CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE COMMITTEE

PLEASE NOTE - If you wish to get in touch with the Committee about any aspect of this newsletter, you may email us at friends.som.anu@gmail.com. This will ensure your query is dealt with relatively quickly.

This is also the address for requests to advertise student and alumni concerts. The deadline for material for each monthly newsletter is the third Friday of each month.

The Friends are also now on Facebook! Check it out for breaking news. https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-the-ANU-School-of-Music/361161650736719

This is our last newsletter for 2015. We wish you all a very happy Christmas season, with much music. The Committee will meet in late January to plan our concert program and events for 2016.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

The Friends concert program is over for 2015, but you have a lovely opportunity to hear School alumni, members of the Friends and others in a performance of Handel's Messiah on Saturday 12 December, 7.30 pm in Llewellyn Hall.

Tobias Cole (Conductor)
Rachael Duncan | Veronica Thwaites-Brown
Christopher Lincoln Bogg | Andrew Fysh
CCS Massed Choir | CCS Youth Choir | CCS Orchestra
Lighting by Cynthia Jolley-Rogers

James Huntingford will be playing harpsichord and has helped Tobias Cole rehearse the choir. A number of members of the Friends are singing in the choir. Tickets: www.ticketek.com.au

FRIENDS ENSEMBLE MUSIC PRIZES 2015

The Friends Ensemble Music Competition (formerly known as the Chamber Music Competition) was held on Thursday 19 November, with six finalists, two for the Friends Chamber Music Prize and four for the Friends Jazz and Contemporary Music Prize. The panel comprised Rowan Harvey-Martin (Chair), John Mackey and Teresa Neeman, judging performances on a range of criteria (technical skill, communication, interpretation, tone etc). The prize values for 2015 for each competition were: First Place $1,000 and People’s Choice $500. Andrew Blanch and Callum Henshaw won the Chamber Music Prize with their performances of Songs from the Forest by Nigel Westlake; and Jongo by Paulo Bellinati. The Wattle Guitar Quartet (Jeffrey Cheah, Emma-Shay Gallenti-Guilfoyle, Cassandra Low, Alex Clark) won the People’s Choice Prize, playing Oblivion and La Muerte del Ange by Piazzolla; and Entr’acte and Gypsy Dance from “Carmen Suite” by Bizet.

First Prize and People's Choice Prize in the Jazz and Contemporary Music Competition were won by the Hugo Lee Band (Hugo Lee, Ben Forte, Jack Schwenke, Alec Brinsmead), playing two compositions by Hugo: Damage Control and Stars and Rain, both of which appear on his new CD made with assistance from the Friends – see his feedback report below. There was some tough competition from the Sev Quartet (Eddie Bernasconi, Ben Forte, Alec Brinsmead, Brendan Keller-Tuberg) with improvisations on jazz standards; the ANU Improvisation Ensemble (Amelia Watson, Ben Drury, Ben Harb, Malcolm Newland) with a single improvised piece with piano, percussion and bass; and Three Men, One Chamber (Haydn Fritzlaff, Stephen Read, Brendan Keller-Tuberg) with Down Low (Nobody Has to Know) by R. Kelly; and an improvised work by the three musicians in the band.
Congratulations to the winners and to all the finalists.

MARCIA RUFF HEWITT JAZZ AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC PRIZES 2015

The finals of the Marcia Ruff Hewitt prizes were held on Thursday 30 October, and awarded by Marcia Ruff Hewitt in person. The Best Composition and presentation of a new work for Large Ensemble was won by Andrej Thompson, with Fields played by the ANU Jazz Collective, led by Andrej. Andrej is a Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Science student in his fourth and final year. The Best Composition and presentation of a new work by a singer/songwriter was won by Hugo Lee, with Cool Breeze, performed by Hugo and his band, with Johannes Luebbers on keys and Rose Costi on vocals. Hugo is a Bachelor of Music/Physics student in his third year. The Friends are delighted that both these musicians have been able to compose and record their music with assistance from the Friends. Congratulations to both!

2015 NATIONAL FINAL YOUNG VIRTUOSO AWARDS

The national finals of the Young Virtuoso of the Year Award for 2015 was held on Sunday 29 November at the School of Music. There were five finalists, Alex Raineri (piano) from Queensland, Magdalenna Krstevska (clarinet) from Victoria, Jordan Paterson (piano) from South Australia, Vincent Lo (cello) from New South Wales, and Bernice Chua (piano) from ACT. All were winners from the recent state finals, two in their early teens. The winner was Magdalenna Krstevska. Magdalenna has just completed her honours in Clarinet Music Performance at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. She has participated in many international master classes and will commence study at the Australian National Academy of Music in February 2016. We congratulate Magdalenna on her win.

In presenting the award Larry Sitsky noted the high standard of the competition, and that it was unusual for juries to be unanimous, but in this case they were. As well as talking of the quality of the finalists, he referred to the generous level of the prize money ($10,000) and observed that if it were better known, he was sure that the Fine Music Network could attract a bigger audience and more support - a thought for future promotion of the competition.

GRANTS TO STUDENTS

The Committee recently approved a second Fankhauser Travelling Fellowship to Jelena Mamic, to participate in the operatic competition Ottavio Ziino in Rome 4-8 November. Congratulations to Jelena!

FEEDBACK FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS

Hugo Lee reports on the making of his recording of his own compositions, Confluence, which was released recently: ‘The initial goal of the project was to create a 10-15 track album (30-60mins long) of original compositions, featuring 8 ANU School of Music students. The genre was not predefined, with the intention to experiment and draw on the existing styles of World, Jazz, Pop, Funk, Latin and Experimental. In the end, 15 students, 5 staff members and 5 alumni were involved and the 12-track album Confluence spanned 45 minutes. The musical styles .... varied greatly, with approximately half the tracks being instrumental and the other half featuring singers, with all tracks being original compositions. Recording was undertaken at mostly at ANU, but also at Myall and various home recording studios. The album was mixed by SOM alumni and staff member Louis Montgomery, and mastered locally by Kimmo Vennonen. Booklet photography was undertaken by a graduate ANU arts student, Luis Power. The hard-copy CDs were manufactured by MAD CDs and the album is also available on iTunes, Spotify and SoundCloud.

'The generous funding provided by the Friends catered for 53% of the total expenses, enabling the project to scale up to a full album and be of a professional production quality. I am extremely grateful for the support provided by the Friends of the School of Music, allowing Confluence to exceed expectations in all ways
imaginable. It has allowed me to further my professional career as a composing, performing and recording artist through gaining a multitude of experiences culminating in a physical document that represents the current stage of my musical development. It also enabled other music students, staff and alumni to further their industry-essential experience of working in a recording environment.

'Confluence brought together a variety of characters associated with the School of Music, resulting in a piece of work that the School as a whole can be proud of, and will thus encourage similar activities and pursuits in future students, contributing to the overall creative flourishing of the School...Thanks also to Andrew Farriss for mentoring the process, to my saxophone teacher John Mackey for being of invaluable assistance to my playing, and to Miroslav Bukovsky, Johannes Luebbers and all the staff at the ANU School of Music who continue to assist and inspire me.'

**2016 JAZZ IN CONCERT AT THE GODS**

Geoff Page reports his draft program of Jazz at the Gods for 2016, which will continue on 1st Tuesdays of the month at the Gods Café/Bar. As usual, there will be a mix of ANU alumni and visiting bands from other cities.

- Tues Feb 2 Hammerhead (SYD)
- Tues Mar 1 Calum Builder Quartet (WA/CBR)
- Tues Apr 5 Jon Hunt Quartet — The Clarinet in Jazz (MELB)
- Tues May 3 Casey Golden Trio (SYD)
- Tues June 7 Andrew Dickeson Quintet (SYD)
- Tues July 5 Gavin Ahearn Quintet (SYD)
- Tues Aug 2 Sally Greenaway Trio (CBR)
- Tues Sep 6 Martin Reiter Trio (VIENNA)
- Tues Oct 4 Damien Slingsby Quartet (CBR)
- Wed Nov 2 Leigh Barker and the New Sheiks — Early Ellington Tribute (MELB)
- Tues Dec 6 Victor Rufus / Tate Sheridan — Tribute to Jim Hall and Bill Evans

Admission $22/$15 (conc).

The Gods Café/Bar is in the ANU Arts Centre (diagonally across the quadrangle from the Student Union near Sullivans Creek).

**Bookings essential.** Light meals available beforehand at 6.00 pm. Please book early on 6248 5538. 'Non-eating' seats can also be booked. Seating is limited to 80. Music starts at 7.30 pm.