



The Score

Issue 22. December 2013

Christmas Greetings, Music Lovers,

2014 - The Sixth Geelong Chamber Music Society Concert Series

At last we are able to reveal to you the artists who will be appearing in our 2014 series. We are very pleased with the ensembles we have been able to engage, and also with a series that features a wide variety of instruments both ancient and modern, and also two voices.

The year will open with *Ensemble Liaison* comprising clarinet, cello and piano, and they will be joined by violinist Wilma Smith, who is Concertmaster of the MSO and will retire from that position at the end of 2014. A highlight of the program will be the *Quartet for the End of Time*, composed by Messiaen for the instruments available to him in the Russian Stalag in 1941 and first performed by the composer and other prisoners there.

The *Melbourne Chamber Orchestra* has formed a string Octet from its senior players. This will enable it to explore music for between five and eight string players and offer more varied programs, including its touring programs. We are excited by this development and by the adventurous program the Octet will perform on its first tour, comprising Mills, Shostakovich, Brahms and Enescu. In association with this concert, the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra plans to offer a Master Class to selected local students, during the afternoon of the concert. Details are yet to be finalised.

For some years, patrons have been requesting a concert of Early Music. We have now been able to accede to that request and will present *La Compañia* – quite a large group of musicians with soprano Lotte Betts-Dean to transport us into the period of the Renaissance. The ensemble comprises strings, woodwind, brass and percussion and many of the members play more than one instrument. Rosemary Hodgson, who plays vihuela, guitar, lute and theorbo, is from Geelong and a former student of Sacred Heart College (website: www.lacompania.com.au).

The *Melbourne Chamber Orchestra* has been the mainstay of each series since the society was formed. The full touring orchestra returns in September with a program *Elegies and Dances* dating from Bach to Bartok, offering an experience of the extremes of emotion drawn out by these music forms. In addition, Artistic Director William Hennessy will be the soloist in Bach's *Concerto for Violin in A minor*.

Finally, we will hear an ensemble from interstate, the *New Sydney Wind Quintet*, whose members have, in fact, been playing together for some ten years. The different timbres of the instruments make woodwind chamber music particularly interesting to the ear. Ravel was famous as an orchestrator and his *Mother Goose Suite* has been arranged for wind quintet. The final item in their program is a particular delight – Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and, by special request, it will be narrated by well-known radio and concert commentator and educator, Graham Abbott. This will be a great concert for children of all ages and we hope you will bring along some young family members and share with them the thrill of hearing classical music live and up close – not to mention the drama of *Peter and the Wolf*.

A copy of the brochure is included with this issue and the booking slip is printed on the last page of the newsletter. If you would like to give a friend a gift of a subscription or concert ticket, please phone Helen Jordan on 5243 6931 to arrange it.

If you have not yet attended a concert, you may not know what a great venue McAuley Hall is for chamber music. The comfortable tiered seating means that everyone has a good view of the musicians, and the special acoustic treatment ensures that everyone is able to hear clearly, even in the last row. Tea and Coffee and home-made slices are served at interval and the atmosphere is very congenial. We warmly welcome new concert-goers, and hope to see more students in the audience in 2014.

Ticketing

Regrettably, we have had to increase ticket prices after keeping them unchanged for the past two years. The City of Greater Geelong is still our major sponsor and its support is greatly appreciated, but, in view of the large number of worthy applicants for financial support, it has reduced our grant to \$4,000. On the other side of the budget, numerous expenses have increased and we aim to continue support for young musicians through our contribution to the *Australian Youth Classical Music Competition*, our support for workshops and master classes, and to explore other opportunities for furthering the secondary purposes of the Society.

Single ticket prices have risen by \$5 each but the benefit of subscribing will be greater than in the past. Subscribers to the five concerts will, in effect, attend one concert for free and subscribers to four concerts will enjoy a discount of \$30 over the purchase of single tickets. Students continue to receive tickets at very low prices – in fact the price has been reduced!

Special Incentive for subscribers

The committee has decided to offer a refund of the ticket price to one 5-concert subscriber. The names of all those who subscribe to all five concerts by the evening of 27 February 2014, will be entered in the draw. To be eligible, purchase your 5-concert subscription either through the Secretary or through GPAC by the evening of Thursday 27th February 2014.

Avan Yu Piano Recital

You may notice that we have not programmed a piano recital in 2014. However, in March, Avan Yu, winner of the 2012 Sydney International Piano Competition, will again give a recital for *Sacred Heart College*. If you attended the recital in September 2012, you will remember Avan as a very personable and talented musician from Canada. On this visit, he will also give master classes and an interactive concert for young children. All this is being arranged by the College but you will be able to obtain tickets and we will let you know as soon as details are finalised and tickets are available.

Townsville Festival of Chamber Music

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, the *Australian Festival of Chamber Music* will take place in Townsville over a week commencing on 1st August. Piers Lane is the Artistic Director and gathers a wonderful band of some 30 Australian and overseas musicians together. Bookings for the Festival will open in March but, if you wish to have a copy of the brochure sent to you, you may like to visit the website www.afcm.com.au. Having attended last year, Helen Jordan will be going again and would like to hear from anyone else who would like to join the five who have already expressed interest.

Details of the program are not yet available but you can be assured of a wonderful week of music and other activities, in warm, balmy Townsville, and hearing numerous works that are not often performed but are possible because of the large number of musicians that are available. Piers Lane also holds Concert Conversations in which he interviews some of the musicians who then perform, after morning tea.

There is plenty to do in Townsville and on Magnetic Island and there are direct flights from Melbourne and plenty of accommodation to be had in Palmer St. where the musicians also stay.

With best wishes for Christmas from all the members of the GCMS Committee. We look forward to meeting you again in 2014.

Geelong Chamber Music Society Ticket Purchase Form – 2014

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr	Given Name	Family Name
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Address (for tickets and newsletter)

	Postcode
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Email Address (If provided, we send out the newsletter and concert reminders by Email – please print)

	Price	Number of Tickets	Total (\$)
All 5 Concerts Subscription			
Adults (including Seniors)	\$190		
Concession Card Holders	\$165		
Full-Time Students or 18 and under	\$40		
Select 4 Concerts Subscription → Ensemble Liaison <input type="checkbox"/> MCO-1 <input type="checkbox"/> La Comp <input type="checkbox"/> MCO-2 <input type="checkbox"/> NSW Quintet <input type="checkbox"/>			
Adults (including Seniors)	\$160		
Concession Card Holders	\$140		
Full-Time Students	\$30		
Single Concerts	Concerts		
Adult	Ensemble Liaison (28 Feb)	\$45	
	MCO – <i>Masterworks</i> (23 May)	\$50	
	La Compafia (25 July)	\$45	
	MCO – <i>Elegies and Dances</i> (5 Sep)	\$50	
	New Sydney Wind Quintet (25 Oct)	\$45	
Concession	Ensemble Liaison (28 Feb)	\$40	
	MCO – <i>Masterworks</i> (23 May)	\$45	
	La Compafia (25 July)	\$40	
	MCO – <i>Elegies and Dances</i> (5 Sep)	\$45	
	New Sydney Wind Quintet (25 Oct)	\$40	
Student	Ensemble Liaison (28 Feb)	\$10	
	MCO – <i>Masterworks</i> (23 May)	\$10	
	La Compafia (25 July)	\$10	
	MCO – <i>Elegies and Dances</i> (5 Sep)	\$10	
	New Sydney Wind Quintet (25 Oct)	\$10	
Grand Total			

Post with Cheque Or Money Order to The Secretary, GCMS, PO Box 988, GEELONG, VIC 3220
 Inquiries to the Secretary 03 5243 6931 or admin@gcms.org.au Form also available at www.gcms.org.au

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