

Autumn Newsletter

Message from the Chair

Greetings.

As the recently elected Chair of Music for Canberra, I extend my thanks to all of you for your support of Music for Canberra during the first term of 2022. Thank you also to Vice Chair Yu-Lan Chan who acted in the Chair role since the end of 2021.

As we continue to negotiate living in a Covid environment, we have the opportunity to look to the future with a new lens and consolidate our place in Canberra's arts sector. The CEO Shane Dobbin and I have been attending meetings across Canberra with members of the ACT legislative assembly, their advisors and other ACT government key arts organisation, exploring new ideas and ways MfC can contribute to the community and surrounding regions and help to fulfill the Arts Minister's Statement of Ambition.

I would like to welcome three new board members: Jane Haycock (in the role of Secretary of the Board), Brian Ferreira and Anna Sarelas. I would also like to thank Dhuse Manogram, who recently stepped down from the Board, for her contribution during her time on the Board.

Towards the end of 2021 we announced the establishment of scholarship opportunities for members of the Canberra Youth Orchestra (CYO), which is aimed at building the CYO and fostering the recruitment of some hard-to-find instruments. We also modified our donation structure so that you are now able to indicate if you would like your MfC donation to be directed towards the CYO/JMO, the Canberra Children's Choir, our music programs for people living with disability (MAP), or by default General

Like most non-profit organisations, MfC relies on the generous support of sponsors and donors. We hope, with your help, to expand the scholarship program for CYO, increase the number of performances by the Canberra Children's Choir and offer a broader range of programs for people living with disability in addition to refining our many offerings.

The MfC Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Saturday afternoon May 21, 2022 and we will send members formal notification later this month. We hope to see as many members as possible at this meeting.

MfC had a very successful day of concerts on April 2. I would like to thank all the conductors, tutors, office team and volunteers who contributed to such a great day of music making. The concerts demonstrated the brilliant musicianship and enthusiasm

of every single performer. The Big Jam event for our Mixed Ability Program was particularly impressive and it was hard not to be blown away by the sheer joy and energy of making music together.

Thank you to everyone who made the April 2 concerts such a great start to the MfC 2022 performance calendar.



David Harvey
Chair of the Board
Music for Canberra

Message from the CEO

Our first concerts of 2022 took place on Saturday, April 2nd to wide acclaim! Our 40 plus Mixed Ability Program (MAP) musicians kicked off Concert Day with the highly anticipated Big Jam at Ainslie Arts Centre - sharing their wonderful songs

and groovy moves with over 100 guests. Congratulations to Karim, Tom and Evan for such a brilliant and well organised concert and thank you to their wonder helper, volunteer Julia Wright.

Over at Albert Hall the rain couldn't keep the music away. At First Steps: A Classical Journey, the soaring strings from our String Stream ensembles and the uplifting songs from the Canberra Children's Choir cleared the clouds and brought everyone together in a wonderful celebration of live music.

Magic and the Masters was a brilliant finale to the day. The Canberra Youth Orchestra (CYO) and the James McCusker Orchestra (JMO) blew the audience away with their stunning performance. A highlight was the CYO's world premiere of Sarah Hopkin's work *Ancient Forests Once Stood Here*, where the harmonic whirlies created an atmosphere so beautiful more than one audience member reported goosebumps.

Thank you to our wonderful and talented conductors Louis, Jenny, Tim, Liam, Mandy, Ash, Toby and tireless volunteer orchestra managers Cait, Kapil, Candice, Yolande, Bonnie, Elysia and Arwin. Thank you also to Dieu, Tahlia, Vanessa and the Greenup family who volunteered from dawn to dusk! So appreciated.

Special thank you to the MfC office team Millie, Ariana, Anup and Hester who planned, and stage-managed all three events in the months leading up to and on Concert Day, ensuring the day was a great success.

Looking ahead to Term 2 online enrolments are now open. [Follow this link](#) to check out the programs we have available and follow the prompts to enrol.

We are also developing partnerships across the Canberra community to increase performance opportunities with ever more exciting, intriguing and new programming. Watch this space!

Congratulations to all MfC musicians, our conductors and tutors on a truly spectacular start to the year. From myself and the MfC Team, we wish you a wonderful holiday, a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing you in Term 2 - starting 26th April 2022.



Shane Dobbin

CEO

Music for Canberra

Big Jam!

Our brilliant Mixed Ability Program (MAP) musicians making wonderful music and fantastic dance moves at the Big Jam on April 2.



First Steps: A Classical Journey

A fantastic turn-out for the String Stream and the Canberra Children's Choir at Albert Hall last Saturday! Pictured from top to bottom we have Jenny and the String Ensemble, Mandy with Camerata, Toby leading the Children's Choir, Ash conducting Sinfonietta and Peg Mantle Strings led by Tim.



Magic and the Masters

A glorious finale to our Concert Day featuring the Canberra Youth Orchestra and the James McCusker Orchestra. Professional photos of the event will be released shortly, but here is just a taste of what went on.



The Canberra Youth Orchestra led by Louis Sharpe as they made musical magic for the Canberra community

MfC Music to Share!



After the brilliant CYO performance of works by Sarah Hopkins and Maria Grenfell, we thought you might be hungry for a bit more music from women who changed the classical music world forever.

[Check out this article](#) from Classic FM to hear works from Hildegard von Bingen, often credited as one of the first known composers of Western music, right through to Martha Argerich - pianist extraordinaire.