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. The deadline for material for each monthly newsletter is the third Friday of each month.

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016 IS NOW DUE

Membership Fees in 2016 remain the same as for the last two years: $40 for single membership, $65 for families, $20 for pensioners, $100 for corporates. Life Membership is 10 times the annual membership fee. A membership form is attached. You can include a donation with your membership payment. Donations to the Friends Public Fund of $2 or over are tax-deductible (Donations to the Friends' general funds are not). We are using Public Fund donations to fund the Friends Music Performance Scholarship. This is an annual scholarship of $5,000.00 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.

Your membership needs to be up-to-date if you wish to attend the Annual General Meeting, which this year will be held on Tuesday 12 April at 6pm at the School. Further details will be provided later but put this date in your diaries now! It is important that you renew your membership to be sure that the voice of the Friends is heard clearly in the review of the School detailed below.

PRESIDENT’S 2015 REPORT AVAILABLE NOW

The President’s report for 2015 is now available in the Friends website. For those who receive this newsletter by regular post, a copy is included with your mailing.

REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC ANNOUNCED BY VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF BRIAN SCHMIDT

On 2 February, the new Vice Chancellor, Prof Brian Schmidt announced a review into the School of Music. The announcement is reproduced below for those who missed it. The Friends are encouraged by Prof Schmidt’s public statements about his commitment to the future of the school. These statements are echoed in the announcement. We have been invited to speak with both Prof Schmidt and the leader of the review (Andrew Podger) to express the views of the Friends.
Text of the Announcement follows:

ANU has announced a comprehensive community consultation on the ANU School of Music to identify options to help build on the school's long-term future.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC said the consultations would involve discussions with a wide range of interested parties and would be led by former senior public servant Professor Andrew Podger AO, who will be assisted by eminent music and arts scholars.

The consultations will aim to shape the School of Music's long-term future and its role in the wider community, as well as academic quality, its governance and financial sustainability.

"As Vice-Chancellor, I have a strong commitment to the ANU School of Music and believe music education plays an essential role in an internationally-renowned university such as ANU," Professor Schmidt said.

"In fact, I made my first visit to Canberra and ANU as a young musician, as part of a tour of Australia by the Alaska Youth Orchestra.

"I am committed to making sure the ANU School of Music works well, and that music remains an important part of the culture and community life of ANU."

He said decisions about the future of the School of Music would be made against three clear principles. The school should have international excellence, it should be as relevant as possible to the community, and it must be affordable.

The consultations will be in two stages. The first round of consultations will conclude by late April, with a discussion paper to be released in May. Professor Podger will then hold further consultations before submitting his final recommendations.

Professor Schmidt said Professor Podger would report back to the University by August this year. "I look forward to Professor Podger's consultations and final recommendations," Professor Schmidt said.

"It is my strong ambition to have a reinvigorated School of Music at ANU by 2017."
Professor Podger will be advised by Interim head of the School of Music Associate Professor Royston Gustavson, and expert advisers Emeritus Professor Larry Sitisky AM, Emeritus Professor John Painter AM and Ms Robin Hughes AO.

FIRST EMBASSY CONCERT DATE SET

The Ambassador for Austria, Dr Helmut Böck and his wife Mrs Barbara Böhm-Böck, have offered to host a concert at the embassy on Wednesday 11 May. Make a note of this date. Further details will be provided closer to the date.

NEW CD RECORDING NEWS FROM HAROLD GRETTON

Harold Gretton is an ANU School of Music alumnus, having completed a Bachelor of guitar and PhD under Tim Kain's guidance, completed in 2010. Some members may recall that he performed a duo recital in Canberra last August with Belgian guitarist Véronique van Duurling. They are planning to
record and independently release a CD of that program, and are running a crowd-funding campaign to gather the necessary funds.

The place to read about the campaign and perhaps make a pledge is:

The website includes examples of pieces they will record, and an explanation of where and how they plan to go about it. Harold is particularly proud of the Australian music content (Houghton and Grainger), saying “the heathens overseas needing a bit of cultural enlightenment”. There will also be music from Spain, Sweden, and Serbia.

He adds that, if by chance any members of the Friends are planning a trip to the upper-Rhine valley between now and April, they have also organised a series of concerts around the area where they live, running in tandem with the campaign. Details of the concerts may be found here:
http://www.duoamythis.com/concerts.html

They are also planning our next concert tour of Australia, with a brand new program, in August 2017!

GRANTS

In December 2015, the Friends Committee agreed to a grant request for Hugo Lee who will be participating in an official university exchange to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) from 27/12/15 to 14/07/2016. He will be studying purely music courses for one semester, focusing primarily on refining his performance techniques, but also on skills in the fields of arranging, composition, computer music and recording techniques.

He will also be taking one-on-one saxophone lessons with virtuoso and teaching extraordinaire Charles ‘Chip’ McNeill as well as participating in a variety of university ensembles.

In the March break, Hugo will spend 2 weeks in New York - seeking out his idols (Kenny Garrett, Dave Sanborn, Eric Marienthal etc.) for lessons and concerts, as well as busking and playing in jam sessions.

After his program finishes in early May, he will continue to travel for 9 weeks throughout North America - visiting New Orleans, Nashville, Austin and Los Angeles.

NEW EXHIBITION BY BRIAN STEWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

A Golden Age: Canberra Jazz 2009-2014

I have an exhibition of a selection of my jazz images at Smiths Alternative. The title of the exhibition is a reference to a period when the students and teachers at the ANU School of Music, aided by other local musicians, were the driving force behind some exceptional live jazz music in Canberra. They were assisted by the appearance of several niche venues plus support from the School for student performance, all now pretty much gone. Views may vary, but I think the peak was during 2009-2012. The changes at the School in 2012 meant that the golden age faded away during 2013-14. But it is not forgotten, and this exhibition is a photographic tribute to the time, the people, the venues and the music.
Launch: 5:30 for 6pm Friday 5 February 2016 (nibbles provided, Smiths bar will be open)
Exhibition dates: 5 February– 24 February 2016
Where: Smiths Alternative, 76 Alinga Street, Civic, Canberra ACT
Opening Hours: Every day until late.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

The Program for future concerts of “Jazz in Concert at the Gods Café” is reproduced below:

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 Quintet (CBR)
Wed Nov 2 Leigh Barker Early Ellington Tribute (MELB)
Tues Dec 6 Victor Rufus / Tate Sheridan — Tribute to Jim Hall and Bill Evans (SYD/CBR)

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.