

Issue:

Term 1  
March 2011

# Perfect Pitch



## Welcome to the Con in 2011

### From the Director's Desk

During 2011 our focus will be on audience development. This does not mean merely getting more people to the concert hall, it means offering the community increased opportunities to participate in gaining knowledge and skills. The more we know the more we will want to know, and that means we will lessen the divide between audience and performer.

As in life our position changes from moment to moment and so it is with music. One moment we

are the listener, the next the student and maybe next the performer.

All are closely linked, especially now with music being so entwined with the communications industry.

We also are anxious to know how you involve you and your children in the programme we have created and what part it plays in your life. The learning process in instrumental and vocal training is quite unique.

As a beginning we are conducting a 20 question

survey which will be sent to all students with Term 2 accounts. The survey will also be available to complete on the Conservatorium website.

The Con is here to involve everyone in the world of music and for it to impact on their lives. Even if the only thing you do is drive your children to us for tuition that is enough; especially if they sing to you what they are learning on the way home.

Chris Bearman, OAM  
Director

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## Welcome New Tutors!

The Conservatorium is delighted to welcome some new tutors into the fold in 2011.

**Vanessa Ropa** joins the Woodwind Department as a Flute teacher, bringing expertise on all forms of flute, from Piccolo to Bass Flute, including performances with the Sydney Sinfonia, Sydney Symphony and various chamber groups.

Vanessa studied her Bachelor and Masters degrees in music performance at Sydney Conservatorium with James Kortum, and researched posture and biomechanics in Flute and wind playing using Electromyography for her Masters thesis.

**Adrian Bell** joins the String Department, filling the shoes of departing tutor Trish McMeekin. Adrian studied Cello at the Guildhall School of Music in London before returning to Australia to teach. Adrian has appeared on numerous occasions with the Central Coast Symphony, Concertante Ensemble and other groups on the Central Coast.

We are delighted to welcome back **Rachel Tolmie** to the Woodwind Department, stepping back into her familiar place teaching the Oboe. Rachel of course is a familiar face to many around the Conservatorium, having taught the Oboe here for a number of years and also

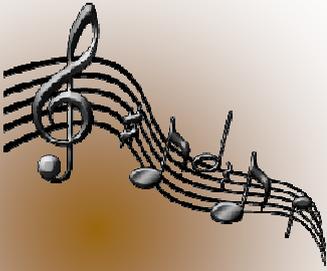


New Flute tutor Vanessa Ropa

playing with the Central Coast Symphony. We would like to thank outgoing tutor (and former student of Rachel's) Matthew Bubb for filling Rachel's shoes for the last 18 months.

We are also sorry to announce that Alex Harris has returned home to Tasmania, and we certainly wish her well for the future.





## Student Success

Congratulations to Christopher Higgins who was accepted into the Bachelor of Music (Jazz Studies) course at Sydney Conservatorium in 2011.

Chris was previously a student of David Dallinger, having started in the Conservatorium Schools Band program at Erina Heights Public School on the Saxophone. By the time he reached his HSC he played all four major saxophones (Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Baritone) as well as Clarinet.

Chris was the recipient of numerous scholarships and

awards, including an A+ in A MEB 8th Grade Saxophone, 2nd Place in the Pearl Beach Progress Association Woodwind Scholarship, Highly Commended in the Senior Woodwind Scholarship, and he was also placed highly in the final of the 2009 Trevor Haines and Frank Streater Scholarship.

Congratulations also to Bradley Price who has made it into the third round of auditions for "Starstruck", an annual variety concert put on by the Department of Education to showcase talented students in the

Hunter and Central Coast regions.

Tiana Young and Siena Palmer are to be commended for their recent exam results. Tiana received an A+ in 4th Grade Singing (Classical), and Siena an A in 4th Grade Singing for Leisure.

Lastly, congratulations to Eden Scott and Emily Arkell for their successful appearances in the recent GMS Juniors production of "Beauty and the Beast". The sellout production also saw Greg Bennett, Sarah Whyte and Amba Mercuri playing in the orchestra.



Chris Higgins playing a rare Bass Saxophone in his new musical home, Sydney Conservatorium

## Audience Development in 2011 "Mysteries of the Masters"

2011 will see a new season of Audience Development projects, coinciding with the Central Coast Symphony Orchestra concert series.

"Mysteries of the Masters" is a series of four lectures being given by Phillip Rutherford at Gosford Regional Art Gallery. The first lecture, "German Romanticism Unmasked" to be held on March 27th will feature music of Brahms,

Wagner and Richard Strauss, all of whom are featured in the first CCSO concert. There will also be discussions of the writings of Goethe, who influenced numerous composers during the 19th century. The lectures will also feature live music to accompany the discussion.

The second lecture on June 19th will be investigating operatic music through the ages. The third lecture on

September 11th will dig into the history of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, and the final lecture on November 13th will look at the music of William Walton and Karl Jenkins, two 20th Century British composers.

And the bonus - those who come to the lectures receive a \$10 discount off the price of a ticket to the corresponding CCSO concert.

*"Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music"*

Sergei Rachmaninoff

## Keep up with the kids!

For those who always wanted to read music but never got the chance to learn, **Music Foundations** is for you!

The Conservatorium is now offering a Music Foundations course - teaching the **absolute basics** of music - how to read music and how music works.

The course will also include rudimentary keyboard skills

to give everyone the chance to learn how to apply the basics of music to an instrument.

The first Step 1 class will begin in Term 2 with Phillip Rutherford and will cost \$140.

We need approximately 10 enrolments to commence this course, so if you're interested in coming to this class, or have any questions, please contact

the office as soon as possible on 4324 7477.

We are trying to find the most suitable time to deliver 8 hours of tuition - either over two weekends with four hours each, or over four weeks at two hours a week on a weekday. If you're interested in the course we would like to hear your thoughts on what suits you.



## Thank You, Paul Curtis

The Conservatorium is sad to announce the early retirement of Paul Curtis from our Woodwind Department. Although he had been planning on retiring in early 2012 anyway, Paul was forced into early retirement due to ongoing illness.

For nearly 20 years, Paul was Principal Flute with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and he appeared as a concert soloist on numerous occasions. He received his professional debut in 1964 when he was the Commonwealth winner

of the ABC Concerto and Vocal Competition, launching him into a career as a soloist and recording artist throughout Australia, the United Kingdom and America.

Paul was a member of the teaching staff of the Central Coast Conservatorium for many years and during that time has been responsible for developing many of our outstanding students in the Woodwind Department.

We wish Paul all the best in his retirement.



Paul Curtis



## Concert Calendar - it's coming!

We would like to apologise for the delays in printing the 2011 Concert and Recital Calendar. Unfortunately due to unforeseen delays in confirming venues, artists and programmes it has

taken much longer than usual to produce the calendar.

We are pleased to say that the calendars have finally arrived and you can pick up your copy from the

Conservatorium, and they will be available soon from other locations including Avoca Beach Theatre, Lizotte's, Gosford Art Gallery and more.

*"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and cannot remain silent"*

Victor Hugo

## 2011 Summer Schools

January 2011 saw two Summer Schools in operation.

The Conservatorium String Department enjoyed another successful String Summer School held over the January holidays. The absence of some senior students gave some younger students the chance to step up to the mark and perform in some senior groups. The junior groups performed some very challenging repertoire under the guidance of Suzie Borrett, Karina Hollands and Alex Harris at a packed, and rather hot, Robert Knox Hall.

The reduced senior group made a start on some repertoire for the first

major event of the year, Opera in the Arboretum. These students will be the nucleus of advanced playing in 2012 when we lose a large number of our current seniors. The String Department have high expectations of these players, some of whom show great promise.

On January 24th and 25th, David Dallinger held an Advanced Saxophone Workshop, which was attended by 13 Conservatorium saxophone students. The workshop focused on extended contemporary techniques such as the Altissimo (or extreme high) register, growling and multiphonics (where a player produces more than one note at a time). An advanced



Members of the Junior String Orchestra perform at the end of the String Summer School

improvisation session with Luke Gallen was also held as part of the workshop. Students also worked in small chamber groups, including both quartets and duets, as well as playing in a combined Saxophone Ensemble.

Both summer schools were very successful and well attended, and provided an excellent way to start the new year for all involved.



# 2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

## SEMESTER 1

35 and 45 Mann St  
PO Box 1303  
GOSFORD, NSW 2250

Phone: 02 4324 7477

Fax: 02 4324 2440

E-mail:

admin@centralcoastconservatorium.com.au



Education  
& Training



### The Trivia Corner

The first person to email all correct answers to the editor (address below) will receive two free tickets to the concert of their choice from the Greenway or Conservatorium series.

- 1) 2011 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of which well known composer?
- 2) How many strings are found on a typical Concert Harp?
- 3) The Shawm is an early version of what modern instrument?
- 4) Beethoven's 3rd Symphony, "Eroica", was originally dedicated to which historical figure?

Thursday March 24	Conservatorium Recital Series Concert 1 "The Jazz Years" George Golla & Don Andrews	\$25 Adults \$15 Child/Student	8.00pm Robert Knox Hall Central Coast Conservatorium 45 Mann Street, Gosford Bookings: 4324 7477
Sunday March 27	Mysteries of the Masters Series Seminar 1 'German Romanticism Unmasked'	\$30	5pm Gosford Regional Art Gallery 36 Webb St, Gosford Bookings: 4323 3233
Sunday April 3	CCSO Subscription Series Concert 1 "Strauss-Four Last Songs & Brahms - Symphony No. 4"	\$35 Adults \$30 Concession \$10 School Student \$80 Family (2+2)	2.30pm Laycock Street Theatre Laycock Street North Gosford Bookings: 4323 3233
Saturday April 9	CC Philharmonia "Choral Bon Bons"	\$25 Adults \$20 Snr/Conc \$15 Students/Child over 15	7.30pm Holy Cross Primary School Kincumber Street, Kincumber Bookings: 4324 7477
Sunday April 10	Greenway Series Concert 1 "Charman Gadd (Violin) & Phillip Shovk (Piano)"	\$30 Adults \$25 Senior \$20 Concession/Student \$10 Child (U 16)	<b>POSTPONED</b>
Sunday May 1	Greenway Series Concert 2 "Concertante Ensemble"	\$35 Adults \$28 Senior \$25 Concession/Student \$15 Child (U 16)	2.30pm Greenway Chapel Avoca Drive, Green Point Bookings: 4324 7477
Sunday May 22	Gosford & Gosford City Rotary Club 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Gala Concert "Swing & Swoon"	A Reserve \$30 Adults \$27 Conc B Reserve \$25 Adults \$23 Conc	Concert 1 1.30pm Concert 2 4.00pm CC Leagues Club Parkview Room, Gosford Bookings: 4324 7477
Sunday May 29	Greenway Series Concert 3 "Guy Strazz & Friends"	\$30 Adults \$25 Senior \$20 Concession/Student \$10 Child (U 16)	2.30pm Greenway Chapel Avoca Drive, Green Point Bookings: 4324 7477
Monday June 13	Central Coast Symphony Orchestra & soloist Warren Fisher	\$10 Adults	2.30pm Toukley Snr Citizens Club 1 Hargraves Street, Toukley Bookings: 4396 5075
Sunday June 19	Mysteries of the Masters Series Seminar 2	\$30	5pm Gosford Regional Art Gallery 36 Webb St, Gosford Bookings: 4323 3233
Sunday June 26	CCSO Subscription Series Concert 2 "Opera & Orchestra"	\$40 Adults \$35 Concession \$10 Child \$90 Family (2+2)	2.30pm Laycock Street Theatre Laycock Street North Gosford Bookings 4323 3233

Editor - David Kimpton. Please send comments or feedback to:

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