



MEDIA RELEASE

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Central Coast Regional Performing Arts Centre

“where we work, learn, perform, play and meet”

Today the Central Conservatorium of Music released a bold new vision for performing arts on the Central Coast.

Patrick Brennan, CEO and Artistic Director with the CCCM, said a Regional Performing Arts Centre incorporating the Conservatorium of Music was a rare opportunity for the Coast to have a world class facility that attracts people to “work, learn, perform, play and meet.”

“The Federal, State and Local Governments in committing funds to this project have provided a brilliant opportunity for an iconic and significant building on the Coast.”

“Which is why the Conservatorium has spent the past 18 months working with local architect, Anthony Kelly at ADG, and his team, to make sure the Central Coast has something that will serve the needs of our regional community as well as those of national and international performers.”

Mr Brennan said the detailed plans were a result of ongoing dialogue with arts stakeholders across the Coast around how to secure and grow the future of performing arts on the coast.

“These include the many ensembles, choirs, bands and performers we are fortunate to have on the Coast; parents of our many individual students and also those from the schools we partner with to provide music education to thousands of children; the University of Newcastle; and operators of international and national performing arts venues.”

“Our purpose in launching these plans today is to provide a vision for the RPAC as the centrepiece for living, breathing hub for the community – a space that is used 18 hours a day by students, local arts groups, visiting performers and entertainers, bands, orchestras and ensembles, conference groups and many others.”

Mr Brennan said the Conservatorium had initially just looked at what could be done to secure its own premises, but quickly became aware that as one of the largest cultural institutions on the Central Coast it was a key stakeholder and major tenant in the RPAC.

“It just makes so much sense for the Conservatorium to be part of the Coast’s major performance facility, and there is so much local expertise on the Coast that can be drawn on to design and build this facility,” he said.

The Conservatorium group is well advanced in terms of the conceptual design phase and is moving towards the design documentation stage which will require further input from all stakeholders when we engage with acoustic engineers and other design consultants.

The Conservatorium is aware that Council is investigating six sites for a stand-alone RPAC and, as a key stakeholder and future tenant, is keen to engage in a constructive partnership and lend its expertise to any work Council may be undertaking.

Mr Brennan paid special tribute to Anthony Kelly and his team, thanking him for his endless capacity to listen to advice, his tireless work fine tuning the designs and specifications and his commitment to Gosford and the Central Coast.

Technical specifications / requirements for an RPAC

The current high-level draft technical specifications that are being discussed are for an architecturally designed building with multiple flexible spaces, a minimum 5-star sustainability rating and equitable access for public and performers that has a:

- Flexible 1,000 seat auditorium with an Orchestra Pit, removable Proscenium Arch and Fly Tower
- 200 to 250-seat 'black box' with tiered removable seating
- 350 seat acoustic auditorium with a large concert platform (500)
- Teaching rooms & large rehearsal rooms
- Multi-sized holding rooms including mirror room and barre
- Entry atrium connecting the public entry spaces to the breakout area of the RPAC & smaller auditoriums
- Underground car-park with 600 + spaces

About the Conservatorium

- The CCCM is the third-largest Conservatorium of music in NSW. It has Tier One Status amongst Regional Conservatoriums, which it has maintained for the past six years.
- Delivers in excess of 35 000 equivalent teaching hours per annum.
- Employs 70 music teachers and has in excess of 400 one-on-one students
- Supports more than 20 ensembles from small Chamber groups to a full Youth Symphony orchestra.
- Runs Central Coast Opera Company and a major production each year.
- Instructs in Music Theory.
- Provides tuition in 25 schools on the Central Coast in the public, systemic and private spheres. This is generally in the provision of tutors and conductors in school band programmes.
- Partners with Symphony Central Coast, Central Coast Philharmonia Choir and Concertante Chamber Orchestra.
- Runs Central Coast Opera Company and a major production each year.
- Produces concerts at the Conservatorium and at other Central Coast venues.
- Is the largest provider of Music Therapy classes on the Central Coast.
- Provides a large number of scholarships to indigenous, disabled and able-bodied students on the Central Coast.
- Supports all forms of creative and performing arts including the provision of a Gallery for the display of student works of art.

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