at The Basilica**
Christmas Noel with Lee Abrahmsen
Tickets \$35/30 www.trybooking.com/QOSS or at the door