

AE NEWS

newsletter of the Australia Ensemble @UNSW

Upcoming Events

UNSW Wind Symphony
Friday August 2 at 7pm
Sir John Clancy Auditorium
Works by Reed, Gershwin, Goldman,
Joio, Tyzik, Whitacre & Shostakovich

UNSW Orchestra
Friday August 9 at 7pm
Sir John Clancy Auditorium
Celebrating 30 years of the UNSW
Orchestra with works of Britten,
Tchaikovsky, John Peterson, and
Séjourmé's Concerto for Vibraphone &
String Orchestra, with soloist Alice Hu

**Collegium Musicum Choir &
Orchestra**
Sunday August 11 at 5pm
Sir John Clancy Auditorium
VIVALDI | Gloria
MOZART | Veni Sancte Spiritus, Ave
Verum Corpus & Coronation Mass

Australia Ensemble @UNSW
Free lunch hour concert
Tuesday August 13 at 1.10pm
**Tyree Room, John Niland
Scientia Building**
VINE | Strutt Sonata for cello & piano
DVOŘÁK | 'American' Quartet'

Australia Ensemble @UNSW
Saturday August 17 at 8pm
Sir John Clancy Auditorium
Cool Fire
HYDE | Trio
MORAVEC | Cool Fire
MOZART | Quartet in F
PIERNÉ | Piano Quintet in E minor

*Pre-concert Composer Conversation
with Jessica Wells, 7pm in the foyer*

www.music.unsw.edu.au

A tribute: Roger Covell (1931-2019)

On 4 June, Australia lost one of its giants of classical music. Roger Covell's life was dedicated to music in Australia, through academia and research, performance, advocacy, and public engagement. Roger's role at UNSW began with his appointment in 1966, continuing to teach until 1996, and culminating in his retirement from the role of Artistic Chair of the Australia Ensemble in 2013. With academic and musical

colleagues, he created and produced UNSW Opera and the Australia Ensemble, as well as the choral, academic, and instrumental programs of UNSW. He concurrently held the post of music critic at the Sydney Morning Herald, and was a foremost figure



*Roger Covell with the Australia Ensemble, December 2013
Photo: Michael Francis*

at festivals and performances around the country, called upon for his vast expertise and extraordinary gift with language.

Roger was an incredible champion of Australian music, involved in the commissioning of dozens of works for opera and chamber ensemble, and endorsing the work of Australian composers to Sydney audiences. Australia Ensemble audiences will be familiar with his extensive body of program notes, thoroughly researched and written in the most vivid and sparkling language to give listeners the deepest possible insight into each work and the historical context and process of the composer. He was an extremely humble man, not looking for self-promotion, but to engage with and enthuse others about the value of quality music, and give vision and direction. Many young performers benefited from the opportunities Roger offered at the start of their careers, as they flourished into accomplished musicians.

As we announced at the 8 June concert of the Australia Ensemble, Roger's life was celebrated in a private funeral, with promise of a future public memorial event. We extend an invitation to all to share in this event, on **Tuesday 10 September, 2019 at 5.30pm in the Sir John Clancy Auditorium**. The occasion will include performances by the Australia Ensemble, and choral alumni of UNSW, as well as recollections of some of Roger's family, friends and colleagues.

**Roger Covell memorial - Tuesday 10 September, 2019 at 5.30pm
Sir John Clancy Auditorium.**

Please register: www.music.unsw.edu.au/special-events/roger-covell-memorial, email australia.ensemble@unsw.edu.au, or call the Music Performance Unit on 9385 4874.



UNSW Orchestra turns 30!

The University of New South Wales Orchestra will be celebrating its pearl jubilee with a special anniversary concert, *30 Years In The Making*, which will take place at 7pm, Friday 9 August, 2019 at Sir John Clancy Auditorium, UNSW.

Since its first public concert in August 1989, the Orchestra has brought live performance of fine music to UNSW and the broader the community for thirty years.

Conducted by Steven Hillinger, the concert program will include a commissioned work by Australian composer and UNSW academic Dr John Peterson, *Anniversary Music*, Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake Suite*, Britten's *Five Courtly Dances from Gloriana* and Séjourné's *Concerto for Vibraphone and String Orchestra*, featuring UNSW 2019 Concerto Competition winner, Alice Hu.

The orchestra will also be joined by guest conductor Colin Piper, the orchestra's founding conductor who led the ensemble from 1989 until 2013.

The UNSW Orchestra was founded in 1989 by three undergraduate students, Jan Howe, Richard Pulley and Emery Schubert with guidance from Professor Roger Covell of the then School of Music, and funding by a grant from the then Vice Chancellor, Professor Michael Birt. The vitality of the Orchestra today owes much to all these founders' vision and caring.

More than 1300 UNSW students, staff and alumni have played in the Orchestra throughout its 30 years of existence. This remarkable figure shows what a wealth of amateur musical talent there is on campus. The Orchestra has united students, staff and alumni from every faculty of the university through their love of music and has enriched musical life of UNSW.

To join in the celebrations, come along on Friday August 9, 7pm in Sir John Clancy Auditorium and enjoy a wonderful night of music making. Tickets are available via music.unsw.edu.au, by calling the box office on 9385 4874 or emailing cmc@unsw.edu.au



Back in the Studio

An exciting update from the recording studio: continuing on from their work last year recording Ian Munro's arrangements for flute, clarinet and piano, Australia Ensemble musicians Ian Munro, Geoffrey Collins and David Griffiths recently joined former Australia Ensemble clarinetist and producer Catherine McCorkill and percussionist Peter Neville in Melbourne to record Ian Munro's arrangements of Brazilian tango composer, Ernesto Nazareth's (pronounced "Naza-ray") Tangos.

Enjoy these delightful snaps from the studio! And stay tuned for a release date of the recording!



Australia Ensemble - the sum of its parts

Genevieve Lang

The recent death of Australia Ensemble founder and advocate-in-chief Roger Covell put pianist Ian Munro in a reflective mood. 'In some ways I wish I knew him better. I always found him a bit enigmatic,' says Ian. 'Very affable. Very knowledgeable. If he didn't know something, he wouldn't pretend otherwise. He'd be interested, and then ask questions to find out more.'

What Roger achieved in not only setting up the ensemble, but also maintaining it for 35 years, says Ian, was 'extraordinary'. 'Roger had an absolute determination. He devoted himself [to setting it up] and used his clout and powers of persuasion to keep the ensemble present.'

Forty seasons of any ensemble is a significant achievement. 'I think Roger would have loved to have made it to 40. 'He was the one, more than anybody else,' says Ian, 'who had the concept that you need some sort of longevity for this kind of ensemble.' It's commonly acknowledged that the Australia Ensemble's staying power is both miraculous and enviable. And Ian agrees – that is largely down to Roger's energy and advocacy.

Speaking of significant milestones, if you happen to ask Ian what he was doing at 40, you'll get a surprising answer, and a lovely story: 'I was having lunch with the Queen of Belgium!' The previous year, pianist and composer Ian had spied a poster advertising the Queen Elisabeth Composition Competition. It's a prestigious competition for instrumentalists – rotating through piano, violin, cello and voice, depending on the year – that once-upon-a-time also offered a composition prize. At the time, Ian was working through his Masters in composition with supervisor Andrew Ford. 'I was writing a piano concerto amongst other things.' When Ian saw that the date of the awards coincided exactly with his 40th birthday, it was a no brainer. 'That's just too good – I have to go for that!' So he entered, and won! On his 40th birthday, Ian found himself, as advertised, seated across from Queen Fabiola. 'She was gorgeous,' Ian recalls. 'Like everyone's favourite aunt. Belgium being Belgium, she was much more low-key [than certain other royalty].' It was a cross-cultural exchange too, with Ian introducing her to Aboriginal clapping sticks! Part of Ian's prize included having his submitted work, a single-movement piano concerto called *Dreams*, performed by all twelve finalists the following year. Quite the feather in his composer's cap!



Ian Munro
Photo: Keith Saunders

Vivaldi's Gloria!

On Sunday August 11 at 5pm in Sir John Clancy Auditorium, the Collegium Musicum Choir and Orchestra will take to the stage with soloists Amy Moore, soprano; Cassidy Lobb, mezzo soprano; Nyssa Milligan, alto; Ryan O'Donnell, tenor and Andrew O'Connor, bass, to present favourite choral works Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Mozart's *Coronation Mass* under the baton of choral director Sonia Maddock.

In addition, the audience will be delighted to two shorter Mozart works, *Veni Sancte Spiritus* and *Ave verum corpus*.

This 90 member choir has been in preparation mode for the past 10 weeks, rehearsing every Wednesday evening during term. Come join us for a wonderful afternoon of choral music.

Tickets are available online www.music.unsw.edu.au, by calling 9385 4874, or emailing cmc@unsw.edu.au



Collegium Musicum Choir
April 2019

Cushion Concert Series



In late June, author Lesley Gibbes, illustrator Lisa Stewart, actor Emily McKnight and the Acacia String Quartet (left) came to UNSW, performing musical delights by Australian composer Elena Kats-Chernin interwoven with readings and illustrations from Lesley Gibbes' *Little Bear's First Sleep*, and Sally Odgers' *Ocean Lullaby*.

The event attracted sixty children under five years of age who are members of the UNSW Early Years childhood education centres on campus. It was an absolute highlight for the children to have access to illustrator Lisa Stewart and author Lesley Gibbes in person.

A big thank you to the Music Performance team members who oversaw the organisation of this event.

Nemanja Radulović with Ensemble Liaison

UNSW is excitedly looking forward to welcoming Nemanja Radulović and Ensemble Liaison to Sydney in October!

Each year, Ensemble Liaison invites an impressive array of guest artists to join them as they perform around the country. The Music Performance Unit is thrilled to announce the extraordinary virtuosity of Serbian-French violinist Nemanja Radulović who joins Ensemble Liaison, which includes Australia Ensemble clarinetist David Griffiths, in concert at the Sir John Clancy Auditorium on Saturday 26 October at 7pm.

Taking the classical music world by storm with his thrilling virtuosity, depth of expression and adventurous programming, both in the recording studio and on the concert stage, Radulović's previous concerts have been spectacular and a season highlight for those fortunate enough to experience him live in concert!

In his second trip to Australia this year, Radulović and Ensemble Liaison will perform an engaging, innovative and accessible program, commencing with Bach and Handel reimagined by Ensemble Liaison, and Halvorsen reflecting the ornate and elegant times of the Baroque period. We shift gears, and will hear Khachaturian's Trio and Bartok's Romanian Dances to get you moving in your seats. Bringing the night to a close, Ensemble Liaison and Radulović will perform Brahms' gypsy-inspired Piano Quartet in G minor arranged by David Griffiths.

To purchase tickets, please visit our website music.unsw.edu.au



Photo Nemanja Radulović: © Charlotte Abramow
courtesy of Deutsche Grammophon

What are you listening to this month?

The Music Performance Unit office has on high rotation the fiercely moving recordings of Nemanja Radulović as we prepare for his visit to UNSW on Saturday 26 October. Be sure to check these recordings out on your preferred music service and then come along to see him live in October at UNSW! Our top five recordings include:

1. Dvořák *Gypsy Melodies Op. 55 B104: Songs My Mother Taught Me*
2. Monti *Csárdás*
3. Bach *Partita No 3. For Violin Solo in E Major, BWV 1006: Gavotte*
4. Khachaturian *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D minor*
5. Paganini *Deux Caprices: I. in E major, Op.1 No.1*