



The Score

Issue 26. September 2014

Greetings to all our friends,

My apologies for the length of time that has passed since the previous issue of *The Score* was distributed. The editor, and a number of other chamber music lovers from the Society spent a wonderful week in August at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville. Some of us stayed longer to bask in the warmth of a Queensland August before returning home.

Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Townsville

The festival is the peak chamber music festival in Australia and 2014 was its 24th year. It is directed by Piers Lane, extends over over nine days from Friday night, and includes about 25 concerts plus master classes and a young peoples' opera production. The festival presents works of a great variety of composers both well-known and little-known.

During the first half of the festival, Brisbane's elite chamber ensemble, the Camerata of St John's supported, and combined with, soloists from Australia and overseas, including Diana Doherty, Genevieve Lacey, British violinist Tasmin Little and cellist Alexander Baillie, along with other international woodwind and string musicians and singers. The Camerata's contribution was huge and very well prepared. The availability of such an ensemble and a line-up of amazing soloists meant that we could enjoy a typical concert that showcased recorder, violin, oboe and cello soloists and finished with the Camerata, Goldner Quartet, plus international and Australian woodwind musicians, and pianist Tamara-Anna Cisłowska playing Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. This delicious diversity and extraordinary musicianship continued throughout the week.

One of the special features of the festival is the series of *Concert Conversations* in which Piers Lane interviews five or six of the musicians and, after morning tea, they perform for an hour. Piers is a very skilled interviewer and it is good to feel one has got to know the musicians and their stories a little better, and enjoyed a bit of humour with them along the way. The performance of baritone Thomas Meglioranza from the USA, telling the story of *The New Suit (Zipperfly)* was one such highlight.

For me, one of the most enjoyable events was Sunday night's Concert Crawl. The three historic venues were more intimate and relaxed than the Civic Theatre. One combination at each historic venue shone out: Composer-in-Residence Elena Kats-Chernin and friend Tamara-Anna Cisłowska playing piano duets, William Barton playing didgeridoo, joined by his mother whose voice was electrifying in the enclosed space, and oboist Diana Doherty (barefoot) and Dutch bassoonist Bram van Sambeek (also barefoot) playing a Villa-Lobos duo that could have been interpreted as a passionate argument between two hot-headed people, but for the smiles and embrace at the end.

The 2015 Festival begins on Friday 31st July and a contingent from Geelong will go again. If you would like to know more about the festival, and the cost, please speak to committee members Peter and Jenny Horan, Noeline Sandblom or Helen Jordan.

New Sydney Wind Quintet – Friday 17th October at 7.30pm

This is our final concert for the year and we are pleased to present a woodwind ensemble. The quintet was formed in 2004 from members of the teaching staff at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, although there have been a couple of changes to personnel since then.

The special quality of a wind quintet stems from the varied timbres of the instruments. These are particularly effective in creating images and evoking places, moods and characters, qualities very evident in the program they have chosen to play for us.

Ravel originally composed *Mother Goose* for Piano Duet and later orchestrated it, so the version for wind quintet draws on his instrumental ideas for the work. It will be enjoyed equally by children and adults who are familiar with the stories that the work portrays.

Paul Taffanel played the flute from the age of nine and became Professor of Flute at the Paris Conservatoire. He was responsible for a revival of early music and composed a number of works for wind instruments, including his Wind Quintet in G minor in 1876.

Percy Grainger's *Walking Tune* is a familiar tune, as are many from Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, which delights audiences both young and old. We are very pleased to have music educator and commentator, Graham Abbott to narrate this delightful musical drama. Each instrument has its special role to play and we are sure it will be a wonderful finale to our 2014 series. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to arrange to have this item performed earlier so that more children could enjoy it, but we will be delighted if young people come for the concert. They can sleep in on Saturday!

A ticket order form is included at the end of the newsletter. You may like to complete it and post it to GCMS, P.O. Box 988, Geelong 3220.

Australian Youth Classical Music Competition

The Final of the competition was adjudicated by Stephen Snelleman, music producer with ABC classic FM. Stephen selected pianist Aaron Liu, 21, as winner of the National Section. Aaron is currently studying Master of Music Studies in Performance in Brisbane and plans to further his studies at the Royal College of Music, London, next year. The runners-up were violinist Doretta Balkizas, 23, studying a Professional Performance program at ANAM, and flautist Lathan Horn, 24, currently studying a Master of Arts at the Anton Bruckner Universitat in Austria.

The Regional Section was won by tuba player Alexander Jeantou, 17. The Geelong Chamber Music Society prizes for the runners-up went to William Crowther, 16, trumpet, Kelvin Liu, 14, piano and Amy You, 15, violin. We congratulate all of these musicians on their dedication and their excellent performances.

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra Concert - Elegies and Dances

This was our major presentation for the year and Dr Malcolm John had this to say in his review of this concert that toured the state:

The opening J.S.Bach *Andante* showed leader Bill Hennessy at his most expressive. His impressive technical control supported beauty of tone, clarity of line and some masterly

gentle double-stopping. This music merged into the *A minor Violin Concerto*, the ensemble displaying lively insight into the creative flow encouraged by Prince Leopold at the Court of Cöthen.

Stokowski's take on *Dido's Lament* by Purcell was sonorous and passionate, although the essential ornamental closing of phrases tended to be quite smoothed out.

Romanian cellist Paul Ghica introduced the popular suite of Bartok's *Romanian Folk Dances*. These were played with much tonal interest and variety, from the mysterious harmonics of *Pe loc* to the demanding rhythms of *Maruntele*.

After interval, the melding of old and new continued with the seldom-heard complete *Holberg Suite* by Grieg, who adopted 18th century dance titles for the five movements. Sensitive playing by an expanded ensemble, including deeper notes on the bass and fine solos on the cello, was appreciated.

45 year old Australian composer Paul Stanhope's *Elegies & Dances* showed the influence of the late Peter Sculthorpe, in the structural evolution of motives hidden then blossoming. Although some found the 2014 musical language rather daunting, it was a powerful and evocative performance of this intense piece, which was inspired by the composer's own recent String Quartet.

The closing belonged to Bach, arranged by Bachrich; again, a sensitive view of 18th century music in early 20th century style. This *Adagio* from his *Suite for Strings* was beautifully played. For an encore Nic Buc's scintillating arrangement of Grainger's *Country Gardens* was the icing on the cake.

Musica Viva Concert Season

Musica Viva's *CountryWide* Program helps regional and country organisations to present tours by Australian artists. The Sydney Wind Quintet will be coming to Geelong through this program as did Ensemble Liaison and Wilma Smith for our first concert this year

At the Melbourne Recital Centre, Musica Viva presents a series of evening concerts by international (including Australian) artists and also morning Coffee Concerts by Australian artists during the year. Musica Viva has asked us to tell you about the remaining 2014 concerts.

The legendary **Borodin Quartet** – 7pm Tuesday 14th October. Quartets by Beethoven (Opus 18 No 2), Shostakovich (Opus 110) and Tchaikovsky (Opus 22). Tickets are \$93 - \$128. This concert is also part of the Melbourne Festival so tickets are scarce.

Australian virtuoso violinist **Ray Chen** with pianist **Timothy Young** (from Ensemble Liaison) – Tuesday 11 November at 7pm and Saturday 22nd November at 8pm. Violin sonatas by Mozart and Prokofiev, Bach Partita No 3 and three pieces by Sarasate. Tickets are \$61-120.

Coffee Concerts commence with coffee and cake from 10am followed at 11 by a one-hour concert. The final concert in the 2014 series will be given on Tuesday 18 November by the illustrious Goldner Quartet playing Haydn and Janacek and Australian composer Kat McGuffie. Tickets: Adult \$47, may be purchased at the Recital Centre on the day.

Committee Affairs

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.

We are still happy to accept new and renewing memberships of the Incorporated Association. 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 fee of \$20 per person to GCMS, PO Box 988, Geelong, 3220. You do not need to be a member in order to attend the concerts. Membership is a mark of support for the work of the society and members and donors are invited to celebrate with us at the end-of-year soiree and are the first to see the brochure for the following year.

We look forward to seeing you again at the concert on 17th October.

Helen Jordan for GCMS Committee.



The New Sydney Wind Quintet.

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-June 2015.

Enclosed is cheque/money order for the **annual membership fee of \$20 per person**.

Email address (if any).....

Signed

Date

Please post this form with your fee to GCMS, PO Box 988, Geelong 3220.

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GEELONG CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY INC

Concert by *Sydney Wind Quintet*

I.....of

wish to purchase the following tickets to the concert on Friday 17th October:

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

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

..... Student @ \$10 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