



The British Music Society of Victoria existing as
LYREBIRD MUSIC SOCIETY INC.

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Founded in 1921 by Mrs Louise Dyer

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SOCIETY NEWS

April 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was wonderful to see the Auditorium almost full for our April concert. A number of our new members were there for the first time and others who heard Christine Stevenson playing live to air on 3MBS on the Friday also came to the concert.

If you missed the April concert you can read about it later in this newsletter.



Fundraising Thermometer

Our 'Artist's Fees Fundraising Thermometer' is slowly growing. Please remember to put your gold coin in the box for the program and watch it grow even faster.

Fundraising Ideas

The Committee is also looking for other ideas to help raise additional funds. If you have any suggestions please talk to me or one of the other Committee members.

Tickets for Special Events

Don't forget you can purchase your tickets for the 21 August and 24 September events at the next concert. They are only \$10 each for members.

Try Bookings

The Society now has an online facility through which concert tickets and memberships can be purchased using your credit card. A number of members have asked about this in the past and already we have had two new members take advantage of this facility. Details on how it works and the cost are included in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next concert on 1 May when the recently formed Hopkins Quartet will take the stage.

Sarah Cuming

"The most perfect technique is that which is not noticed at all." - Pablo Casals, cellist (1876-1973)

MAY CONCERT PROGRAM

Mozart - *String Quartet in F major No. 23 KV590*

I Allegretto Moderato

II Allegretto

III Menuetto: Allegretto

IV Allegro

Barber - *Adagio*

INTERVAL

Beethoven - *String Quartet Op. 18 No. 3*

I Allegro

II Andante con moto

III Allegro

IV Presto

Hopkins Quartet was formed in early 2010. This group of friends and colleagues from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) and Orchestra Victoria (OV) couldn't resist the temptation to form a string quartet and be a part of Melbourne's flourishing chamber music scene. The Quartet was named after Professor John Hopkins OBE in recognition of his inspirational and ongoing contribution to the musical life of Australia and New Zealand.

They have a concert series at the Melbourne Recital Centre's Salon, a residency at Stones of the Yarra Valley, and are also performing at Collingwood Gallery, St Johns Southgate and Melba Hall.

Wilma Smith, violin is the MSO's concertmaster and a keen chamber musician. Born in Fiji and raised in New Zealand, she studied in Boston with Dorothy DeLay and Louis Krasner at the New England Conservatory.

Sharon Draper, cello is a member of the MSO and a core player with the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra (MCO). In 2011 she is also appearing as soloist with the MSO Chorus.

Fiona Sargeant, viola has held the position of Associate Principal Violist with the MSO since 2008. As a student of Lawrence Jacks and Marco Van Pagee, she graduated from VCASS and VCA with distinction.

Yi Wang, violin is a prize winner of Chinese National violin competition and Rudolf Lipizer International competition held in Italy. He recently moved to Melbourne to join OV as Principal Second Violin.

APRIL CONCERT REVIEW

Christine Stevenson's bio says that her concerts continually draw critical acclaim for her virtuosity, musicianship, and her ability to engage with audiences of all ages. Those that were at the April concert experienced this for themselves and were fully engaged and amazed by Christine's immense performance on the day.

Christine had titled her concert "*Liszt - Years of Pilgrimage*", and the following are some of the gems she described about the music before engaging our imagination and senses in the sound.

She explained how the three volumes of Liszt's years of pilgrimage chart a musical journey that lasted over 40 years, from the 1830's to the 1870's. In the first half she included works from the second volume featuring music inspired by Italian art, sculpture, literature and poetry. From this volume Christine played three sonnets, 47, 104 and 123 by the poet Petrarch. Sonnet 47 was described as celebrating first love with the set ending with music of rueful ecstasy, to which Liszt set the words: "To this spectre, lady, am I come because of you."

The session after interval commenced with four delightful piano miniatures by one of England's award winning contemporary composers, Thomas Hewitt Jones. Thomas was the 2003 BBC Young Composer of the Year and recently completed the score for one of the films based around the 2012 Olympic mascots. These same works were also played by Christine for Thomas' Under Milkwood CD.

These were followed by a combination of works from the first and third volumes of Liszt's years of pilgrimage that all had an association with water. From the first volume, inspired by Liszt's travels in Switzerland with Countess Marie d'Agoult, Christine played 'Au lac de Wallenstadt'. In this work, Liszt added words from Byron's Childe Harold's Pilgrimage to the score. In the second piece inspired by water, 'Au bord d'une source', Liszt also added a quote, this time by Schiller: 'In the whispering coolness begins young nature's play'.

In the third volume Liszt's style is pared down and simplified, and the subject matter is mainly religious. From these works, Christine treated those present to the piece she describes as being the one jewel in the crown that sparkles and outshines its fellows, "Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este" – the fountain of the Villa d'Este near Rome where Liszt often stayed. He has immortalised the hundreds of fountains there in this piece, and wrote on the score a quotation from St John's Gospel: "But for the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life".

The audience was left with the echoing sound of nightingales as the final notes of Liszt's: Mephisto Waltz No. 1 drew this superb performance to a close and a resounding applause.

CONCERT TICKETS & MEMBERSHIPS ONLINE

You can now use your credit card to pay for concert tickets or renew your membership online. If you're not connected to the internet you can phone the Secretary or Acting Treasurer on 9431 0458 and they will process your payment for you. The fee for each ticket or membership purchased online is 30 cents on top of the ticket or membership price. Based on current fees, a \$50 concession membership will cost you \$50.30 and each \$10 ticket to the special 90th anniversary concerts will cost \$10.30.

The Society's events and membership can be accessed by clicking the [Online bookings](#) link, which is located on the Home Page, Program Page and Membership Page of our website www.lyrebirdmusicsociety.org.au. This will bring up the following:

[90th Anniversary Concert](#)

Event Date/s: 21 August 2011 02:00 PM

Venue: Yarra Room - Melbourne Town Hall

The Lyrebird Music Society's 90th Anniversary Concert features Miwako Abe, violin and Elizabeth Anderson, harpsichord in an "All Bach Program".

[Ensemble Liaison & Jane Hammond Concert](#)

Event Date/s: 24 September 2011 02:00 PM

Venue: St Johns Southgate

Ensemble Liaison premieres the Lyrebird Music Society's 90th Anniversary Commission by composer Jane Hammond.

[Lyrebird Music Society 2011 Concerts](#)

Event Date/s: 1 May 2011 02:00 PM - 4 December 2011 02:00 PM

Venue: Wyselaskie Auditorium

The Lyrebird Music Society celebrates its 90th anniversary with its 2011 calendar of exciting chamber music concerts.

[Lyrebird Music Society Membership](#)

Event Date/s: 30 June 2011 05:00 PM

Venue: Online

Membership includes free admission to most concerts.

Click on the one you want. It will take you to the Try Booking's website and follow the prompts.

You can also access the Try Bookings site directly at www.trybooking.com. When their homepage comes up there is a yellow Buy Tickets search box. Type in Lyrebird and click the search button. The above information will be displayed, click on the event you want and follow the prompts.

Please note: all of our regular events are listed under the [Lyrebird Music Society 2011 Concerts](#) link.

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