



Upbeat!

Summer 2010

Director's musings:

Dear students, families, and members of the ORC community, **Happy 2010!**

This year is a special one for us in a number of ways:

It is our first year-start on one, consolidated, site; and due to a marginal increase in government funding (albeit, less than we were expecting...), we are in our strongest financial position ever.

We have a tremendously talented and committed staff; with just a couple of additions, contributing to the strongest team ever.

...And on a personal note, having arrived in 2001, I have now commenced my tenth year here at the ORC.

Speaking of staff developments, Doreen Cumming has settled in so well as our latest addition to the string staff, she has now become Full-Time.

One of our prime objectives over the years has been to stabilise and grow the String Department - a pivotal feature of any serious music education organisation. Stability and energy started in earnest when Andrew Baker took up the post of Head of Strings in 2005, and has grown exponentially, as people like Ana, Alina, John, Lou, and now Doreen, have joined the staff:

each addition to the team adding expertise and passion along the way.

Another key area with which we have been struggling a little over the last couple of years is the Vocal Department. Kyle, Suzi and I have been coping the best we could with limited teaching slots available, but relief is in sight! Not only will we be able to attend to those waiting lists, but from March 2 we will also be able to take on many more vocal students with the arrival of Samantha Bartholomeusz (picture on right), our new Singing Teacher.

Samantha comes to us from Tamworth Conservatorium where she has been Head of Vocal Studies. She is in the process of completing her Master of Music degree (Sydney University), specialising in Vocal Pedagogy,

and has taught at many schools and institutions.

Samantha holds an L.Mus.A in singing and has a great deal of experience as a performer in Opera, Music Theatre and Recital.

Although she won't be starting for a few weeks, Samantha's timetable is being developed now, so it's a great time to get in if you are keen to take advantage of Orange's new premier singing teacher!



Two final changes to the staff are: the arrival, late last year, of our new part-time accountant - Jo Balcomb, and sadly, the imminent departure of our first ever Events and

Promotions specialist, Holly Manning.

Holly has been very much a fixture here over 2009, helping to get the right message to the right people about this great place.

Holly has had to make a few changes in relation to work/life balance, and so with sadness, and gratitude for all she has done, we say goodbye. Holly will be leaving us at the end of February.

So on to 2010!

Take note of all the upcoming events; this year sees familiar series like *Music in the Gardens*, *Symphony in Winter*, and *Grapevine*, along with some tasty new treats like *to Belgravia and Bacharach*, *Progeny* and the *Seven Harp Ensemble*.

Remember, we are your community music resource...

Enjoy!

Graham Sattler

Music in the Gardens back in season

Music lovers around the Central West are looking forward to the return of the Orange Regional Conservatorium (ORC) and Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens annual *Music in*



the Gardens concerts. This year it launches as the beginning of the Slow Summer Festival. From Friday 5 February to Friday 5 March, the Orange Botanic Gardens will come alive with the sounds of classical, jazz and everything in between.

"The Music in the Gardens concerts are a wonderful community event that brings together all the things we love – music, food, family and friends in a beautiful environment," ORC director Mr Graham Sattler says.

This year will see the inclusion of food and cool drinks for sale at each concert.

We still encourage people to bring a picnic and refreshments along to the concerts but it's great to know that food is available at the concerts if needed.

"We have been very lucky with the weather in the past, but Orange weather can be unpredictable," says Mr Sattler. "GWAHS have very kindly offered to support the concerts by providing an alternate venue if it rains. Bloomfield Hall, Canobolas Drive is a wonderful venue and the ORC certainly appreciate the generosity of GWAHS in providing it."

To find out if the venue will change prior to a concert, please visit the ORC website www.orangecon.org.au

Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens and the Orange Regional Conservatorium present Music in the Gardens at the Orange Botanic Gardens from Friday 5 February to Friday 5 March from 6.30pm to 8pm. For more information contact the ORC on 6361 7974 or visit www.orangecon.org.au

New transition program launched

Having run Early Childhood Music (ECM) classes for young children for the past ten years, the ORC are now launching a new program called Sing & String. "ECM classes have been extremely popular with the under five year olds, but when children had finished the classes, there's been little to follow on with," education coordinator Donna Riles explains. "We have developed Sing & String as a transitional program between ECM and individual tuition in a chosen instrument." "The ORC is determined to ensure it is a community music resource for every age," says Mrs Riles, "and now, with the introduction of the new Sing and String program, we are fulfilling that aim." Applications for both ECM and the new Sing and String classes are now open for Term 2. For more information contact the Orange Regional Conservatorium for details on 6361 7974 or visit www.orangecon.org.au

- all you need to know about Sing and String

Music educators confirm that early exposure to music is very important to a child's development. It encourages concentration, co-ordination, self-discipline, creativity and positive attitudes to academic work later on. While making music is educational, it's also fun and rewarding.

The Orange Regional Conservatorium is proud to launch its latest program, ensuring there is something for every age at the Con.

The new transitional program bridges the move from Early Childhood Music, a music appreciation class for one to three year olds, to individual tuition in a particular instrument.

Sing and String is perfect for every three – five year old, concentrating on voice development and string instruments before they begin instrumental tuition in the instrument of their choice.

The 45 minute session includes 25 minutes of singing with warm-ups, games, songs, rounds and gives children their first choral experience. The next 20 minutes introduces children to string instruments, the easiest musical instrument for small fingers, and includes games, and practice at handling instruments.

After one year of this program, students will be ready to move on to private tuition on a particular instrument or voice. Every child deserves the opportunity to experience music first-hand and the Orange Regional Conservatorium aims to provide that experience.

Seniors celebrated with music

NSW Seniors Week will be launched in Orange with a concert held at 2pm on Sunday 15 March at the Orange Civic Theatre.

As in 2009, the ORC will produce the concert, with director Graham Sattler hosting.

"This is the first major ORC ensembles concert for 2010 involving almost all our performing students and staff, Mr Sattler said. "It is an enormous pleasure for us to perform for some of our greatest supporters in the senior community."

The collaborative community event will be expanded this year to include Colour City Danceworks, performing pieces from the Nutcracker, accompanied by the Orange Youth Orchestra.

NSW Seniors Week runs from 28 March to 4 April. With more than 500 events planned under the *LIVE LIFE* banner, it is one of the biggest celebrations for seniors in the southern hemisphere.

NSW Seniors Week is funded by the NSW Government and organised by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) to thank and recognise older people across the State for the contributions they provide to the community.

The Orange City Council Seniors Week Concert will take place as part of Seniors Week 2010 on Sunday 28 March from 2pm at the Orange Civic Theatre. The concert is free to attend.

Become one of the family

Our members are our family at the Conservatorium. Whether you're a musician or a lover of music, we hope you will become a member in 2010. We are currently looking at restructuring our membership package and will ensure all members are informed of any changes before membership fees are due.

Bagpipes the new horn to blow

For most who attended the Farewell 2009 concert, the bagpipes were a highlight of the festivities. A duo of pipes, led by tutor, John Tallis, closed the concert with a medley of Carols.

John joined the Staff in 2009, expanding the Con's teaching skills to the bagpipes. His passion for the pipes has inspired

his students to learn and perform this amazing instrument. If you're tempted to start piping... don't resist. Call Natalie to arrange a trial session of lessons.

Message from Head of Academic Studies and Keyboard; Schools Liaison, Donna Riles

New Piano: We are indebted to the Orange Arts Foundation for their generosity in purchasing a brand new Yamaha C5 grand piano for use by the Orange community. We look forward to being able to highlight its capabilities in the new year.

Studio Concerts: What a joy to hear the hard work that goes into practise over the year and to see students from age *four* to *seventy four* stepping up to hone their performance skills. Thank you and congratulations!

Purely Piano Grapevine: The final *Grapevine* concert in October was a wonderful opportunity to see our piano staff in action: Kyle Manning and his amazing improvisatory skills as he performed Nat King Coles' *Nature Boy*, Meriel and Ana on duelling pianos with Der Rosenkavalier, Ana and Donna with more music for 2 pianos and Ana delighting all with the Liszt *Leibestraume*.

A big thank you and Happy New Year to our hard working Piano staff:

Ana Castillo, Meriel Owen, Kyle Manning and Anne Stevens. All the best for the year.

"Music is the best means we have of digesting time",
W.H.Auden

Musicianship News

If you are looking to enhance your music studies and advance through grades on your instrument, please ensure you chat to Donna keyboard@orangecon.org.au about joining one of our Musicianship classes on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. If these don't suit please enquire about a one on one lesson with our qualified staff.

For existing students, classes will remain at the same time.

A special thanks and farewell to our resident musicologist, Mr Dennis Dorwick who is leaving us to travel to the USA. We wish he and Cath all the very best as they embark on their new adventure.

Welcome to Ms Alina Zborowski who will be assisting us on the Musicianship team in 2010!

Schools News

We are very pleased to announce new partnerships with St Mary's School, Nashdale Public School, and the Orange District Small Schools Association in 2010.

Our staff will be involved tutoring concert band instruments along with strings, choirs, percussion and associated ensembles.

ECM

Classes are held on Tuesday 9.30am & 10.30am, Thursday 9.30am, 10.30am & 11.30am. Limited availability, please contact Natalie in the Administration office for further information.

Message from Head of Strings, Andrew Baker

In Term 4, 2009 the string department had its most successful season of studio concerts ever. Over 70 students performed in 3 concerts showcasing the semester's work. Congratulations to all performers and our tutors for all their hard work! Looking forward into 2010: string ensemble students will have greater accessibility to our lower string tutors, 2 more school based string groups will begin and we'll be launching a training program for associate string tutors.

Message from Head of Woodwind, Prem Love

Term 4 was a very busy and exciting time for everyone, I'm sure.

Term 4 saw the Orange Youth Orchestra presenting its fourth annual 'Concerto' Concert with great success. The orchestra has never sounded better and it is a credit to the students' continued energy and commitment.

The two soloists, Katherine Moses and Jackson Griffith-Bankovic, performed very well, and to a high standard. I would like to congratulate both the soloists and their teachers for their very fine work.

As the Orange Youth Orchestra is now open to students up to the age of 23yrs, and due to the ongoing success of the Orange Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition, their will be two sections for the Concerto Competition in 2010: Under Eighteen Years, and the new category for students up to the age of Twenty Three Years.

The Big Phat Jazz Band performed at the Botanic Gardens as a prelude to the 'Music in the Gardens' concerts in early 2010. This was the first time that this band performed with singers and it was a tremendous addition to the very big sound that this band makes.

The Farewell 2009 Proms Concert was a very successful ensembles concert with many fine performances given.

I would like to thank and congratulate all the performers and staff for their fine work.

The Woodwind Department has had one member of staff, Dennis Dorwick, move on to the USA at the end of 2009. Thank you for your contribution over the years, Dennis, and best wishes for the future.

The Junior Clarinet and Junior Flute Ensembles will be inviting new members to join in 2010. Both groups have a lot of fun and rehearse on Wednesday afternoons.

Please feel free to contact me at woodwind@orangecon.org.au if you are interested in joining any of the ORC Ensembles to discuss your interests and level.

Message from Head of Brass, Gerry Ramage

With music exams, Eisteddfodau, Sweeney Todd, Ensembles concerts, OYO and Jazz all out of the way for 2009, I hope all of our budding blowers are having/have had a good holiday, festive Christmas and a relaxing after New Year break. As the 2010 academic year begins, it's now time to think of getting ready for the upcoming activities for the year, getting back into the frame of mind for creative and productive music making and continuing on the never ending road to musical excellence and expression.

A good place to start is to become re-acquainted with your instrument. First step on that road is to CLEAN IT!!! Wash out all the leftovers out of your lead pipes, clean and lubricate slides and valves, and make sure it still works! After that, do some gentle long notes, slurs and tonguing exercises for about five minutes, then go fishing. Do the same a few hours later, and gradually you will be back to normal in a few days. Remember, make your playing feel good and sound good. If it hurts then stop and try again later in a more relaxed state of mind.

Message from Friends of the ORC

After successful fundraising and a positive membership drive, the Friends of the ORC are ready to take on the New Year! We're keen to find more members who can help out with Front of House at concerts (free entry to the ORC concerts for helping out!), poster distribution, gardening, fundraising or other areas. Anyone interested in joining the Friends, please fill out one of our forms at the office in Hill Street, Orange.

Musicians - remember these dates!

AMEB practical exam - payment deadline Wednesday 3 March

OYO Concerto Competition auditions March 30

After the success of the 2009 OYO Concerto with both Katherine Moses and Jackson Griffith-Bankovic receiving accolades from the audiences in Orange and Parkes, it's now time to find our soloist for 2010. For more information, call Admin on 6361 7974.

Schedule of Events for 2010**February**

5 Music in the Gardens #1
12 Music in the Gardens #2
19 Music in the Gardens #3
26 Music in the Gardens #4

March

5 Music in the Gardens #5
28 Seniors' Week Concert- Orange Civic Theatre – 2.00pm

April

10 To Belgravia and Bacharach
20 Seven Harp Ensemble

May

28 Winter's Eve Adult Ensembles Concert

June

18 School Spectacular
25 Grapevine #1
26 A Little Symphony proms

July

1 ECM concert – 10.00am
2 Symphony in Winter, Orange
30 Grapevine #2

August

20 Friends trivia night
27 Grapevine #3

September

26 Tatiana Kolesova – piano recital

October

1 Nick Parnell Bach to Brazil – percussion workshop and performance
10 Mental Health Week opening Concert Bloomfield Leisure Centre, 7.30pm
17 Mental Health week closing Concert Bloomfield Leisure Centre, 2.30pm

November

12 Concerto (OYO) Concert

December

3, 4 Messiah
11 Farewell 2010 Proms Concert and Friends Fete

Find out more about the ORC, or become a Friend of the ORC at www.orangecon.org.au or join us on Facebook.

Administration Office: 6361 7974