



FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC NEWSLETTER NO 2

MARCH 2017

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 concerts.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual General Meeting 6pm March 21
Friends Ensemble Competition Wednesday May 24
Austrian Embassy Concert (TBC) Thursday May 25
Italian Embassy Concert Thursday August 31
Hungarian Embassy Concert Thursday October 26

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Internationally recognised composer and performer Prof Ken Lampl has been appointed as Head of The Australian National University (ANU) School of Music. Renowned tenor and early music specialist Dr Paul McMahon has been appointed Deputy Head of the School. The Friends are pleased to congratulate Ken and Paul on their appointments and look forward to working productively with them both.

Professor Lampl, who joined the ANU as Professor of Composition in 2016, has been trained in both classical music and jazz and is a former faculty member of the renowned Juilliard School in New York City. ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt said Professor Lampl and Dr McMahon would form an energetic and inspirational leadership team who will ensure that the recently announced \$12.5 million strategic investment in the School would build its reputation and ensure ANU music students were sought after and well prepared for careers in music.

"I'm absolutely delighted to appoint Ken Lampl and Paul McMahon to

lead the School of Music," Professor Schmidt said. "During his career, Ken has played alongside some of the world's greatest jazz musicians, while his compositions for film, TV and games are known around the world. The University is particularly pleased that Ken, while Head, will continue to teach students at ANU and pursue his vision for excellence in teaching and research at the School of Music, and that Paul will foster growth of the performance program."

Professor Lampl has strong expertise in recording and music technology. For the past decade he was Director of the Music Business and Technology Program at Hofstra University in New York, which Billboard Magazine ranked as one of the top music industry programs in the United States.

He has studied with legendary film composer John Williams and taught at Juilliard, the Shanghai Conservatory and the Danish National Conservatory. He has composed music for dozens of films and TV shows, including the first two Pokemon movies.

Professor Lampl said he was excited to become the new Head and he looked forward to building an elite program to take the School of Music into the 21st Century. "Together with my colleagues at the School of Music, we will build an education program which emphasises the highest level of performance skills alongside skills in multi-media, audio recording, music technology and research," he said. "I'm committed to building on the great strengths of the ANU and to position the School of Music as the premiere school for 21st Century musical training."

Dr McMahon, who is currently head of the Performance program with responsibility for all instrumental and vocal courses in the School of Music, will focus on building internationally ranked performance tuition as the School builds up its numbers of internal performance teachers.

"This is a crucial time for the School," said Dr McMahon. "I am proud to be working with Ken Lampl, to meet the opportunities presented in the report of Andrew Podger last year, which were built upon extensive community consultation. We know what the University, the community and the profession expect from the School. We now want to deliver so many of those expectations, within a framework of strong education, quality practice and insightful research."

As part of the University's Music leadership arrangements, Professor Malcolm Gillies, current interim head of the School, will remain as the

School's mentor, and Will Christie, the head of the Humanities Research Centre, will retain the role of supervisor. Both are committed to a smooth transition for the School when the new leadership arrangements take effect on 1 March 2017.

The appointment of the new Head and Deputy Head of School follows the ANU decision in October 2016 to commit an extra \$12.5 million to the School of Music over five years to ensure a bright future for music teaching and research at the University.

NEW TREASURER AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Many of you will know that Annie Oakey (our Treasurer for many years) has had to step down to give her more time to help on family matters. The position of treasurer involves spending 1 to 2 days a month at busy times to process membership subscriptions, concert bookings and do basic financial reports. It would suit someone with an accountancy or book keeping background who would like to help a great cause. **IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO COULD FILL THIS ROLE, PLEASE ASK THEM TO CALL TONY HENSHAW ON 0400 022 770. THANK YOU.**

There is also room on the committee for interested people to join as ordinary members. We welcome expressions of interest from any of the Friends. There will be many opportunities for committee members to be involved in Friends functions throughout the year. We have a busy year planned for 2017 with three embassy concerts, a jazz concert and the historic instruments concert as well as the Ensemble Competition. Committee members can help with organising these functions and have the opportunity to work with the new head of school and his deputy, as well as a new generation of students.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2017

The AGM will be held at 6pm on 21 March in the Meeting Room on Level 6 of the School of Music. Please note this date. A formal notice and papers will be sent out closer to the meeting. Prof Ken Lampl, the new head of school, will be talking at the AGM.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE PUBLIC FUND

Applications have been received and, once enrolments for 2017 are finalised, we will be able to award the **Friends Performance Scholarship** for 2017. **Katrina Tang**, who was awarded this scholarship

in 2016, will continue to be supported for her piano performance studies with a continuation of her scholarship. There will then be a number of students receiving support in parallel as the scholarship has been awarded over the past few years and is for the duration of the student's studies dependent on satisfactory performance. To sustain this, we do need more donations as each student receives \$5,000 per year throughout their degree. If you can help with a donation of any size, please use the process outlined on our web site <https://music.anu.edu.au/friends> or send in the form you will find there. Thank you to those generous members who have already donated. We really appreciate your help.

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017 IS NOW DUE

Membership Fees in 2017 remain the same as for the last two years: \$40 for single membership, \$65 for families, \$20 for pensioners, \$100 for corporate organisations. Life Membership is 10 times the annual membership fee. It is possible to include a donation with your membership payment and donations to the Friends Public Fund of \$2 or over are tax-deductible (Note however that donations to the Friends' general funds are not tax deductible). The membership form was attached to the previous newsletter or can be downloaded from the Friends web site.

Your membership needs to be up-to-date if you wish to attend the Annual General Meeting.

FEEDBACK FROM SUPPORTED STUDENTS

Ann Ewing who was awarded the Transition Award in 2015/2016 reports that she is starting a PhD at the Universität für Musik in Vienna. She has also been busy with teaching, accompanying singers, playing for theatre company auditions, writing her research proposal and enjoying public lectures and concerts. All this while learning German language as a prerequisite to enrolling in a degree.

Andrew Blanch was awarded the Fankhauser Travelling Grant in 2016 to compete in two guitar competitions in the USA. Although unsuccessful in these competitions he reported that the experience and preparation paid off on his return to Australia where he was placed in several competitions culminating in first place at the Melbourne International Classical Guitar Competition. First prize is \$1000 and an eight concert tour of Australia.

Andrew Harrison was awarded a travel grant in 2016 to travel to

Detroit in the USA to premier his composition *Hum* with New Music Detroit and the poet Jamaal May. This is part of his PhD research. Support from the Friends allowed Andrew to hire the conductor Michelle Merrill and a percussionist from the Detroit Symphony for the successful performance of his work.

Jack Schwenke was awarded a recording grant in 2016 to record his CD *Anima Principle*. The recording features eleven past or present School of Music students and will be released as a digital recording in the next few months.

REQUEST TO HOST A HOUSE CONCERT

David Braid, a jazz to classical genre crossing pianist will be in Canberra later this year as he tours with a modern string quartet. He visited Canberra previously in 2012. He is looking for someone to host a house concert. They would need a good piano. The tour is supported by Steinway & Sons and the Canada Council for the Arts. If you are interested please contact Eric Pozza at eric.pozza@gmail.com or directly to David at braid365@gmail.com

UPCOMING CONCERTS

“Jazz at the Gallery” is resuming at the Canberra Grammar School Gallery. The ANU and Canberra Grammar School are partnering to prevent regular jazz concerts. The first concert on Feb 21 featured School of Music alumni Victor Rufus and Tate Sheridan. The next concert is on March 21 at 7.30 pm and features school alumni Llewellyn Osborne on jazz violin and Lachlan Coventry on guitar with their band.

“Live Music @ Lerida” will feature several School of Music alumni over the next few weeks. Matt Withers from Guitar Trek performs on March 5 at 12.30 pm and the **Pizzicato Guitar Duo** of Andrew Blanch and Ariel Nurhadi will play on Sunday March 12 from 12.30 to 3pm at the Lerida Winery.

The program for the next few concerts of **“Jazz in Concert at the Gods Café”** is reproduced below:

Tues Mar 7 Jonathan Zwartz Sextet

Tues Apr 4 Jack Beeche Quartet — Rebirth of the Cool

Tues May 2 Ultrafox

Tues Jun 6 John Harkins Trio

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

development at ANU the series will move to a different venue at the ANU probably from June onwards.

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.