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. 

PERFORMANCE SCHOLAR AND LARKO AWARDS

The inaugural Friends Music Performance Scholar was announced on Facebook a few weeks ago. He is Rory Bolt, a first year violin student.

The first Larko award for 2015 has also been made to Daniel Dwyer, a first year keyboard student. Further applications will be considered in second semester. Congratulations to both! Expect to hear more of these talented students soon.

THE PUBLIC FUND

Now that the Public Fund has disbursed its first scholarship payment to Rory Bolt we would welcome donations to our newly established Public Fund, so that we can build the funds to continue the 2015 scholarship and offer the 2016 one. Donations of $2 or over are now tax-deductible, so please consider a donation as we approach the end of the financial year. We use donations primarily to fund the Friends Music Performance Scholarship. This is an annual scholarship of $5,000 per year to support a newly enrolling student for up to four years of study in an approved SOM performance course. The scholarship is awarded to a high-level first year performance student chosen by the Head of School on the basis of the annual audition and selection process. Continuing support will be dependent on the student maintaining enrolment, achieving progress acceptable to HOS and continuing a performance major.

You can include a donation with your membership or pay directly to the Fund. Donation forms are also available at our concerts. Donations can be made by EFT to: Friends of the School of Music Public Fund; BSB 012950; Account 386546603. Please include your Surname in the description field when making the transfer, and email Annie Oakey, the Treasurer (annieoakey@gmail.com) to advise her of name and address for receipts.

CONCERT AT AUSTRIAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE, 7 SOMERS CRESCENT, FORREST – WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE

Continuing a tradition of several years, the Ambassador for Austria, HE Dr Helmut Böck and Mrs Barbara Böhm-Böck have offered the Residence as a venue for the next Friends’ fund-raising concert, to be held on Wednesday 10 June at 7.00 pm for a 7.15 start. We now have an almost final program for the concert. Come and enjoy an evening of fine music performed by some of the ANU School of Music’s finest young musicians:

- Jelena Mamic (voice) and Anne Ewing (piano) - Schubert and Wagner as well as Berg's "Sommertage"
- Matthew Ventura (bassoon) and Anne Ewing (piano) - movements from Hummel and Mozart concertos for bassoon
- Courtney Hilton (guitar) - movements from Bach's Suite in E minor
Helena Popovic (violin) and Anthony Smith (piano) - Tchaikovsky "Souvenir d'un lieu cher" and a movement from Bruch's "Concerto for Violin No. 1"
Rosemarie Costi (voice) and Benjamin Forte (guitar) - pieces from Van Heusen and Monk

We may have some additional performers on the night as well, subject to space and logistics. A buffet supper will be served after the performance.

Bookings are essential for this concert, and the invitation and booking form are attached, giving details of venue, time and where to send your bookings. This concert is always very popular, so book early to avoid disappointment. Please note that numbers are limited and bookings will be processed in strict order of receipt. Entrée cards will not be issued. Bookings will be acknowledged by email or phone. Enquiries for this concert to anthony.henshaw@gmail.com; 0400 022 770

FRIENDS FUND-RAISING CONCERT PROGRAM FOR 2015

Other planned concerts will be
- Jazz concert in late August
- Historic instruments concert October

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Committee agreed at the May meeting to continue support for the Chamber Music competition, to be renamed the Ensemble Competition with prizes in three genres, an overall prize and a People's Choice Prize. It will be held later in the year. They also met with the ANU Music Students Association President and Secretary at the May meeting, and agreed to work closely in 2015. One opportunity will be an event during the weekend of the Ensemble Competition. In addition the President met with new students earlier in the year, to alert them to the work of the Friends and the opportunities for grants for development opportunities, especially in performance. Transition award applications are under consideration; and applications for the Fankhauser Travelling Fellowship close on 31 May.

FEED BACK REPORTS FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS

William Tu reports: 'I have recently returned from a 6 months trip to the Netherlands to pursue cello lessons with Pieter Wispelwey. The majority of my time was spent in Amsterdam, but I spent a week in Vienna where I had lessons with Tamas Varga, principal cellist of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. I attended many concerts and masterclasses during my time abroad – the most notable being the Cello Biennale Festival in Amsterdam, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw Orchestra and Jean Yves Thibaudet. I joined the University of Amsterdam’s student orchestra at the beginning of my trip, with which I performed Mahler’s 5th Symphony in the Muziekgebouw and took part in a national tour with the orchestra to Utrecht and Hoorn. I was also invited by members of the orchestra to perform in several other concerts of works by Vivaldi, Bach and Handel.

'Having spent such an amount of time with one of the most accomplished cellists alive today was such an incredible experience. I have learnt many new things about the cello and music. Wispelwey’s perspective on teaching is different to most university pedagogues as he devotes little to no time on teaching, therefore his approach being extremely fresh and unique – we spent an hour in our first lesson just planning out how we would spend our lessons and what our aims were. My experience with the CREA Orchestra (University of Amsterdam’s student orchestra) was also extremely rewarding....(making) new friends in the upcoming Dutch classical music scene, amongst many other valuable contacts. Having been the marketing manager for the North Sydney Youth Symphony in the first half of 2014, it was interesting to observe the Dutch approach to organising student orchestras – how everyone in the orchestra took an active role in the running of concerts and rehearsals. Also the heritage that is so deeply rooted in their music culture – the conductor’s father was the principal bassoonist for the Concertgebouw Orchestra for many years. One of my friends in the orchestra had been part of the orchestra since the age of 18 (now 22) and his mother was also part of this orchestra when she was younger. It really opened up my eyes to the tradition that is classical music in Europe.'
'I have picked up invaluable knowledge that I am currently sharing with my peers at the ANU SoM. Many of them are thinking about possible exchange programs to other European cities to further their music studies and I am able to pass on my knowledge in terms of travel, accommodation and living arrangements. I’m also able to put them in touch with contacts in Vienna and the Netherlands.' William is a full time 3rd year in Bachelor of Music Performance (Studio Cello) ANU, holding down a few teaching positions in Sydney as well as teaching and performing in Canberra.

Anne Ewing reports on her joint grant with Jelena Mamić: 'On the 26th of December, 2014, I joined Jelena Mamić in Split, Croatia, for an intensive rehearsal period prior to The Franz Schubert and Modern Music Festival and Competition in Graz, Austria. During this rehearsal period we performed a concert of sacred music in Split, and also travelled to the island of Hvar where rehearsals continued and contacts were made with a view to future performances at summer festivals....(Following a brief return to Australia for family reasons) I immediately flew back to Europe, meeting Jelena in Zagreb, then travelling immediately to Vienna. In Vienna we had daily coachings with David Aronson and Sylvia Greenberg at the Wiener Staatsoper, and also had coaching with Stephen Delaney. Our time in Vienna was invaluable; the educational experience of such intensive instruction with some of the most expert professionals in Vienna is something that will stay with us forever, and has heavily influenced our work since returning to Australia.... From Vienna we travelled to Graz to perform in the Franz Schubert and Modern Music Competition. Over 170 voice and piano duos applied for the competition, 95 duos were accepted to compete, and 57 duos managed to bring the extremely rigorous programmes up to an appropriate standard and perform. We were delighted to reach the quarter finals of the competition, and to perform amongst such an extraordinary field of musicians, and both of us thoroughly enjoyed performing there.

'Following the competition, given how much we had gained from Aronson and Greenberg, we returned to Vienna for further coachings before heading back to Croatia. Just before returning to Australia, we were thrilled to give a performance at the Croatian Composers’ Society, which was jointly organised by the Australian Embassy in Zagreb and the Croatian Composers’ Society. Following the performance, we met the audience members, amongst whom was the prominent Croatian musician Professor Zlatko Stahuljak. The Stahuljak family has been one of the most influential musical families in Croatia’s recent history – approximately the last 120 years. Professor Stahuljak was so taken with our performance that he delivered scores of his father’s compositions to us the next morning, asking if we would perform them. The works have had very little performance history, not because they are in any way musically deficient, but because they had been effectively buried in the tumultuous political history of Croatia. Since returning to Australia we have given several Australian premieres of relatively new works - composed in the last 50 years – and have already given the Australian premiere of some of the scores provided by Professor Stahuljak. We have given several performances in the ACT and in NSW since our return, have been booked to perform in the Segue 2015 Festival, and are currently negotiating performances at festivals in Europe. We cannot thank the Friends of the ANU School of Music enough for their generous support of our endeavours; your contribution to our education and musical experiences will not be forgotten.'

Fiona Judge reports: 'I am writing to express my gratitude for the CYO Scholarship awarded to me in 2014. My involvement in the Canberra Youth Orchestra is an enjoyable and important part of my life. I have been given the opportunity to grow as a musician, and to connect with other musicians in a professional and social manner.

'I suffer from a chronic medical condition that stops me from being able to work. Because of this, I live on the disability pension. The annual fees for Canberra Youth Orchestra were very difficult for me to pay, but I knew that it was too important to give up. When the 2015 Brisbane tour was announced, I knew that I could not afford to go. I was disappointed that I would be missing out on such a special experience. However, when I received the award from the Friends of the School of Music, I was able to fund my trip to Brisbane with the orchestra. The experience I had in Brisbane was so valuable and memorable. I had the opportunity to travel with the orchestra, and grow closer to the other members of CYO. In Brisbane I met musicians from other states, and worked with musicians from another country, which was an amazing experience. We worked with the conductor from the Christchurch Youth Orchestra, and I was able to play with like-minded people from
New Zealand, including giving a performance at the conclusion of the tour. Without the generosity of the Friends of the School of Music, I would not have had any of those experiences. I am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to experience something so valuable. Thank you, very much.'

OTHER FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

CELEBRATING ITALY – PIANO RECITAL BY CHRISTIAN LEOTTA

On the occasion of the Italian Republic Day the ANU School of Music, the Embassy of Italy and the Instituto Italiano di Cultura in Sydney presents Christian Leotta in concert, Wednesday, 3 June 2015, 6.30 pm in the Larry Sitsky Recital Room. Leotta has been defined as "an extraordinary talent with a beautiful innate musicality". Leotta's affinity to Beethoven's music has been unanimously recognized thanks to "his prodigious technique used to better express the poetry of Beethoven's music" (The Whole Note, Toronto), gaining a reputation as "a pianist of the highest order: technician, musician and interpreter all at once" (La Presse, Montreal). Leotta's performance at the ANU School of Music will include works by Beethoven and Rossini. $20 General Admission, $15 Concession, ANU Students FREE

THE GRIFFYN ENSEMBLE

The Griffyn Ensemble's next concert will be Northern Lights, a new composition by Michael Sollis, on Sat 30 May 6pm and Sun 31 May 2pm, at the National Gallery of Australia. In November 2014 Griffyn Director Michael Sollis joined astronomer Fred Watson in the Arctic Circle in search of the Northern Lights. The resultant composition tells a magical tale of the aurora in a Snow White-esque land of ice and twilight. The premiere performances closely reflects the extraordinary use of light in the ‘James Turrell: a retrospective’ exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia. "The aurora is multiplicitous: sometimes it burns every inch of darkness in the sky... it dances, ceaselessly transforming." Tickets from National Gallery of Australia.

INTO THE WOODS

In August/September this year the ANU School of Music will have students, past and present, playing in the orchestra as well as on stage in a huge production of Stephen Sondheim's Into the Woods, which is also being supported by Victorian Opera. Victorian Opera is providing all the sets, props and costumes from last year’s award winning production of Into the Woods and this local production promises to be just as grand. This is a collaboration between Dramatic Productions and the ANU School of Music. August 28- September 12. Bookings at www.stagecenta.com; or 62531454.

JAZZ IN CONCERT AT THE GODS continues on Tuesday June 2 Michelle Nicolle Quartet: Tribute to Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn (MELB). Michelle is by general consensus one of the best two or three jazz singers in the country and has (with her quartet) devised a special program focussed on the music of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, two of the most successful composers in the history of jazz. It is not every month you get to hear a vocalist at the Gods, let alone one of this quality. The program will feature songs such as ‘Sophisticated Lady’, ‘I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart’, ‘Daydream’ and ‘Lush Life’, among quite a few others. The quartet features: Michelle Nicolle (voice), Geoff Hughes (guitar), Tom Lee (bass) and Ronny Ferella (drums).Bookings on 6248 5538 or email Jaye and Katie at thegodscafe@gmail.com. Dinner at new time of 6.00 pm; music starts at 7.30 pm; non-eating seats can be booked but eating keeps The Gods in business. Admission: $22/$15 conc.

The Jazz at The Gods program for the rest of the year also features some other familiar names of alumni and staff of the School:

Tues July 7 Hannah James Trio (SYD)
Tues Aug 4 Ted Vining Trio with Miroslav Bukovsky (MELB/TAS/CRB)
Tues Sep 1 Julien Wilson’s Electric Quartet (MELB)
Tues Oct 6 Paul Dal Broi Quartet: Standards – Old and New (CBR/SYD)
Wed Nov 4 Eric Ajaye Trio – Phingerprintz (CBR)
Tues Dec 1 Tom Fell Quartet (incl Miroslav Bukovsky): Tribute to Chet Baker & Gerry Mulligan (CBR/SYD)