

Edition 1 - April 2009

## NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Welcome to the first edition of [Patrons' Progress](#), our new periodic update on the ACO's Education Programs. As one of our valued patrons, I am delighted to keep you informed about this year's education activities, which you so generously support.

The year has started with a bang. The first few months of 2009 have been very busy for the ACO's Education Program with the first intensive period of the Emerging Artists Program; the first rehearsal period, workshop and open rehearsal for the string education program known as Parramatta String Players; and our Sydney Combined Schools Workshop. All of these events have been extremely successful and immensely rewarding for all involved. Below is a little more information about each of these activities.

### ACO Emerging Artists - National

As you know, the Emerging Artists Program is designed to attract and mentor Australia's brightest young stars and has evolved to be a crucial part of the ACO's strategic development and planning process. The ACO has worked with several young players over the past few years, all of whom have considered the experience invaluable. This year we welcomed another six outstanding young string players whose profiles appear at the end of this report.



The Emerging Artists had a stellar start to the year with their first intensive period of work for the year led by the ACO's guest director for the second national concert tour, the acclaimed Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto. Pekka was extremely generous in sharing his ideas and energy with our young musicians who all came away enormously inspired and proud of their achievements. This period of work culminated in two outstanding concerts by ACO<sup>2</sup>, (our ensemble comprising Emerging Artists and core ACO musicians led by Helena

Rathbone, the ACO's principal second violin): a chamber music concert in the Blue Mountains, and an orchestral concert at Verbrugghen Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium during March.

The feedback from these concerts has been overwhelmingly positive. One of our patrons who attended the concert at Verbrugghen Hall, wrote:

*Thank you so much for the wonderful invitation to ACO2 - it was such an exciting concert in every way and of a truly superb standard and such an interesting and demanding program. Bravo to ACO again for this exciting program for emerging string players. The future is very bright indeed! Friends whom I met there were similarly swept up by the experience and the audience reaction spoke for itself. We were all very privileged indeed to be present at this performance.*

The standard of our Emerging Artists is extremely high once again, so 2009 promises to be a very exciting year indeed. This year, one of our 2008 Emerging Artists, violinist Madeleine Boud is performing with the ACO in all concert tours through to August. Madeleine and Peter Clark, one of our 2009 Emerging Artists, will also make their international debuts with the ACO during our tour of the USA later this month.

## ACO and Schools – Sydney Combined Schools’ Workshop, 25 March 2009

The Sydney Combined Schools Workshop was a triumph, with a huge student orchestra sound filling the ACO studio at East Circular Quay, much to the delight of the parents, teachers and patrons who attended the concert at the end of the Workshop.

Eighteen schools were represented in the group, including seven students who came all the way from Kinross Wolaroi School in Orange to participate. Satu Vanska (ACO Assistant Leader), Madeleine Boud (Violin), Chris Moore (ACO Principal Viola) and Julian Thompson (ACO Cello) led the workshop for three hours of intensive rehearsals. All of the students were extremely well prepared and the result of the workshop was remarkable. Rachel Kwa, our young soloist from Orange, gave a wonderful performance of the first movement of Vivaldi’s Double Violin Concerto in A Minor with Satu Vanska.



### Parramatta String Players

In May 2008, the ACO launched the *Parramatta String Players* project, a new three year initiative which allows the ACO to work with the same young musicians over a sustained period with a view to the establishment of a self-sustaining string ensemble at the end of the project. The project is a three-tiered mentoring program: ACO musicians mentor Emerging Artists and they in turn mentor the school-aged musicians, through workshops, masterclasses and opportunities to perform as an orchestra alongside their mentors.

The *Parramatta String Players* began their second year of the program with a bang, with a big crowd attending the informal performance at the end of their first workshop with ACO musicians and this year’s Emerging Artists. The improvement we see each time the ACO works with these students demonstrates that all of the young musicians are benefitting from their continued contact with the Orchestra. The students were also treated to an open rehearsal of *A<sup>C</sup>O<sub>2</sub>* directed by Pekka Kuusisto, which left everyone in attendance breathless. A very touching email from Kerrie Ridgeway of Penrith Selective High School sums up many of the feelings of those present:

*I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to bring my students in today. Amazing was the word which was uttered, inspiring was another. I have been involved in many state music performances and workshops including Opera House School Spectacular and Opera Ed but this is one day which will live in my memory when seeing my students close to tears and so involved in the music. The way Pekka introduced and interacted with wit and humour the meaning behind the music placed the presentation in a way which connected with the students. Thank you so much... Words cannot express how we enjoyed the short time we were there. Letting students in to the rehearsal does make a difference. The physical presence in the interpretation was amazing!!! Our rehearsals will be different as a result of that. When asked to write an account of the day for our school newsletter one of the members of our school string ensemble said that if trying to describe the feelings and thoughts which were experienced in the small time of an hour “unless you were there how can anyone understand”.*

### What’s next?

**Emerging Artists** - The next project for our Emerging Artists will be an *A<sup>C</sup>O<sub>2</sub>* concert and education tour of Albury, Newcastle, Parramatta, Melbourne and regional Victoria. *A<sup>C</sup>O<sub>2</sub>* will be led by Helena Rathbone and the concerts will feature ACO Principal Cellist, Timo-Veikko Valve, as soloist. This tour will give our Emerging Artists invaluable performance experience and a first-hand experience of the life of a professional touring musician.

**ACO and Schools** – We will run a number of Combined Schools Workshops in Melbourne, Sale, Echuca, Albury, Adelaide, and Fremantle, and another two rehearsal periods for the Parramatta String Players.

We would be delighted to welcome you at a number of these events. A formal invitation will go out before each event.

### **ACO Patrons' Support Staff**

I am delighted to announce that Laura Milner has moved across from her previous role at the ACO to join the 'Patrons' Team' as Patrons Administrator. Laura and I are happy to help you with any inquiries you may have about the ACO's donations program or any other matters. Please feel free to contact either of us:

Lillian Armitage – (02) 8274 3835 or at [Lillian.Armitage@aco.com.au](mailto:Lillian.Armitage@aco.com.au)  
Laura Milner – (02) 8274 3830 or at [laura.milner@aco.com.au](mailto:laura.milner@aco.com.au).

We hope we will have a chance to meet you or see you again at one of our concerts or events this year.

Thank you for your support.

With kindest regards



Lillian Armitage  
Patrons Manager

## 2009 ACO Emerging Artists



### **JANET ANDERSON, VIOLIN**

Mentor: Aiko Goto, ACO Violin

Janet has been a member of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra since January 2007. She began learning violin from Colleen Schneider at age five and then studied with Michele Walsh at the Queensland Conservatorium, graduating with a Bachelor of Music in Advanced Performance (1st Class Honours) in 2005. In 2006 she received the Griffith University Postgraduate Award and also the Brisbane Midcity Rotary Club Music Award. During her studies, Janet played in the Australian Youth Orchestra (including its 2004 European tour), Sydney Sinfonia, Queensland Youth Symphony and as a casual with The Queensland Orchestra and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. In 2005 Janet won the award for the best performance of an Australian composition in the finals of the Kendall Violin Competition, and was a finalist with the Fyra String Quartet in the Australian Chamber Music Competition. Janet currently plays with the Adelaide Chamber Players and the Leonore String Quartet. The quartet won the 2008 Musica Viva Chamber Music Prize in the Sydney Eisteddfod and also performed in an ABC Classic FM "Sunday Live" with guitarist Aleksandr Tsiboulski.



### **PETER CLARK, VIOLIN**

Mentor: Helena Rathbone, ACO Principal 2nd Violin

Originally from Tasmania, Peter is in his third year of a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Melbourne studying with Bill Hennessy, and is a resident of Trinity College. He holds scholarships at both institutions and is the recipient of many prizes including the CD Hume Violin Scholarship, the Pendlebury Prize and the 2008 Melbourne Rotary Club Young Achiever of the Year. In 2004, Peter represented Australia at the Festivale Internationale de Musique Universitaire in France. As first violinist with the Tasmanic String Quartet, he performed works written for the ensemble by Australian composers Larry Sitsky and Don Kay. In 2007, Peter studied with Monica Curro and the Goldner String Quartet in Queensland, at the Australian Youth Orchestra's Quartet Summer School and toured Europe as a member of the AYO. He has held principal positions as part of the National Music Camp, performing solo, live on ABC Classic FM with the National Music Camp Chamber Orchestra in 2007 and 2008. Peter plays on an 1820 Lorenzo Ventapane violin.



### **HOLLY PICCOLI, VIOLIN**

Mentor: Mark Ingwersen, ACO Violin

Holly Piccoli began violin studies in 1994, gaining a scholarship in 1999 to the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School. She graduated in 2004 as Dux of the School, achieving perfect scores in Music Solo Performance and Group Performance and was awarded the Lenton Parr Academic Award, three Premier's Awards and the 2004 Melbourne Symphony Orchestra String Award. Holly studied at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) from 2005-2008 with principal teacher Mark Mogilevski. As Concertmaster and soloist with the Chamber Strings of Melbourne, Holly toured Poland, Greece, France and Italy in January 2007, performing the Haydn Violin Concerto in C major. From 2007-2009 Holly was a member of the award winning piano trio, The Yarra Trio. In July 2006, Holly received the Australian fellowship to the National Symphony Summer Music Institute ("SMI"). She successfully auditioned for the role of Concertmaster of the National Symphony SMI Orchestra.



### **NEIL THOMPSON, VIOLA**

Mentor: Christopher Moore, ACO Principal Viola

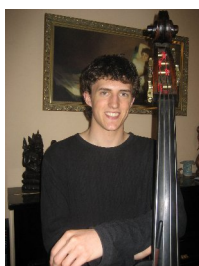
Neil Thompson completed his Bachelor of Music with Honours on viola in 2008 studying with Keith Crellin. Beginning viola at age 9 with Lin Cockburn in Whyalla, he has also had lessons from Caroline Henbest and Juris Ezergailis (Principal Viola, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra). He has participated in masterclasses with Paul Neubauer, Jan Sedivka, Joel Smirnoff (leader, Julliard Quartet) and the Eggner Trio. Neil has played with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra on a casual basis since 2007 and has been involved in Australian Youth Orchestra programs since 2002. On full scholarship, Neil was Principal Viola of Adelaide Youth Orchestra from 2003 to 2004 and frequent Principal Viola with the Elder Conservatorium Symphony and Chamber Orchestras during his degree. A passionate chamber musician, Neil's experience with the Skyline Quartet has taken him to the Australian Festival of Chamber Music (Townsville) and Mt. Buller Chamber Music Summer School. Winner of the 2007 Australian String Quartet Award, Skyline were mentored by the Grainger Quartet thanks to Sponsorship from the Helpmann Academy's 'Optus Mentorship Grant Scheme'.



### **SHARON DRAPER, CELLO**

Mentor: Timo-Veikko Valve, ACO Principal Cello

Sharon completed her Bachelor of Music (Hons.) at Melbourne University under the tuition of David Berlin. She has performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra since she was 19, and was recently appointed a permanent place with this orchestra. Sharon is also a casual member of Orchestra Victoria, the Academy of Melbourne Orchestra, and the Tasmanian Symphony. Sharon spent the greater part of 2006 studying and performing in Zagreb and Vienna, with teachers Valter Despalj and Howard Penny, as well as freelancing in Vienna. In 2007 and 2008 Sharon was a full scholarship holder of the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), furthering her studies with cellist Howard Penny. Sharon was a winner of the 2008 ANAM Concerto Competition, resulting in an engagement with Orchestra Victoria and the Darwin Symphony in 2009. Sharon has also been a member of the Tailern Quartet since 2003. The group was a finalist in the Australian National Chamber Music Competition in 2005, and travelled to Canada, America, and Germany in 2008. Sharon has been a Core Player with the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra for two years.



### **BENJAMIN FARRANDS, DOUBLE BASS**

Mentor: Maxime Bibeau, ACO Principal Double Bass

Benjamin graduated from Balwyn High School in 2008, and is currently studying the Double Bass with Damien Eckersley, having previously studied with Sylvia Hosking. He was the equal first prize winner of the National Youth Concerto Competition in 2007, performing the Sergei Koussevitzky Concerto with the Queensland Youth Symphony under the baton of John Curro. Benjamin has been a member of the Australian Youth Orchestra for three years, which included a tour of Europe in 2007 and was Principle Bass of Melbourne Youth Orchestra for three years. He also has a great love of Chamber Music and performed Schubert's Trout Quintet with the Seraphim Trio and Stefanie Farrands on Viola last year. Benjamin has recently won a trial position with Orchestra Victoria.