

TUTTI

*Journal of the Amateur Chamber Music Society Inc.
PO Box 584, Balgowlah NSW 2093*

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Web site: <http://www.acms-australia.org/>

Canberra Playing Days

The Canberra branch now has its own web site:
www.canberrachambermusic.org.au

They plan to celebrate a worldwide playing day (see http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Associated_Chamber_Music_Players) with the first Canberra playing day for 2015.

It will be on Saturday 7 March, from 1:15pm to 5pm, at a venue still to be confirmed. ACMS members should register on the web site www.canberrachambermusic.org.au then sign up for the playing day.

Non-ACMS members can write to canberramusicians@gmail.com.



Blue Mountains Playing Days

The next Blue Mountains Playing Days for 2014 will be on the following Saturdays:

April 18
June 13
August 15
October 17

at the Uniting Church Hall,
Lucasville Road, Glenbrook, NSW as usual.

Interested persons should contact Bill Johnson on 02 4739 5570 or Diane Shying on 02 4739 6572 to advise of your intention to attend.

Playing Day Sunday 29 March 2015

Barker College
The Avenue (off Unwin Street)
Waitara

The first Playing Day for 2015 will be at Barker College in Hornsby (or Waitara).

The timetable for this Playing Day is:

9:30am	to	9:50am	-	Player registration
9:50am	to	10:00am	-	Briefing session
10:00am	to	noon	-	First playing session
noon	to	1:00pm	-	Lunch
1:00pm	to	2:30pm	-	Second session
2:30pm	to	3:00pm	-	Afternoon tea
3:00pm	to	4:30pm	-	Third session

How to get there:

Directions: Barker College is 5 minutes walk from Waitara station. Head north on the Pacific Highway, left into Unwin Street, then right into The Avenue. The McCaskill Music Centre is at the end on the right. If driving, you may be able to park in the small parking lot opposite the school entrance or in the street. Parking may be limited, especially if there is a sporting event at the school.

Please bring

- instruments you have specified on the enrolment form
- music stand and music
- picnic lunch
- cup or mug

Unavoidable absences

Please inform Ian Butler on 4296 2889 or 0423 293 728 as soon as possible if you cannot attend. Players who do not turn up will inconvenience others in their group and in some cases make that group unworkable.

Tutors

Please tick the appropriate box to indicate if you

1. would like a tutor 2. don't want a tutor 3. don't really mind

Check Group Lists posted at venue for

- any changes in groups
 - who is to provide music. That person may borrow from ACMS library and must return immediately after session.
 - who is to return playing room to original condition after the session.
- This is most important to ensure we don't lose the use of our venues.

Registration forms to be returned by Friday 13 March 2015

Kirribilli Sunset Concert Program

The aim of the program is to encourage members to extend their ensemble playing and to provide a platform for public performance in front of a small, sympathetic audience.

The information below is provided for newer members and those who have yet to make their debut at Kirribilli.

On the first Sunday of each month from March to December each year, ACMS presents a concert of chamber music at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre. The music is played by members in the upstairs Gallery. The small admission charge of \$10/\$5 goes to the work of the Centre, which is located in Fitzroy Street, near Milsons Point station. Each concert commences at 5.00pm and lasts about 90 minutes and is followed by light refreshments of wine, cheese and nibbles.

It is a tribute to our members that people are prepared to rehearse and perform items of great variety, in instrumentation, style, genre and period. Also we are fortunate in having members volunteer for the role of Organiser. Each month's concert has its own Organiser, who develops the program, ensures works are appropriate and not of excessive duration, and produces the written program. The program is also published on the ACMS web site.

There is also a Kirribilli Coordinator who oversees the whole annual program.

Who does what?

- The President, Sue Butler, at the end of each year solicits program items from our members and calls for volunteers to be Organisers.
- Organisers develop a concert program for the month they have volunteered for.
- The Coordinator, Tony Tenney, oversees the program as it rolls out from month to month.
- Felicia Mitchell offers support in the production of the printed program.

- George Carrard manages the Concert section of the ACMS web site and keeps advice to members as current as possible.
- Frank Lander, from KNC, is in charge of security, opens and closes the building, collects admission fees, and manages light refreshments.

If you would like more information about this important initiative, please contact one of your committee members, or the Coordinator.

Brisbane Playing Days

During our last Playing Day, the organised sessions finished a little early, allowing players to get together into their self organised groups to rehearse and maybe perform in the 'Showcase' segment at the end of the day - in preparation for participating in the Worldwide Chamber Music Play-in weekend on March 7 and 8.

Brisbane City Council have let us use the lovely Rotunda in beautiful New Farm Park on the banks of the Brisbane River for the Sunday afternoon 8 March 2.30 - 4.30pm. The Rotunda has power, so we'll be able to accommodate all groupings, provided the pianists don't mind using a keyboard! It's also quite large so we'll all fit under to shelter from the sun (or rain!). We hope to give as many groups as possible the opportunity to perform, but it's such a lovely park, we are encouraging members to bring their families and a picnic. Brisbane City Council have advertised the event on their web site, so who knows, we might even attract a crowd!

Sylvia MacDonald

Vale David Oldroyd

As music lovers, we are indebted to David Oldroyd who passed away in November after a protracted illness.

At David's funeral service, several colleagues from the University of

New South Wales spoke with respect about David's stellar career in academia. He wrote many learned papers and published several books on scientific and philosophical subjects. His particular subject was geology, but I will say a few words about his other passion. Music.

I first met David when he came with friends to play string quartets at my house. He was obviously a good and experienced cellist and must have approved of our standard, because he kept on playing with us, Morris Shaw, Mollie Rodgers on violins and me on viola. We had fun and played for years, calling ourselves "The Koala Quartet"

That was over forty years ago. He and his wife Jane, an oboist, had met one another in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and later migrated to New Zealand where he became involved in the Christchurch music scene. They had two sons, Nicholas and Ben, and later left New Zealand when David was appointed to the School of History and Philosophy of Science at New South Wales University.

David and Jane played in the very first concert of the Kuringai Philharmonic Orchestra (the K.P.O.) and encouraged me to join. There were some outstanding concerts with the K.P.O. and at one time David became President, a role which he took very seriously, directing his sparkling wit to stimulate the occasional latecomers or any who might have not practised enough.

Those of us who played chamber music and sometimes performed with him found him strict, but very amusing. He was a frequent group member who performed at Kirribilli and his introductions to the music were learned, but always amusing.

My association with David and his family, whether it was at dinners, bushwalks or laughing at Monty Python, was always stimulating, controversial and very funny. Music lovers remember him with great affection.

Barbara Robinson

2015 Playing Days: March 29 (Barker) - May 17 (PLC) - July 26 (Kings TBC) - September 20 (PLC) - November 15 (PLC)
Tutti Deadlines: February 19 - April 9 - June 18 - August 13 - October 8

Wollongong 2015

PARTICIPANT SURVEY RESULTS

Prepared by Yve Repin
3 February 2015

The following is a summary of the survey responses received from participants of the 2015 Wollongong Chamber Music Camp. Responses were received from 76 participants, of whom about half (39) had attended more than five times, 17 had attended three-five times, and 9 had attended twice; for 11 respondents, this was their first camp.

ARRANGED SESSIONS (by ACMS)

The majority of participants rated the arranged sessions excellent (58%) or good (35%). A few people gave a "mixed" rating.

Respondents appreciated the good variety offered in arranged sessions. Several noted that players were well matched for standard and personality, although others mentioned experiencing "unbalanced personnel, which can be frustrating". Also appreciated, especially by first timers, were "friendly ... welcoming ... kind ... amenable" players. There were compliments to Ian Butler for doing "a brilliant job ... magic!"

Some respondents, especially wind players, find the third session on day one too much, and would like to be able to opt out of some arranged sessions.

The majority of respondents (83%) would not have wanted more arranged sessions.

Several people noted that there was a good balance between arranged and self organised sessions.

SELF-ORGANISED SESSIONS

Self-organised sessions were rated by the majority either excellent (57%) or good (32%).

A majority (76%) would not have wanted more self-organised sessions. This was down from 83% in 2014, and this year 13 people (17%) indicated that they would have liked more self-organised sessions; some indicated that they will be more proactive in organising sessions in future. One suggestion was to have a colourful board where people can put their name if they

would like to play in a group after dinner.

Using the web site for self-organising sessions caused considerable angst and confusion for a significant number of respondents, but there was no common thread that identifies a particular weakness. Some simply found it "daunting", others found it too complex; the number of people involved in making and changing decisions about these sessions added to people's confusion. Yet others found that what they thought they had arranged did not eventuate.

Another criticism was that in fact people were allocated to groups: "some 'self-organised' sessions are becoming partly arranged, with unmatched players put into groups".

All comments have been passed on in detail to the committee for consideration.

In the opinion of 89% of respondents the camp offered enough playing; five people wanted more.

LIBRARIES & LIBRARIANS

The libraries were not used by 30% of respondents. Those who

used them rated them excellent (85%) or good (15%) "as usual", and the library is seen as "a fantastic resource" with an easy to follow system. The most frequent comment was "Jenny and Cathy are fantastic / helpful / friendly / cheerful / national treasures", and there were congratulations to Jenny on her play reading.

However, there was frustration for some players who found the music they wanted had already been borrowed, and this was especially irritating if the person who had taken it was using it in a later session.

Participants made a number of suggestions for additions to the library, which are being considered by the committee.

TUTORS

Tutors were rated excellent (84%) or good (12%) by all who answered the question. Typical comments on the tutors: "beneficial ... helpful and supportive ... encouraging ... insightful ... approachable ... constructive ... thought-provoking ..."

The amount of tutoring was deemed about right by 74% of

Kirribilli Sunset Concerts

Sunday 1 March at 5.00 p.m.

Organizer - Tony Tenney

KUHLAU Flute Quintet in A major (1822)

flute Bridget Armstrong violin Stephen Malloch viola Danny Morris
viola Mikey Floyd violoncello Nicole McVicar
10'

RI CHARD STRAUSS Sonata for Cello and Piano in F major Op. 6
(1) Allegro con brio (2) Andante ma non troppo (3) Finale (Allegro vivo)
violoncello Robyn Godfrey piano Christine Edwards
30'

FAURE Piano Quintet No. 1, Second movement: Adagio
violin Vania Chan violin Sheila Patrick viola Danny Morris
violoncello Nicole McVicar piano Nick Stokes
10'

MI LHAUD Suite – Incidental Music to the play "Le Voyager Sans
Baggage" – The Traveller Without Luggage (1936)
(1) Ouverture (2) Divertissement (3) Jeu (4) Introduction et Final
violin Tracy Tsang clarinet Andrew Kennedy piano Benjamin Chan

Sunday 12 April at 5.00 p.m.

(Note: second Sunday to avoid Easter)

Organizer - George Carrard

Program includes:

BRAHMS Piano Quintet Op 34

A song relating to the Gallipoli Centenary for mezzo-soprano,
flute and piano;

POULENC Sextet

The Manager and volunteer staff of the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre provide refreshments (wine, juice and savouries) and charge \$10 entry donation (\$5 concession/seniors) to raise funds for the Centre which is at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 16 Fitzroy St, Kirribilli.

people who answered this question, with 21% considering there was too little.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Fourteen respondents did not attend any concerts. Those who did attend rated the concerts excellent (76%), or good (23%); one person rated the concerts passable.

Lindsay's organisation of the concerts was once again appreciated: "a great job over the years". Other positive comments included: "good standard of performance ... good mix / variety ... they contribute to a sense of community ... good length, allowing for a decent lunch after." Other comments and suggestions: "need more chairs ... disappointed not to hear the tutors ... some of it was not chamber music ... 12.15 difficult when at Kooloobong ... how about replacing a concert with a master class?"

MEALS

Breakfasts: were rated excellent or good by 95% of those who had them. There was some dissatisfaction with the bread ("stale ... normal bread would be appreciated") and a comment that there was too much milk left over. Arrival supper: was rated excellent or good by 75% of those partaking, passable or bad by the remaining 25%. Main criticism was of the pasta and coleslaw "smothered in mayonnaise" and the absence of "simple vegs", especially for vegetarians. Several people compared the supper unfavourably with the previous year. The wine was appreciated, but the absence of soft drink or water was noted.

Formal dinner: was rated excellent or good by 81%, passable by the remaining 19%. The woodwind cake was a great hit. Criticisms included dry chicken, "not overgenerous" serves, lack of salad, and no cream or ice cream to go with the cake. However, the vego option was appreciated.

BBQ: got 100% approval rating. Criticisms were the "pathetic" cutlery, and lack of sufficient seating.

General comments: people with allergies noted that nothing was provided for GF or LF diets, and that they need to know what is in the food. A couple of people

noted that there is too much leftover meat and milk.

AFTER DINNER SPEECH

There were difficulties with the sound system, and 12% of respondents could not hear the speaker. While the majority rated the after-dinner speech excellent (34%) or good (32%), there were 17 people (22%) rating it passable or bad.

Many respondents praised David's duet with Rachel ("moving ... a bonus ... excellent playing"), and found the speech variously "entertaining ... amusing ... apt ... insightful ... informative". David was described as charismatic, charming and gentle, and for one respondent "David inspired me to compose for my piano trio". For others, the speech was "disappointing ... a bit of a ramble ... lacked structure" with several people reporting "I couldn't understand him".

A number of people questioned "do we need a speaker?", and suggested music instead of speakers. The opera was mentioned favourably by some respondents.

ACCOMMODATION

Of the 66 respondents who did reside, 30% rated the accommodation excellent, 50% good, and 17% passable. Positive feedback included "loved my

roommates ... convenient and close to the action ... beautiful grounds ... good not having to climb stairs".

However, there were numerous complaints about different aspects of the "tired, jaded" accommodation, with "offensive" rubbish lying around the surroundings, many examples of faulty plumbing, lack of cleanliness in bathrooms and kitchens, poor lighting, and bits falling off walls and appliances. As in previous years, there was mention of the orange chairs being "bad for playing". All comments have been passed on to the committee.

Self-arranged Sessions at Playing Days

There has been a relaxation of the rule on self-arranged sessions at Playing Days. Two self-arranged sessions can now be requested with the proviso that this should be an occasional request, not the norm. If the situation becomes unbalanced again the committee will reserve the right to return to the one self-arranged session in the interests of preserving the flow of the groupings.

A Chamber Music Showcase

THE INDEPENDENT THEATRE, NORTH SYDNEY
SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2015 3.00PM – 5.00PM

PROGRAM

Bruch – Pieces for Clarinet, Viola and Piano Op 83
Andrew Kennedy (clarinet) | Michelle Urquhart (viola) | Kian Woo (piano)

Beethoven – Violin Sonata in E Flat Major Op 12 No 3
Tracey Tsang (violin) | Benjamin Chan (piano)

INTERVAL

Beethoven – Duet for Violin and Viola
Inge Courtney-Haentjes (violin) | Michelle Urquhart (viola)

Schubert – Lebensstürme; Characteristic Allegro Op 144
Rachel Valler OAM (piano) | Susan Butler (piano)

Milhaud – Suite for Violin, Clarinet and Piano Op 157b
Tracey Tsang (violin) | Andrew Kennedy (clarinet)
Benjamin Chan (piano) | Yoann Bretonnet (narrator)

Adults \$30	Concession \$26	Student \$22
Family (2 adults and 2 children) \$80		Children under 7 FREE