



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

June 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our June concert was a wonderful "All Australian" affair and we were fortunate to have three of the composers join us on the day. Linda Kouvaras was there for the world premiere of her work Bundanon Sonata for violin and piano along with Will Schmidt and Stuart Greenbaum.

The performers, Rosanne Hunt, cello; Marianne Rothschild, violin; and Glenn Riddle, piano gave superb performances as well as stories that connected the music to our history.

Sunday 10 July

This concert features the exciting *Syzygy Ensemble* (Laila Engle, flute; Julia Stoppa, clarinet; and Leigh Harrold, piano). Syzygy was one of 107 groups that recently participated in the Gaudeamus International Interpreters Award in Amsterdam. We are delighted that our July concert will feature many of the works they performed in that competition.



Fundraising Thermometer

Help us to keep our artists fees fundraising thermometer growing by putting your gold coin in the box for the program.

Anniversary Concerts

Remember to buy your tickets for our two special anniversary concerts:

21 August and 24 September.

Tickets for members are only \$10 and will be available at the July concert.

Sarah Cuming

NOVEMBER - Program Change

Our November concert will now be the prize-winning duo of Igor Machlak and Olga Kharitonova with their daughter Iounna. This 'Family Affair' piano recital features music for one, two, four and six hands. The program includes Bach's "Chaconne", an arrangement of Brahms as well as Rachmaninov's music for one piano and 6 hands.

Igor Machlak, born in Belarus was almost nine when introduced to piano and later attended the Academy of Music's School for gifted children in Minsk, Belarus. He went on to gain his degree at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory with first class honours.

Russian born **Olga Kharitonova** began her early musical training at the age of six and made her debut at the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow at eleven. She gained her degree at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory with first class honours.

Together with his wife, Olga Kharitonova, Igor completed postgraduate study at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. As a Duo, they won prizes at many major competitions and went on to establish a successful international career.

Since arriving in Australia in 1995, both have continued to develop their careers as performers and teachers. As the Igor and Olga Piano Duo, they have become one of the leading ensembles in Australia.

Iounna Machlak was born in Russia and first learnt piano at the age of seven. Iounna was nine when she moved with her parents to Australia and continued her piano studies under the occasional supervision of her father. Despite prize-winning performances and gaining her AMusA at fourteen, it was only in Year 12, after visiting Moscow again, that she decided she wanted to be a musician.

Iounna has completed Bachelor (Honours) and Masters Degrees in piano performance at the Conservatorium of Music, the University of Melbourne and is currently in her first year of a Masters of Teaching degree.

10 JULY CONCERT PROGRAM

Jennifer Higdon - "Dash"

Houston Dunleavy - "To the ends of the ocean"
Australian Premiere

Katy Abbott - "Music for Demons"

Bruno Mantovani - "L'ère de rien"

Theo Leovendi - "Plus One"

Ron Mazurek - "A time to...."

Erkki Sven Tuur - "Architectonics VII"

Richard Toensing - "Children of the Light"

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS

Jennifer Higdon, won the Pulitzer Prize for music in 2010 for her "Violin Concerto". She was a late starter in music, teaching herself to play flute at 15 and engaging in formal studies at 18 before taking up composition at the age of 21. "*Dash*", written to depict the beginning of the 21st Century, is about speed. The use of the clarinet, violin, and piano is significant as they are some of the fastest moving instruments in terms of their technical prowess. Each plays an equal part, contributing to the intensity and forward momentum, as the music dashes from beginning to end.

Houston Dunleavy was born in Ulster and is currently Honorary Principal Fellow at the University of Wollongong. Since 1985, Houston has pursued a national and international career as a composer and conductor. "*To the ends of the ocean*" was written when composer in residence for the 2008 Albert Rousell Festival in France and uses Debussy's *La Mer* as a starting point. It has its Australian premiere at this concert.

Katy Abbott, was our 2008 Lyrebird Commission composer. "*Music for Demons*" was commissioned by Syzygy Ensemble for their 2010 concert series as a companion work for Making Angels. It is a quirky, evocative yet boppy piece exploring the idea of getting lured into the world of computer games.

Bruno Mantovani studied at the Paris Conservatory and awarded five first prizes for analysis, aesthetics, orchestration, composition and music history. *L'ère de rien* is a pun in French meaning "the era of nothing" and could be termed an "exotic" work, as it takes much of its musical inspiration from non European cultures, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Theo Loevendie is a Dutch composer and clarinet player. Loevendie studied composition and clarinet at the Conservatoire of Amsterdam. In 1968 he began writing concert music, operas, concertos and chamber music. Today he is one of the Netherlands most well known composers and winner of many awards.

Ron Mazurek is a prolific composer of instrumental and electro-acoustic works, his compositions have been widely performed and recorded. *A time to...* represents the seasons in one's life. Each of the seven sections focuses upon a segment from the book of Ecclesiastes covering significant events in life's journey. A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance, A Time to Love, A Time to Rend, A Time to Sow, A Time to Break Down, A Time to Speak.

Erkki-Sven Tüür began his musical career in the late 1970s leading a progressive rock band before working as a professional composer in his native Estonia. Instrumental music makes up the main body of Tüür's work, symphonies, instrumental concertos, chamber music and opera. His works have attracted many awards.

Richard Toensing was born in Minnesota. After completing a Bachelor of Music with honours and a Masters degree, he has held a number of academic appointments including Chair of the Composition Theory Faculty at Colorado. Toensing has won numerous awards for composition, which span a variety of styles and includes works for chorus, chamber music in various genres and works for large ensembles. "*Children of the Light*" has five movements: Dawn Processional; The Song of the Morning Stars; The Robe of Light; Silver Lightning, Golden Rain; and Phos Hilarion (Vesper Hymn).

STREETON TRIO

The exciting Streeton Trio (Emma Jardine, violin; Martin Smith, cello; and Benjamin Kopp, piano) are back from Switzerland to compete in the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition in July. They are one of eight piano trios selected from all over the world, and the only Australian group in this year's competition!

Support them in their lead-up to the competition by joining them for their upcoming concert.

7:00pm Monday, 27 June

Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre

Cnr Sturt St and Southbank Boulevard, Southbank

Tickets: \$35 Adults, \$24 Concession

Phone (03) 9699 3333

Haydn - Piano Trio in C major, Hob XV/27

Brahms - Piano Trio No. 1 in B major

Ravel - Piano Trio in A minor

The works are from their recently released debut CD, and is Thomas' Music CD for the Month of June.

MSV 150th ANNIVERSARY GALA CONCERT

The Musical Society of Victoria (MSV) founded in 1861 by a small group of musicians including Alberto Zelman (Senior). MSV's main activities are competitions and the awarding of scholarships to young musicians from 12 years and under, and culminating in the Hephzibah Menuhin Memorial Awards for 25 years and under.

The MSV would like us to join them for their Gala Concert.

2.30pm Sunday, 24 July, Iwaki Auditorium, Southbank
Bookings essential: \$25 adults & \$15 students under 18
Geraldine de Korte 9509 7767

SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors for their contribution to the Society's 90th anniversary year activities.

