

Coming up ...

Remember: all School of Music events are FREE ADMISSION to our music students. And FREE ADMISSION TO EVERYONE for all student performances on campus.

Wed	27 Aug	8.00pm	Jun & Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido piano – Christopher Marshall's "Shining Talents" (Great Hall, The Arts Centre)
Sun	31 Aug	3.00pm	Douglas Mews – NZ Town Hall Organists series (Chch Town Hall auditorium)
Thur	11 Sept	1.10pm	<i>Student series</i> Genevieve Jenson, Ceit McLean, Julian Hay voice (Recital Room)
		7.30pm	<i>GH series Concert VII</i> University Chamber Groups best groups of 2008 (Great Hall, The Arts Centre)
Mon	15 Sept	11.00am	<i>Composition workshop</i> Virko Baley University of Nevada LV, Harvard residency, Ukr./USA (Recital Room)
		1.10pm	<i>Composition/piano workshop</i> Chris Norton "American popular piano ..." (Recital Room)
Thur	18 Sept	1.10pm	<i>Student series</i> Polly Ott soprano, Thomas Eves trumpet (Recital Room)

Student buzz ...

- Congratulations to **Yu Lee An** on having successfully completed her Doctoral dissertation, titled "Music publishing in London from 1780-1837 as reflected in music publishers' catalogues for music for sale: a bibliography and commentary". A well-deserved conclusion to four years' hard work.

- PhD student (ethnomusicology) **Sum Suraweera** will travel to Sri Lanka this month for a further six months of fieldwork on the low country drumming.

The focus of Sum's PhD research is on the classical drumming of Sri Lanka; through his study, he aims to bring the cultures of his country and of New Zealand to closer understanding. (He plays a selection of Sri Lankan drums and was a founding member of the ensemble *Mundi*, which has performed internationally and last year made a debut CD.)

Sum held a fascinating workshop on Sri Lankan drumming on Monday, before his departure on his fieldwork.



- Masters student (music education), **Thèrese Ahlers** has been awarded the Marion Rayward Memorial Scholarship for 2008, valued at \$10 000. The award is available for study at Masters or PhD level, for a research degree in any field of music education, the purpose being to contribute to the strengthening of music education through tackling some perceived inadequacy or problem or documenting some achievement in the field.
- In May this year music student **Rachel Standing** who studies cello was named in the University of Canterbury Scholarship Awards which honour New Zealand's leadership potential. Rachel was presented with the HMNZS Canterbury Scholarship by Commander Tony Millar, Royal NZ Navy. The scholarship recognises the long and supportive relationship between the RNZN and Canterbury province. Congratulations, Rachel.

- Honours student **Karen French** was awarded the Keith Laugesen Music Scholarship and, for the third year running, the Harry Ellwood Scholarship in Music, funds from which will be used to audition and continue her studies in Germany.
- Performance voice student **Anna Argyle**, presently studying for a BMus (Hons), was one of three young singers recently announced as PricewaterhouseCoopers Dame Malvina Major Emerging Artists for 2008-2009. The award provides Anna with the opportunity to spend a year with NBR New Zealand Opera as an intern, to experience the world of professional opera. Recipients also benefit from tutoring by leading vocal coaches and various other professionals in the industry. They are also given the opportunity to perform or understudy roles in the opera's productions and various concert engagements. Anna has also been offered roles with Southern Opera in upcoming productions. Very well done, Anna!
- **Anna Argyle** has also just taken second place at the 5th Sealord Aria Competition in Nelson. Another of Dame Malvina's students also, **Elisabeth Daley**, was one of the seven contenders in the competition.



Two Performance piano students **Jun Bouterey-Ishido** and **Chen Tony Lin** took the top awards, first and second respectively, at the 2008 National Piano Competition in Kerikeri early last month – two of four finalists from an original 17 competitors from around the world.

Jun's 45-minute performance in the grand final was rewarded with the Richard Farrell first prize and \$10,000. He played pieces by Schubert, Brahms and Ravel. Tony's performance won him second place, the James Wallace ArtsTrust Prize of \$5000.

- A pairing of Gian Carlo Menotti's operas *The Medium* and *The Telephone* provided Performance voice students with a well-received platform for their talents at the Ngaio Marsh Theatre, at the end of May ... ["Don't miss Menotti" – The Press]. Well deserved applause to **Rachelle Pike, Anna Argyle, Benjamin Caukwell, Polly Ott,** and **Elisabeth Daley** (in *The Medium*), and **Jamie Ling** and **Ben Caukwell** (in *The Telephone*).

Portuguese portal ...

Doors were opened and light thrown down fresh passages of musical possibility, enthusing our young composers in their studies during second term.

At the instigation and invitation of lecturer in composition Dr Chris Cree Brown, Portuguese composer **João Pedro Oliveira** spent several weeks as a visiting Erskine Fellow working with and inspiring students, performing, and presenting workshops and seminars.

At home in Portugal, Oliveira is senior professor of composition and electroacoustic music at the University of Aveiro. During his stay with us, he was announced in Europe as the recipient of the Magisterium Award, a prestigious honour by the GMEB (Groupe de Musique Experimentale de Bourges, France), which recognises composers of over 25 years' experience in the field of electroacoustic music.



Staff roundup ...

- Composer **Dr Chris Cree Brown** was recently named as one of three finalists in the 2008 SOUNZ Contemporary Music Awards for his recent composition *Remote presence*. The piece was commissioned by Hungarian pianist Péter Nagy.
- Earlier this year, Associate Professor **Martin Setchell** was presented by Mayor Bob Parker with a 3007 Christchurch Civic Award. "I was surprised to win the award but absolutely delighted that the City Council recognised the importance of the town hall [Rieger pipe] organ," Professor Setchell said. The citation read that the pipe organ was the most complex musical instrument ever devised by human hands. [The awards recognise people and organisations from a cross-section of the community whose actions have helped make Christchurch a better place in which to live.]



The work of composition tutor/composer/performer **Dr Gao Ping** has brought success on several fronts this year.

Of topical interest is Gao Ping's involvement in providing parts (which were then orchestrated by Jack Body) to the soundtrack for Vincent Ward's new feature film, "Rain of the Children" (October 2007, but currently screened as part of the 32nd Christchurch International Film Festival at the Rialto cinema). He also provided improvised piano music for another New Zealand silent film show at last year's festival.

Gao Ping was also awarded first prize in Hong Kong's 4th Chinese Piano Music Competition in January for *Distant Voices*, a suite for solo piano.

And on 8 May, he premiered his new *Piano Concerto* in Wellington on 8 May at the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra's "Made in New Zealand" concert. The Listener responded in a review saluting Gao Ping as "a major force in New Zealand music since his arrival ... it is a mark of Gao's skill that, in a work of such magnitude, he is able to combine so many diverse elements while at the same time never losing sight of the work's intention and overall design. This is a major new concerto that cries out for early CD release ...".

- Tutor in Performance voice **Dame Malvina Major** became Principal Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Year Honours for her services to opera. Equivalent to a Dame Grand Companion under New Zealand's former honours system, this is one rank higher than the Dame Companion which she was made in 1991. Dame Malvina also received an OBE in 1985.

Out of the MERC ...

The National Music Education Research Database is now on-line, with over 600 entries so far and still growing. Go to <http://aha.canterbury.ac.nz/NZERD> and enter the information you seek, or click <Start Search> and browse. You will be amazed at the amount and scope of research that has been carried out in music education in New Zealand.

The database has been developed over the past two years by the MERC staff, Roger Buckton, Merryn Dunmill and David Sell. Most of the entering is being done by research assistant, Anna Dunbar. The College of Arts enabled the database to get under way last year with a generous research grant to MERC.

Bach to the future ...

With the use of computer modelling techniques, a reconstruction of Johann Sebastian Bach's head depicts the composer as strong-jawed with a minor "underbite", a large head and short, silver hair. Commissioned by the Bach House museum in the central German city of Eisenach as a centrepiece of a new exhibition, the bust was created at the University of Dundee in Scotland by anthropologist Caroline Wilkinson. She worked from a copper replica of Bach's skull which had been made for a previous reconstruction in 1894 by physician Wilhelm His and sculptor Carl Ludwig Seffner. (Bach's actual bones are buried at the St John's Church in Leipzig, Germany.) Wilkinson considers her work as the most realistic rendering to date of the composer's appearance. "The science has improved over the last 100 years. We have a better understanding of the relation between hard and soft tissue," she said.



Although there are many images of Bach (there being 140 likenesses in the Bach House at Eisenach, alone), he is known to have sat for only one portrait. Wilkinson concedes that some aspects of her re-creation involved guess-work. "There is no way to know on the basis of his skull what his skin-tone would have been," she said. "It shows only his facial appearance. I wish it could give us some sense of what was going on inside his head, but it can't." We can but listen!

Success for Pettman Junior Academy students ...



Congratulations to young cellist **Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido** who took second place at the 41st National Concerto Competition this year, playing the Shostakovich *Cello concerto in E flat*, Op.107. [First place went to Yoshiko Tsuruta of Wellington, on marimba.]

Having learned cello from age six, Yuuki is a student of Pettman Junior Academy tutor Galyna Zelinska. He has played as a soloist with the Christchurch Symphony, and in June 2006, he performed in Japan.

Yuuki was also a member of the Felix Octet when it was placed first at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Chamber Music Competition last year.

Well done, also, to the **Bedrich Quartet**, which comprises Pettman Junior Academy students, **Emma Yoon** and **Salina**

Fisher violins, **Bryony Gibson-Cornish** viola and **Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido** cello. They played Smetana's *String quartet in E minor*, movements 1 and 3, taking the title of New Zealand's top student chamber music ensemble at the NZ Community Trust Chamber Music Contest national final in Auckland.

Student rush tickets ...

Don't forget that student rush tickets costing only \$12.50 on the day of performance are still available at Ticketek, on production of student ID.

And even better from the Christchurch Symphony ...

Watch School of Music noticeboards for generous offers by the Christchurch Symphony to students. Frequent offers of FREE tickets to CS performances are received and posted on ground floor noticeboards. Please support this initiative by availing yourselves of this opportunity, or it may be discontinued. Student names and e-mail contact details are required for each offer.

fff friday fortnightly fanfare

Is there something YOU know but WE don't and THEY may find of interest ??
Please keep us posted with your news:

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