



Friends of the School of Music - ANU Inc.

Patron: Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove

President's Report for 2016

Overview

In 2016, the Friends of the ANU School of Music have provided continuing support to the staff and students of the school. The situation at the school continues to be difficult. However, after the review by **Professor Andrew Podger** and, with the recent commitments made by **Professor Brian Schmidt**, Vice Chancellor of the ANU, the Friends are cautiously optimistic about rebuilding a viable music school over the coming years. The University's commitment of \$12.5m over 5 years combined with the ACT Government's promise of \$1m over 4 years will bring welcome additional staff and equipment to the school. There is still some doubt about raising sufficient funds to rebuild a significant performance stream but the early signs are encouraging.

As noted last year, whenever the students perform in public and for assessment, the Friends find our spirits lifted and our hopes renewed. This continues to be the most obvious reinforcement that the school is worth saving and nurturing back to being an institution that reflects positively on the ANU and Canberra.

For most of the year, **Dr Royston Gustavson** acted as Head of School. His approach was pro-active and open. Following the appointment of **Professor Malcolm Gillies** in October, the school has a full time acting Head of School pending the selection of a permanent head. The selection process has been difficult. With the recent commitments from the university, the process will hopefully result in a high calibre appointment early in 2017.

Support from the Diplomatic Community

Embassies have continued to support us by providing their venues for us to hold fund-raising concerts.

In May, we were fortunate once again to have as our hosts the Ambassador for Austria **Dr Helmut Böck** and **Mrs Barbara Böhm-Böck**, for a diverse concert showcasing the real talent of the School's undergraduate and graduate students. The audience enjoyed an evening of fine music performed by some of the ANU School of Music's finest young musicians:

- **Ellen Falconer** (piano) performing Brahms Ballades No.10
- **Dominique Douglas-Smith** (piano), **Ruth Giddy** (violin) and **Ariel Chou** (cello) – Schubert's Piano Trio No. 1

- **Emma-Shay Gallenti-Guilfoyle, Hamish Strathdee and Benjamin Grace** (guitar trio) – works by Astor Piazzola and Francisco Mignone
- **Katrina Tang** (piano) - Liszt's piano transcription of Isolde's Liebestod from Wagner's opera "Tristan und Isolde"
- **Jade McFaul** (soprano) accompanied by **Colleen Rae-Gerrard** (piano) - Mozart's 'Voi che sapete' from "Le Nozze di Figaro", and Schubert's 'Heidenröslein' and 'Die Forelle'
- **Helena Popovic** (violin) accompanied by **Anne Ewing** (piano) – Mozart Violin Concerto No. 4, and
- **Ben Forte** (guitar) and **Rosemarie Costi** (voice) – performing jazz standards "Darn That Dream" by Jimmy Van Heusen and Eddie De Lange, and "Just Squeeze Me" by Duke Ellington & Lee Gaines.

This was followed by supper provided by the Ambassador and his staff – an occasion that continues to have almost legendary status. This was the last concert with Dr Böck and Mrs Böhm-Böck because they returned to Austria late in 2016. In very welcome news, the new ambassador has indicated that he will continue the tradition in 2017.

In June, we were lucky to be hosted by the new Ambassador for Hungary, **Dr Attila Laszlo Gruber**, for a fantastic concert organized by **Lindy Reksten** in the embassy's stunning Millennium Hall. Lindy is the Coordinator of the ANU Music Development Program where students from Years 7 to 12 study theory, instrumental and vocal ensemble performance with tutors from the school. This year, the program included flute, piano and guitar solos, small ensembles and a chamber choir performing works by Pergolesi, Handel, Beethoven, Arensky, Poulenc and Milhaud.

The performers were:

- A trio of **Sam Jenkin** (violin), **Bernice Chua** (cello) and **Jonathan Lee** (piano)
- **Vivian Zhu** (piano solo)
- A trio of **Georgina Chan** (violin), **Rory Davison** (clarinet) and **Anh-Thu Le** (piano)
- **Lily Bryant** (flute) accompanied by graduate **Emily Buckley** (piano)
- **Owen Elliot** (guitar solo)
- A trio of **Donica Tran** (violin), **Dominic Hill** (cello) and **Vivan Zhu** (piano)
- A trio and continuo of **Samantha Howitt** (recorder), **Lily Bryant** (flute), **Emily Buckley** (harpsichord) and **Lindy Reksten** (cello)
- The choir "Senior Vocal Fry" conducted by **Tobias Cole**: **Asha Aikman, Ruth Begbie, Gabriel Cole, Marcel Cole, Chazelle Cromhout, James Gardner, Harry Jones, Manuka Krolkowski, Ethan Lee, Daphne Maddock, Jessica Manclark, Emilie Martin, Faith Myers, Elise Palethorpe, Harrison Shaw** and **Isaac Witzens**.

Tax-deductible Public Fund offers another scholarship

During 2014, the Friends received government approval to establish a public fund (Friends of the School of Music – ANU Inc Public Fund) with tax-deductibility status. The Friends Committee decided to use the fund to establish an annual scholarship to

support a newly enrolling student for up to four years in an approved performance studies course at the ANU School of Music. The scholarship is for \$5,000 per year with continuing support dependent on the student achieving progress acceptable to the Head of School and continuing in a performance major.

The fund is overseen by a committee consisting of the Friends Treasurer, Secretary and three independent people – **Mr Lachlan McOmish, Mr Terry Dwyer and Prof. Peter McDonald**. We appreciate their continuing help with the fund. During the year, Peter McDonald took up a new role in Melbourne. We thank him for his help in getting the fund off to a successful start and wish him well in Melbourne. Peter has been replaced on the oversight committee by **Mr John Doherty**. It is good to have the support of people like John in this endeavour.

In early 2016, on the recommendation of the Acting Head of School, the Friends offered the second scholarship to **Katrina Tang** who plays piano.

We need extra funds to support the 2017 scholarship and to continue support for students from prior years. If you would like to contribute something to the fund to support the students, we would really appreciate that. Thank you.

Links to the Canberra Community

The Friends have fostered partnership arrangements that reach out into the community, continuing scholarships for School of Music students who were selected for the **Canberra Youth Orchestra**.

We also continued to help ArtSound's involvement in the Young Virtuoso competition by contributing to the travel costs for the ACT winner, **Jade McFaul**, and her accompanist to attend the National Awards in Melbourne in 2016. The competition is organized by the Fine Music community radio networks around Australia.

We also provided modest support for the **Canberra International Music Festival** by sponsoring a concert that included students from the School as performers.

We take the view that these partnering arrangements help promote the School and the ANU more widely by demonstrating the quality of the courses and the capabilities of the students.

Fundraising Activities

As well as the concerts hosted by Embassies noted above, we held one other fund raising concert during the year.

In August and continuing an annual tradition, the Friends hosted our Historic Instruments Concert – titled the “Friends Meet the Instruments” and featuring **Drs Edward and Stephanie Neeman**. The audience was treated to a virtuoso performance of Mozart, Schubert, Mendelsson and Hadyn on the Graf and Stein pianos. Edward enriched the concert by giving very informative comments on both the pianos and the music chosen for each. This concert continues to be a popular feature of our year. Just as it did in 2015, the concert made the Canberra Times Top 5 concerts of the year as compiled by Jennifer Gall.

We are indebted to Stephanie and Edward Neeman for their support of and inspiration to the students of the school. They were ably assisted in the tuning of the instruments by **Chris Leslie**, who donated his piano tuning services. Chris does this for all our concerts involving keyboards – a wonderful help to the Friends and the students.

The concert raised more than \$2,000 – a great result.

Fankhauser Bequest

This bequest is from a former ANU staff member, **Barry Fankhauser**. We have invested it, and use the interest and some of the principal to fund a \$5,000 **Fankhauser Travelling Fellowship** introduced in 2015. The 2016 recipient of the Fankhauser Travelling Fellowship was **Andrew Blanch** who used it to travel to the US to compete in two prestigious guitar competitions.

Grants to Students

During 2016, we gave a number of grants to students who have been selected to perform in national and international competitions, fund recording projects and receive master-class tuition from leading international teachers. The grants help defray some of the considerable costs students face in participating in such developmental activities.

1. Awards and Prizes and Other Activities funded by income from the ANU Endowment for Excellence

The **Bernhard Neumann prize** of \$2,000 for an outstanding 4th year student was awarded jointly to **Ellen Falconer** and **Cassandra Low** who completed their studies in 2015. Both Ellen and Cassandra are well known to the Friends, the university and wider community.

The **Friends' Transition Award** of \$5,000 to help a recent graduate in the transition to a professional music career went to **Anne Ewing**. Anne has been a stalwart performer for the Friends and the School in the course of her degree and honours studies. She frequently accompanies other performers as well as being a great performer in her own right. She is using her award to pursue further performance and master class opportunities in Europe.

The **Christel Larko Award** of \$12,000 for 2016 was made jointly to **Jasmine Liu** (keyboard) and **Leilani Wagner** (voice).

We also drew on the Endowment fund to support prizes for the Friends Ensemble Competition. The Friends established these prizes to promote ensemble playing in the tertiary student cohort in all musical genres taught at the ANU School of Music. There were two parallel ensemble competitions in 2016 with the finalists performing at a public concert on 19 October in the Larry Sitsky Recital Room.

Prizes were awarded in two categories for each Competition:

- 1) The Friends Chamber Music Prize

- First Place: \$1,000 awarded to **Emma-Shay Gallenti-Guilfoyle** and **Hamish Strathdee** (classical guitar duo).
 - People's Choice \$500 awarded to "Rach in Black" (**Hayley Manning, Clara Barrs, Lauren Giddy**).
- 2) The Friends Jazz and Contemporary Music Prize (for jazz, contemporary, improvisatory, and popular music):
- First Place: \$1,000 awarded to "A Town Called Panic" (**Brendan Keller-Tuborg, Hayden Frizlaff and Ben Forte**)
 - People's Choice: \$500 also awarded to "A Town Called Panic".

Various other prizes (funded by sources other than the Friends) were awarded at the same occasion. The **Margaret Smiles Accompaniment Prize** of \$2000 was awarded to **Mia Huang**. The **Llewellyn Choir Prize for best Vocalist** of \$500 was awarded to **Jade McFaul** (soprano) and **Llewellyn Choir Prize for the Most Outstanding Instrumentalist** of \$500 was awarded to **Helena Popovic** (violin).

2. Grants funded from the Friends' account (derived from membership fees, concert income and donations)

As noted above, the Friends continued to support scholarships for students enrolled in the tertiary programs at the School to participate in the Canberra Youth Orchestra (CYO). The scholarships cover the fees for a year's membership of the CYO. The chief criterion for selection is music performance merit, as determined at auditions for the CYO. Students supported with these scholarships in 2016 were **Jonathan Lee, Nicole Fung, Abbey Kellet** and **Laura Tough**. These scholarships are a valuable way to strengthen the linkages between the School and other music organisations in Canberra.

The Friends approved grants to the following students:

- **Andrew Harrison** (PhD in history and composition) to travel to Detroit for performance of his composition "Hum" (words by Jamaal May) by New Music Detroit
- **Ryan Sandison** (2nd year Bachelor of Music) to attend a film scoring workshop at New York University
- **Aaron Chew** (Master of Music Advanced - piano) to enable him to attend the Golandsky Symposium at Princeton University
- **Maxine Powell** (Honours Bachelor of Music – composition) to enable her to attend the Tyalgum Festival
- **Yvette Griffiths** (Honours Bachelor of Music – musicology) to travel to London to present at a seminar titled "The Power of Hip Hop" during the "In Place of Wars – Culture. Conflict. Change" conference organised by the University of Manchester
- **Harriett Blaazer-Grossi** (Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Music – guitar) for a short CD of original compositions, inspired by the folk tradition augmented by jazz improvisation,
- **Ariel Nurhadi** (PhD, guitar) for an album of solo performed works written for Andres Segovia,

- **Jack Schwenke** (4th year Bachelor of Music – bass guitar and acoustic bass) for an album of original content played by a jazz trio including himself and by other SOM students
- **Callum Henshaw** (PhD, guitar) for his solo performed CD album *Echo & Return* released in April 2016,
- **Brendan Keller-Tuberg** (Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Music – double bass and electric bass) for an album of his own jazz compositions performed by himself and two recent graduates
- **Joy Kerr** (Honours in composition) to enable her to attend the Australian National Band and Orchestra Conference in Sydney.

In making these decisions the Committee took into account whether students had previously received Friends' grants, whether they had contributed to our fund-raising concerts; whether they were undergraduates or postgraduates (with therefore other sources of income) and the proportion of the costs they were seeking.

3. Young Performer activities funded from grants from the Eastlake Football Club

The Eastlake Football Club continues to support the Friends with a grant to promote outreach from the School of Music to ACT schools. Eastlake provides vital, continuing support for the pre-tertiary Young Performers program convened by **Lindy Reksten**. The Friends thanks the Club for this generosity. The importance of this support was demonstrated at the concert at the Hungarian Embassy and many Young Performer concerts held at the School. The number and performance standard of the pre-tertiary students participating in this program continues to grow and augurs well for future student intakes at the tertiary level.

The Committee

The committee has worked very hard to support both students and staff in difficult and uncertain times. As a group, we were active in meeting and making submissions to the Podger Review of the School, advocating for the future with the Vice Chancellor and the ACT Government and raising awareness of the potential for the School with the wider community.

Several committee members warrant special thanks: Annie Oakey (outgoing Treasurer) for handling heavy workloads throughout the year with good humour and professionalism; Rosemary Greaves (Secretary) for her unstinting professional approach to all our government reporting requirements; Dan Sloss, Debbie Dwyer, Robyn McKay, Rosemary Greaves and Christine Goode for helping with our submissions to the Podger Review; Terry Neeman for liaison with the CYO and helping organise the Historic Instruments concert; Marilyn Higgins (Vice President) for managing our Facebook page, and Neil Montgomery for handling updates to the Friends' section of the School's website; Ann and Roger Smith, Ross Kingsland and Jo Frederiksen all carried out a variety of other concert coordination and volunteer tasks. In addition to committee members, many members of the Friends helped with both fundraising concerts and other support for the School in general. Many thanks to all for your generosity.

David McKean (ex Auditor-General's Office) was again appointed Auditor, and we are most grateful to him for his carrying out the role pro bono.

Assistance from the School

We receive invaluable help from the School, and would particularly like to thank **Paul McMahon** (Performance Convenor) for his assistance with preparing and coaching performers for our concerts, **Craig Greening** and **Matt Barnes** for technical support and recording, **Emily Allen** (School administrator), who distributed the online newsletter, **Kate Bisshop-Witting** (School Manager), and **Deanna Riddell** and her team in venues.

Tony Henshaw, President
December 2016