

September 2008

Volume 5 #4

# COY Notations

## Acknowledgements -

NSW Department of  
Education and  
Training

Coffs Harbour City Council

Park Beach HomeBase  
Coffs Coast Advocate  
Park Beach Music & Hi Fi  
ETC



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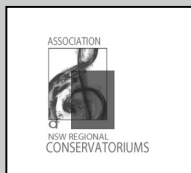
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Member of the Association  
of NSW Regional  
Conservatoriums Inc



Quarterly Newsletter of Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium Inc

## Seasons Greetings!

And so another year quickly draws to a close. Here at the Conservatorium 2008 has been very full and busy year.

Our annual teaching program has seen many changes including the introduction of a new course from Martin van Veluwen - a ten week Songwriters Course, inspired by Martin's trip to Sydney to attend the inaugural APRA Songwriters Conference - and a new choral director for *Sounds Fine!* Kathy Derrin, who has done a fantastic job inspiring and presenting these young singers in varied concert settings.

Sadly, we "lost" violin tutor Julie Metcalfe to illness, but gained the wonderful Zillah Hawley in her place. We also "lost"

Melina Rolph to a full time position with Australia Post, but gained back to our teaching staff Tracey Burton (previously known as Cimino). And we finally secured a brass teacher, trumpeter and composer Graham Howard, and a specialist cello teacher, Claudia Douglas. All in all a good year for quality staffing of the Conservatorium.

Our core program continues to occupy the bulk of administrative time. Despite the constraints of our building, we have been able to press every available teaching space into service and even increase our enrolments a little. Part way through the year Anna Douglas, our wonderful Office Manager of 4.5 years, left us to take a job in IT. This was quite a shock for everyone, but we have since recovered thanks to the additional support of Gillian Thaine, who now carries the important responsibility of managing the daily finances of our organisation.

The Board have worked consistently throughout 2008 too, with the sole purpose of relocating us to a bigger and permanent home. The task demands regular meetings, lobbying and submission writing, plus a dogged determination that we will reach our goal! To date the State Government has pledged \$250,000 and a local benefactor has pledged \$750,000. This means that we only have a "cool \$1million" left to raise.

Bravo to all who have supported us this year, especially our volunteers and Friends of the Conservatorium. And Seasons Greetings to all for a safe and happy Christmas. Kind regards,

Carol Hellmers, Director

## 2009 DIARY

Concert dates for your Diary

*Jazz in the Gardens*

**Sunday 1 February**

*Roger Burke Quartet*

**Sunday 8 February**

*George Washingmachine Trio*

**Sunday 15 February**

*Galapagos Duck*

**Sunday 22 February**

*Uncle Jed*

North Coast Regional Botanic Garden

Tickets: 6648 4188

Info Hot Line: 0409 908 196

**26 and 27 September**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concerts**  
Jetty Memorial Theatre



Daphne Cordingley - Soprano



The Tarnished Brass  
in concert at SportzCentral

## RECENT PERFORMANCES

On 8<sup>th</sup> November, Soprano **Daphne Cordingley**, accompanied by Margaret England, sang by special invitation at a function at the Coffs Ex-Services Club. The function was the NSW Regional Achievement and Community Awards Presentation. Daphne presented Advance Australia Fair plus her own choices, *Love Changes Everything* and *What a Wonderful World*. Thank you Daphne for representing our Conservatorium at this statewide event.

**Sounds Fine!**, the youth choir of Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium have been very busy in these past months. Their most recent performances include:

23<sup>rd</sup> November – *Christmas Through the Ages* concert for the Performing Arts Association in the Anglican Church. This was a fabulous concert featuring a massed choir and chamber orchestra, directed by Kathryn Derrin. The program included traditional Christmas songs, Handel *Let the Bright Seraphim* and excerpts from *The Messiah*. *Sounds Fine!* presented three songs *Caribbean Carol*, *Panis Angelicus* with Emma Leoard-Browne as soloist, and *I Cantar*.

7<sup>th</sup> December – *Festival of Music* in the Uniting Church. This event featured performers both from within church members and guests invited for the occasion. Coffs City Choir performed three brackets of songs, the Salvation Army Timbrel Group provided colour and movement and our own Sounds Fine! added a youthful element to the festivities. The afternoon was capped off with a superb home-cooked afternoon tea!

Special thanks to Ajla Hadjic for her accompaniment and to Kathy Derrin for her unfailing enthusiasm and work with the choir this year!

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December was a very special day in the calendar, the International Day of People with a DisAbility. The Conservatorium usually supports this event with a musical item, but this year due to teacher illness our string ensemble was not ready to take the stage. Fortunately, five members of the regional brass band calling themselves "**The Tarnished Brass**", were able to perform and delight the many youngsters, parents and carers who attended. Special thanks to Rex Hardingham for organising this group.

## NEW SPONSOR !

Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium is proud to announce a new sponsor for 2009. Kevin Budge, Park Beach Music & Hi Fi has stepped in to take the place of the very valuable sponsorship that we had for many years with John Yarton and Coffs Music Centre. John's shop closed in October after more than 20 years in the music retail business. Whilst he will be greatly missed, one of his staff members Tim Baker is continuing the musical instrument and accessories side of the business at Park Beach Music & Hi Fi. This is fantastic news for all music students who have come to rely on the excellent customer service that John offered. In 2009 Park Beach Music & Hi Fi is offering 10% discount on selected items in their store to all Friends of the Conservatorium upon presentation of the 2009 Friends Membership Card. Thanks Kevin for your support – we look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship in the years ahead.

## Postcard Campaign

In the last CONotations the front cover story advised of a wonderful donation of \$750,000 from a local Coffs Harbour community member. This fantastic show of support has pushed the Conservatorium's fundraising for a permanent home well ahead. But we still need that last \$1million to get us into the building of our choice. The aim is to purchase the building and refit the interior to suit our needs. There will be 16 teaching/rehearsal studios, a recording studio, instrument store, lots more shelving for the music library and a central administration and public foyer area. And the best part, there is room for a 175 seat performance auditorium, suitable for student and ensemble concerts. The auditorium will also be available for rehearsals not just for Conservatorium staff and students, but for community music groups such as the Regional Brass Band and City Orchestra. The local eisteddfod music sections will sound very well in the venue and the design of the auditorium and public areas will lend themselves to art and craft exhibitions, special functions and even drama and dance rehearsals.

The NSW State government has also pledged \$250,000. So it is now time to seriously lobby Federal Government. Please help us convince Federal Government to "chip in" by sending the enclosed greetings card to Kevin Rudd.

The card features the gorgeous children from Melanie Taylor-Ryan's Early Childhood Music program - sandwiched in between two teens who are so obviously enjoying creating music. All you have to do is write a personal message, add a 50c stamp, pop it in the post, and you will have made a valuable contribution to our fundraising campaign!  
*DO IT TODAY!! Thanks*

### MUSICAL QUOTE:

*"Song is man's sweetest joy."*

*Aristotle (384 - 322 BC)*

## Annual Scholarship Auditions

Every year Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium invites young musicians to apply for a scholarship to support their music lessons at the Conservatorium. This year the auditions for the scholarships were held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. The panel consisted of two specialist musicians - Gaye Harlow, Director of Clarence Valley Conservatorium and Matthew Glibert, Head of Music Nambucca Heads High School - supported by Carol Hellmers, Director of Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium.

Seventeen youngsters performed for the Junior Scholarships this year, which was comparable to previous years. Sadly only four students applied for the Senior Scholarships, which was a disappointing number considering that the scholarships are worth \$1,000 each! All applicants are to be congratulated for their efforts, with the following students being successful:

### 2009 Junior Scholarship

Sally O'Brien – Violin	Connor O'Hehir –Guitar
Daniel Tarrant – Clarinet	Laura Johnson – piano
Kristin Godfrey – Piano	Michael Godfrey – Piano

### 2009 Senior Scholarships

Luke Wright – Voice	Antonio Mancini – Drums
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### Special Awards were given to:

Grace Craig, Floyd Baskett and Emma Leonard-Browne.

### MUSICAL QUOTE:

*"The pianoforte is the most perfect of all musical instruments: its invention was to music what the invention of printing was to poetry"*

*George Bernard Shaw  
(1865 - 1950)*

## **Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium Inc**

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Website: [www.coffscon.org.au](http://www.coffscon.org.au)

### **2008 MUSIC STAFF**

#### **GUITAR/BASS GUITAR**

Garry Adams  
Michael Bollen  
David Strauss  
Mitch Young

#### **DRUMS**

Phill Stitt

#### **SAXOPHONE/CLARINET**

Chris Frater

#### **PIANO/KEYBOARD**

Tracey Burton  
Ellie Hallett  
Kay Johnson  
Heather Rose  
Barbara Tuck

#### **STRINGS**

Barbara Crosbie  
Claudia Douglas  
Zillah Hawley  
Peter Kaukiainen

#### **FLUTE**

Francis Long

#### **BRASS**

Graham Howard

#### **VOICE**

Margaret England  
Barbara Tuck

James van de Grift

#### **SOUNDS FINE CHOIR**

Kathy Derrin

#### **EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC**

#### **KEYBOARD GROUP**

Melanie Taylor-Ryan

#### **MUSIC THERAPY**

Kathy Butcher

#### **RECORDING & SOUND DESIGN COURSES**

Martin van Veluwen

## **New Staff for 2009**

The Conservatorium welcomes new staff for 2009:

#### **CLAUDIA DOUGLAS – Teacher of Cello**

Claudia relocated from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour early in November 2008 and “kick started” her teaching at the Conservatorium with six students, taken over from Julie Metcalfe who sadly will not be returning in 2009 due to ongoing illness. Claudia attended the Conservatorium High School, studying cello with Cedric Ashton and piano with Nancy Salas. She has also studied cello with Nathan Waks, David Pereira and most recently with Molly Kadarauach. Claudia holds a Graduate Diploma in Music Performance from the University of Melbourne, and is a fantastic addition to our teacher staff.

#### **SUSAN PRATTEN – Director, Sounds Fine! Youth Choir**

Congratulations are due to **Kathy Derrin** for a wonderful year with our choir this year. Kathy came on board, taking the reins from Margaret England who formed the Sounds Fine! choir for the Conservatorium back in Term 1, 2003 with just seven students. This year the choir has numbered twenty, undertaken several public performances, and studied a wide range of repertoire for four-part choir. Kathy is heading to the Northern Territory where she and her partner Sue will be teaching indigenous students in remote areas. In her place, we are delighted to announce the engagement of **Susan Pratten**. Sue has trained as a singer and holds a Diploma of Teaching from Southern Cross University and Bachelor of Education, Griffith University. We are delighted that she is able to join our staff in 2009 to direct the choir and help us celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with song.

## **Welcome John ... Goodbye Garry**

Sadly, the end of Term 4 saw the resignation of **Garry Adams**, one of our prized and highly valued guitar teachers. Garry is headed south to Victoria with his wife Carol. This long distance move has been prompted by an exciting and challenging job for Carol. We wish them both a safe and happy relocation across the border! Garry has been a fantastic addition to the staff of the Conservatorium for the past couple of years, starting primary school aged students on guitar at Repton School and teaching two afternoons a week here at HomeBase. His patient, positive and encouraging approach to students of all ages, stages of development and musical aspiration has meant that all Garry's students have achieved their desired goals this year. Their level of confidence is high and most are undaunted by the prospect of the inevitable change of teacher.

Stepping into Garry's shoes will be **John Mostyn**. John began playing when he was 11 and has studied guitar with two great names in Australian guitar playing – George Golla and Don Andrews. He also undertook jazz studies at the Sydney Conservatorium under the direction of George Broadbeck and Don Burrows. John owned the Burwood Guitar Centre for seven years and so has a thorough knowledge of instruments, both new and pre-loved. On the teaching front, John has been engaged by several schools in Sydney most recently St Patrick's College and Meridan College at Strathfield, St Leo's College Wahroonga, Newington College Lindfield and Trinity Grammar in Summer Hill. John's teaching program will include one-to-one tuition, guitar ensemble, jazz studies and for those interested, preparation for exams.