



“In Tune”

Occasional Newsletter for The Friends of St Matthew’s Music Association Inc.
and
Members of the Albury Chamber Music Festival Society.

No. 10

April 2020



From: Fr Peter

Dear Supporters,

In this edition of *In Tune* I share with you some exciting news of the Patronage of the Association and Festival by two distinguished Australians: His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor General of Australia, and Lady Primrose Potter AC. I also share the sad news that Helena Kernaghan has resigned from the position of Artistic Director. I am delighted that Sally-Ann Russell and Mario Dobernig have agreed to be co-

Artistic Directors for 2020. The Association is greatly indebted to Helena for her sterling work in establishing the Festival and looks forward to Sally-Ann and Mario building on the foundation she has laid.

The St Matthew’s Music Association was greatly saddened by the death of Tim Fischer last year. Tim was a founding Patron of the Association and his enthusiastic support for the opportunities the Association is able to provide for the musical education of country kids was greatly appreciated. The Memorial Concert to raise funds for the Tim Fischer Scholarship was a great success.

To *Friends of the Association* or *Members of the Albury Chamber Music Festival Society* may I say how much I appreciate your support to enable the Association to provide the many opportunities for people of the Border Region to enjoy quality music and their children to develop their musical skills.

Patronage by Two Distinguished Australians



**His Excellency General the Honourable
David Hurley AC DSC (Retd).**

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley and Mrs Linda Hurley have been significant friends of the Music Association and Festival. They were present at the launch of the third Festival in 2017 and attended the Festival itself in 2018 as Governor of NSW. More recently they hosted a visit of students sponsored by the Association at Yarralumla. Their interest in the work of the Association, particularly the development of the musical skills of our youth, has been a great encouragement and it is a particular joy that His Excellency has accepted the invitation to be a Patron.



Lady Primrose Potter AC

Lady Primrose Potter has a long record of support for the Arts in Australia. Her patronage and involvement at senior levels have included the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust; the Bell Shakespeare Company; the American Friends of the National Gallery of Australia; the Australian Ballet; the Howard Florey Institute; the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research; the Ian Potter Museum of Art; of the Melba Foundation; the Victorian Opera Company; the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art. She also supports various social development projects in The Solomon Islands. We are grateful that Lady Potter has now added patronage of the St Matthew’s Music Association and the Albury Chamber Music Festival to this list.

New Artistic Directors for Albury Chamber Music Festival



Ms Sally-Anne Russell

The 2020 Festival will be jointly Directed by Sally-Anne Russell and Mario Dobernig.

Award winning Mezzo Soprano **Sally-Anne Russell** is no stranger to the Albury Chamber Music Festival having performed in the inaugural Festival and at other concerts at Adamshurst and St Matthew's. She has an enviable reputation as one of Australia's foremost Mezzo

Sopranos having performed in over fifteen countries. With over forty CD's /DVD's on ABC Classics, CHANDOS, NAXOS and DECCA labels her recording highlights include the ARIA people's choice award for Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and her solo operatic disc "Enchanting".

She has over seventy operatic roles in her repertoire and sings regularly with all the Australian Opera Companies, Symphony Orchestras and Choral Organisations. International highlights include Xerxes at the Oper der Stadt Köln, Beatrice and Benedict for Washington Opera (DC), a 10 year association with the Carmel Bach Festival in California, Die Tote Stadt fr Spoleto Festival (Italy) also concerts in Canada, Japan and most recently in Austria.

2016/2017 performances include a national tour *Voyage to the Moon* (Musica Viva and Victorian Opera), Melbourne, Sydney, West Australian, Auckland (Nixon in China), Tasmania, New Zealand Symphony Orchestras, Jane Seymour in Donizetti's Anna Bolena, a Tribute concert to mentor Lauris Elms in Sydney, further concerts at the Art Gallery of NSW, concerts in Scotland, The UK and Canada, Handel's Judas Maccabaeus, Pearl Beach Opera in the Arboretum and Voices in The Forest with Sumi Jo.

Sally-Anne is thrilled to have greater involvement with the Albury Chamber Music Festival as Co-Artistic Director.

On a global quest to make a musical difference, young conductor Mario Dobernig is fast emerging as one of the most inspiring conductors of his generation. From the classical concert platform to the unconventional wonderland of electronic dance music his originality is infectious.

Operatic, Choral and Vocal works include Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* for National Touring Opera,



Mario Dobernig

Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Mozart's C-minor Mass and Requiem, Haydn's Creation, de Falla's *El Amor brujo*, Schubert's Masses No 2. and No. 6, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Haydn's Nelson Mass, Faure's Requiem and Operatic Galas.

Mario Dobernig is

Artistic Director and Conductor in Chief for the Art of Sound Orchestra. He has organized and produced a number of highly successful festivals in multiple cities and countries.

Mario was awarded his PhD at the University of Melbourne in 2014 and also holds multiple Master degrees in Conducting, Percussion and Musicology from the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and the University of Helsinki. He has been a guest lecturer and conductor at The University of Melbourne and Monash University.

Discography includes Grainger Works for large Orchestra and Chorus with The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (assistant conductor to Sir Andrew Davis) on CHANDOS as well as online releases for ABC Classics of the Centenary of Gallipoli (2015) and Stravinsky's *Histoire du Soldat* (2011). Mario Dobernig has also been a featured guest on various radio programs around the globe.

Engagements for the 2017/2018 season include performances with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra in Doha for the Qatar Festival (broadcasted on Qatari Television, 2017), Mozart's Requiem for the Friesach Festival, Beethoven No. 5 and Romberg Flute Concerto with the Kapfenberg Symphony, performances at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Hobart's MONA FOMA, Brahms's Requiem and Alto Rhapsody, Schubert's Masses No. 5 and 6, Mozart Vespers K. 339, Mozarts Piano Concerto K. 449, Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 and Eroica, Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio, Haydn's Nelson Mass, Barry Conyngham's DAWN, multiple festival appearances with Electronic Dance Music Producers as well as cultural exchange programs between Austria and Australia and returned to Europe in 2018 and 2019.

In Appreciation — Helena Kernaghan Founding Artistic Director, Albury Chamber Music Festival 2016-2019

In the words of Phillip Scott of Limelight Magazine:

“Helena Kernaghan has established herself as one of the most versatile pianists and musicians of recent times. She has forged her own unique path in the Australian music scene and has managed to do so from her home town on the NSW-Victorian border, Albury.”



As Foundation Artistic Director of the Albury Chamber Music Festival, Helena Kernaghan has done outstanding work in laying a solid foundation upon which future Festivals can build. The four Festivals she has directed have been of the highest standard and introduced lovers of chamber music to a diversity of experiences from the well-loved classics to contemporary compositions for string quartet and theremin. Such is the esteem of the Festival in the eyes of leading performers that they are keen to be invited to perform.

Helena has had a distinguished career as a professional musician. Completing a Masters in Music Performance at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2005 under the tuition of Donna Coleman, having established herself as a chamber musician under the tuition of Caroline Almonte.

In 1997 she established the Abraxas Piano Trio, whose accolades included winning the Athenaeum Award for Chamber Music (1998), participating in the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition master class series and studying with renowned Russian cellist Alexander Korchagin. In 2000, with a Queen's Trust Grant, they embarked on a world tour with performances in Singapore, London, Cardiff & Prague. They were selected to be Artists in Residence at The Rodd in Wales, Sir Sidney Nolan's estate, where they performed a series of concerts and culminated with master classes with eminent Hungarian pianist Peter Frankl at London's Royal College of Music.

In 2002 she commenced her Masters degree and worked as an accompanist and performer until leaving Melbourne at the end of 2005. Performance highlights during this time included performing as soloist in Messiaen's *Oiseaux Exotiques* at Government House,

a duo piano recital with Will Poskitt of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* at the ABC's Iwaki Auditorium, and soloist in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Opus 21 Big Band. Since 2006 Helena has lived in Albury enjoying the challenge of teaching and maintaining an active performing life. In this time she has focused on family life, classroom and private teaching, MD work for productions, working with the Orpheus Piano Trio and continuing her work as a duo-pianist. In recent times he has performed with Donna Coleman, Shanul Sharma and Sally-Anne Russell.

She is currently a member of the Orpheus Piano Trio, along with Sam Goble (cello, also former member of Abraxas Piano Trio) and Kaori Sparks (violin). The trio has performed in a number of concert destinations throughout New South Wales and Victoria and has featured as Ensemble-in-Residence at the first four Albury Chamber Music Festivals.

The St Matthew's Music Association recently recorded the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION: That the St Matthew's Music Association expresses its appreciation to Helena Kernaghan for her work as Foundation Artistic Director of the Albury Chamber Music Festival. The Association is appreciative of the solid foundation she has laid for the Festival and its future. Each of the four Festivals she Directed was of the highest standard and has ensured that the Festival, although in its early days, has developed an enviable reputation for quality performances of chamber music.

Vale The Hon. Tim Fischer, AC.
Patron of the St Matthew's Music Association.



The St Matthew's Music Association was saddened by the passing of one of its foundational patrons, The Hon. Tim Fischer, AC, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia.

At the time of his death Tim was helping to organize a concert that he wanted to be a Prom Concert to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the rebuilding of St Matthew's Church in the heart of Albury following its destruction by fire. Typically Tim suggested that the funds be shared between the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre and a Tim Fischer Music Scholarship for country kids. Tim was an enthusiastic patron of musical opportunity for country kids and shared this patronage with Gregory Loveday, Professor Geoffrey and Mrs Ann Blainey and Greta Bradman. The Association has trained many fine young musicians in regional Australia who otherwise would not have had this window into the international world of music.

With the consent of Tim's widow, the concert that Tim was planning proceeded on Saturday 21 September 2019 at 2.30pm, in St Matthew's Church.



James Flores with Mica Torre at the Tim Fischer Memorial Concert. Both Mica and James have Philippino heritage.

Mica Torres sang at the Tim Fisher Memorial Concert and James Flores played the St Matthew's Letourneau Organ.



Music Scholar Thomas Summerfield accompanying singer Arthur Hull at the Tim Fisher Memorial Concert.



Co-Artistic Directors of the 2020 Albury Chamber Music Festival Sally-Anne Russell and Mario Dobernig.

Tunes on Tuesday

Tunes on Tuesday, arranged by James Flores, has begun the year with some excellent recitals. James presented the first recital on the St Matthew's Letourneau organ featuring works by the contemporary Canadian composer, Denis Bedard.

The second recital was by the Assistant Organist at St James Church, Kings Street, Sydney, Callum Knox. His recital featured the "Great" Fantasia and Fugue in G minor by J S Bach.

The third recital was by Tenor Lachlan McIntire and Soprano Saxophonist Stephen O'Connell (former Director of the Murray Conservatorium). Their program featured a set of songs composed by Stephen O'Connell inspired by the remote Australian Outback.

The fourth recital featured violinists Isabelle Weule and William Tomkins. In addition to duo performances they each played a movement from sonatas by Cesar Franck.

With the onset of the Covid-19 Virus and its consequential lockdown, *Tunes on Tuesday* has had to go online. One benefit of this is that *Tunes on Tuesday* has now become a weekly rather than fortnightly event. It is hoped this new weekly arrangement will continue after the lockdown is over and the audience able to return to St Matthew's Church. Admission is by donation.



*Regular attendee
at
Tunes on Tuesday
and supporter of
the St Matthew's
Music
Association,
Nola Murphy,
was recently
heard to say :*

***"I just love
Tunes on
Tuesday."***

Hope, Harmony and Helping Hands from the Ashes (And the Coronavirus)

St Matthews Albury will always be associated with fire and recovery since its destruction and re-building 30 years ago.

On Sunday 16 February St Matthews rang out in a concert of hope and solidarity to help re-build the fences that burnt down in fire affected communities.

Australian opera's favourite mezzo soprano, and Co-Artistic Director of the Albury Chamber Music Festival, Sally-Ann Russell, and some of her friends from the concert stages of Melbourne joined local musicians under the leadership of violinist Kaori Sparks in a tribute to the communities banding together to re-build and support each other in times of crisis.

Proceeds were directed to the Wodonga Belvoir Rotary Project rebuilding fences to assist in the area around Corryong and the alpine region. With the onset of the Coronavirus and the isolation caused by the subsequent lockdown, some of the funds have been directed to the "food share program" for isolated families.

Former conservatorium head and award winning composer, John Ross joined his son, guitarist James Ross to perform water music composed on the theme of the construction of the Albury Weir, and local Oboist Scott Marshall lead a meditation on the damaged lives and properties in the performance of the famous Gabriel's Oboe from 'The Mission'.

Violinist Damien Jones and Cellist Katriona Byles featured among many other wonderful talents.

The concert was supported by Cofield Wines representing the many local wineries who have been affected through the fire and its knock on affect to tourism.

The concert *Harmony for a Helping Hand* was compered by ABC's Gaye Pattison. It raised in excess of \$5,000.

Bursaries and Scholarships 2020

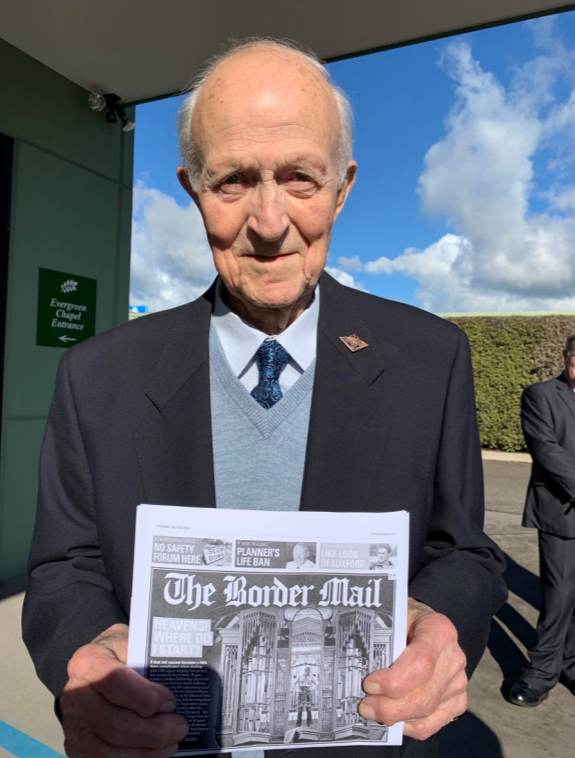
The following students have been awarded Bursaries and Scholarships following auditions conducted at Adamshurst in February:

Full Scholarships: Isabelle Weule (Violin), William Tomkins (Violin), Elena Shiao (Violin), Thomas Summerfield (Piano), Xin Yuan Shen (Piano), Thomas White (Soprano Saxophone)

Half Scholarships: Shelby Vincent (Piano), Bianca Blackberry (Piano), Billy Paffen (Piano), Eva Kaye (Piano), Aylish Jorgensen (Cello), Ivan Shrestha (Guitar)

Organ Scholar: Hannah Ribstein

Friends of St Matthew’s Music Association Inc			
<p><u>Patrons:</u> Mr Gregory Loveday Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC and Mrs Ann Blainey Ms Greta Bradman</p>			
<p><u>Prestissimo Friends</u></p> <p>Mrs Thelma Bye Mr Keith & Mrs Caroline Crossley Dr John & Mrs Rossie Hennesy Mrs Andrea Keen Mr Michael & Mrs Betty Loorham Mr David & Mrs Fran Luxon Lady Primrose Potter Mr Doug Vukasinovic Beau and Doug Milos Mr Doug Vukasimovic</p> <p><u>Presto Friends</u></p> <p>Miss Sue Fyfe Dr Murray Haar & Mr Bradley Mallinson</p>	<p><u>Molto Vivace Friends</u></p> <p>Mr Max Barry Dr Edith Horvath Miss Noela Murphy Dr Rod & Mrs Leaoni Paton Ms Robyne Slade</p> <p><u>Vivace Friends</u></p> <p>Mr Rick Allen Mrs Lois Best Dr Naylin & Mrs Sandira Bissessor Mr Mark & Mrs Cathy Carden Mrs Alison Colquhoun Mrs Marilyn Comitti Mrs Mary Dixon Larry Doyle & Wendy Phillips</p>	<p>Mr Raymond Fietz Dr Roger & Mrs Judy Frankenberg Ms Paule Gauquie Ms Gabrielle Glover Mrs Annette Gorham Mr John & Mrs Ann Greasley Mr Martin & Mrs Patricia Hendriks Mr Ian & Mrs Anne James Miss Kaye Kennedy Mr David & Mrs Margaret Knight Mr David Martin Ms Linda Martin Mr John & Mrs Helen Martin Mr David Murray Ms Wendy Phillips Mrs Jill Poyner Dr Robin Riley Mrs Michelle Roberts Mrs Odette & Mr John Ross OAM Ms Jennifer Schubert</p>	<p>Mrs Jill Scott Ms Mary Smith Mrs Elizabeth Ann Snow Mrs Lorraine Todman Mr Derek Woolcott Mrs Janette Wyatt Brown</p> <p><u>Friends</u></p> <p>Mr Graham & Mrs Linda Allchurch Mr Rod Brown Mrs Rosealind Brown Mrs Vicki Chick Mr Richard & Mrs Laura Groves Mr Richard & Mrs Janny Molesworth Mrs Kathryn Sutherland Ms Betty White</p>
<p>Sponsorship for the Restoration of the Voix Humaine stop on the Letorneau Organs:</p> <p>Mr David Luxon</p>			



Can You Help?

The St Matthew’s Music Association is only able to undertake these programs thanks to the generous donations of individuals and corporations. If you would like to help please complete the response forms as attached. All donations (over \$2) to the Association’s Public Fund are fully tax-deductible.

- You might like to assist the Scholarship and Bursary program by becoming a *Friend of the St Matthew's Music Association*; or
- You may like to contribute to the Albury Chamber Music Festival by becoming a *Member of the Albury Chamber Music Festival Society*. or
- You might like to contribute to the on-going development of the Letourneau Organ in St Matthew’s by sponsoring one or more of the new digital pedal pipes.

Your help with any of these programs will be greatly appreciated.

Mr Frank Woods grandson of Dr Cleaver Woods
organist at St Matthews in the early 1900s

RANK	DOUBLE OPEN WOOD 32’ (Ped)	OPEN WOOD 16’ (Ped)
Bottom C Bottom C# Bottom D Bottom D# Bottom E Bottom F Bottom F# Bottom G Bottom G# Bottom A Bottom A# Bottom B Tenor C Tenor C# Tenor D Tenor D# Tenor E Tenor F Tenor F# Tenor G Tenor G# Tenor A	M&E Loorham Max Barry Murray Haar & Bradley Mallinson	

Members of the Albury Chamber Music Festival Society	
<p><u>Platinum Members:</u></p> <p>Prof Geoffrey and Mrs Ann Blainey Mr Peter Evans Ms Sue Fyfe Ms Nance Grant & Mr Ian Harris Mr Greg & Mrs Megan McEachern Dr Rod &Mrs Leaoni Paton Dr Robin Riley Mrs Prue & Mr Anthony Smith Mr Brian & Mrs Paula Waters Dr Murray Haar & Mr Bradley Mallinson</p>	<p><u>Gold Members:</u></p> <p>Dr Allan & Mrs Raewyn Beavis Mrs Annette Gorham Ms Kaye Kennedy Mr Gordan Kerry & Mr Jeffrey Muller Ms Tracey Merrin & Mr Greg Hewitt Miss Nola Murphy Mrs Michele Roberts Ms Olwen Steel Mr Brian & Mrs Paula Waters</p>