



Melbourne Composers League

Newsletter

December 2005, Vol. 9, No. 5

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Elections were held at the last Annual General Meeting, with Howard Dillon stepping down as president, and Eve Duncan elected as the new president. Adrián Pertout was elected as secretary, and Howard Dillon, as treasurer. The other executive committee members now include Ross Hazeldine, Sebastian Harris, Eugene Ughetti and Judy Pile.

Discussed at the meeting was increasing the cost of subscriptions, due to the fact that subscriptions are just not covering the cost of administration. The executive committee will explore the issue and recommend a new subscription cost. MCL events for 2006 were also discussed, and initiated by Howard Dillon was a debate on the future of the league, which is likely to be an ongoing commitment. The executive will continue that discussion and keep the membership informed on further developments.

THE MCL NEWSLETTER

From now on the MCL newsletter will be distributed via email. If any members prefer a hard copy please contact the secretary to request a copy sent via regular mail. For those of you that have yet to provide an email address to the league please do so by corresponding with Adrián Pertout at apertout@pertout.com.

NEW PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A Great Year of Concerts

In 2005 we presented three concerts. We held our second choral concert in May at the Richmond Town Hall (the first was in 2001 at the South Melbourne Town Hall with the Choir of Ormond College). The Melbourne Composition Choir performed under the direction of Hildy Essex

who is dedicated to the performance of new works by Victorian composers. Excellent works were performed by Katy Abbott, Stuart Greenbaum, Judy Pile, Jesmond Grixti, Brenton Broadstock, Andrew Blyth, Jane Hammond and Wendy Suiter. The concert was partly funded by the City of Yarra.

In August we presented *Menin Gate*, a concert of Australian and Japanese music for piano, trombone and percussion performed by Michael Kieran Harvey, Barrie Webb and Peter Neville, which celebrated Helen Gifford's 70th birthday with the premier performance of *Menin Gate*. This was a concert of Australian and Japanese works, and we were fortunate to have Akira Kobayashi, Harue Kondoh and Kanako Okamoto attend the concert. Thanks to Seb Harris for an amazing birthday cake! Other works performed were by Brigid Burke, Peter Myers, Jesmond Grixti and Eve Duncan. This concert was sponsored by the Myer Foundation and Bayside City Council.

Elbow Room in October took us slightly out of town to *Burrinja*, a wonderful arts centre in the Dandenongs. Thanks to Dindy Vaughan for facilitating this, as it was a beautiful venue with an art gallery with a superb collection of Pacific artwork, and a welcoming and cosy café with a great chai tea. It was really lovely to hear works by composers living in the area, and we enjoyed music by Jacqui Rutten, Livia Judge, Colin McKellar, Scott Dunbabin, Sebastian Harris and Julian Cafarella. This concert was supported by APRA.

Thank You Howard!

Howard has been chairman for four years, and has worked very hard and with high ideals. He has ensured that the organisation has run well, and he has particularly been focused upon creating opportunities for a wide cross section of members. He has been selfless in his efforts and

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with his time, and we are all grateful for his huge contribution. He now hopes to have more time for his own composition.

Introducing Compost

This is a new section of the newsletter that will allow for an exchange between composers. If you are a performer searching for scores, or if you are a member who wishes to involve members in an event that you are organising, then you can place a small announcement in *Compost*.

When we have a form available on our website, members will also be able to announce upcoming concerts in which their works will be performed. It is not intended that this will duplicate the AMCs listings, but rather to expand upon it, as sometimes members miss the AMC deadline, or they may simply want to extend publicity of their events. Please, do not email us the details, but wait until the form is available on the website. Philip Czaplowski is in the process of creating it.

For New Members

Welcome to the Melbourne Composers League! We are an organisation run by composers, for composers and we represent and serve our members locally, nationally and internationally. This is an idealistic agenda, and it is one that members spent several years discussing and reformulating at Peter Tahourdin's house from 1994 before creating our statutes. (These are on the website, courtesy of Philip Czaplowski).

Our first activity was to attend Asian Composers League festivals in Thailand in 1994, and the Philippines in 1997. In 1997 we became an incorporated association and held our first concert at a cafe in Smith Street, Collingwood. In 1998 we were invited to join the Asian Composers League as an official country member. This gives our organization a special role in liaising and promoting interchange and cultural activity with Asian Pacific countries including Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Israel, New Zealand, the Philippines and Taiwan. In 2001 we were able to host an Asian Composer league event which brought 35 international guests to Melbourne. We presented

16 concerts and 4 seminars. There was a focus in the festivals particularly upon percussion ensembles, and a Filipino work by Ramon Santos was performed that used four grand pianos and forty percussionists! The festival was opened at the Aboriginal Centre at the Melbourne Museum by a didjeridu performance by Amos Roach.

In eight years we have performed 256 contemporary works, with 196 works composed by Australian composers. This is a magnificent show of support of composers for one another, as the work is undertaken on an unpaid voluntary basis to run the organisation and the concerts and events.

Eve Duncan, December, 2005

SUMMER BARBECUE

Once again George Dreyfus has kindly opened his garden to us for a summer barbeque, which will be held on Sunday, February 5th, 2006 from midday. Please bring your family, best friend, food, drink and chairs to 3 Grace Street, Camberwell. Everyone is welcome! For enquiries ring George on (03) 9809 2671.

CALL FOR SCORES

Australia-New Zealand Concert

The 'Australia-New Zealand' project is a concert of music from Australia and New Zealand with instrumentation including violin, cello, piano and percussion. The proposed musicians will be Isin Cakmakioglu, Rachel Atkinson, Danae Killian and Peter Neville, and the concert will be sponsored by Bayside City Council. It will be held in October-November 2006.

We are presently discussing the possibility of an ABC-FM broadcast of the concert with Stephen Adams. Pieces should be no more than 9 minutes, for solo, duo, trio or quartet. The percussion does not include timpani or five-octave marimba. The deadline for scores is July 14th, 2006. Please send scores to Australia-New Zealand Concert, Melbourne Composers League,

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PO Box 2518 Fitzroy Business Centre, Fitzroy,
Victoria 3065, Australia.

Expression of Interest

Working Title: 'Reflections'

A concert is proposed for April 2007, of a programme of music informed by various aspects of 'religion'. The instrumentation will be string quartet and trombone, or any subset, and will potentially feature pieces by Korean composers together with MCL members works. Score deadline yet to be announced.

We are seeking expressions of interest from composers that want to write a new work or want to provide an existing work for this concert. Correspondence including your ideas and a brief 'sketch' of the type of sound world it may inhabit (instrumentation, density, variation, texture, etc...) is welcome. As the theme is extremely broad (at this stage), and we wish to represent a range of concepts and influences, the following is proposed as a starting point;

Compositions might;

- comment on current or ancient religious practice, or
- make reference, or draw upon existing music/sound or the function of music in religious ceremony, or
- be an attempt to expand the formal and/or 'religious-influenced' repertoire

Preferred duration 3-7 minutes.

For further information email Ross Hazeldine at musik@redhouse.com.au, or post to Reflections Project, Melbourne Composers League, PO Box 2518, Fitzroy Business Centre, Victoria 3065, Australia
admin@melbournecomposersleague.org

2007 ISCM-ACL World Music Days Hong Kong Call for Works

The 2007 ISCM-ACL World Music Days Festival will put together the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) and the Asian Composers League (ACL) in Hong Kong

from 23 November to 2 December, 2007 for a 10-day mega event.

Theme: Music & Beyond

2007 marks the seventh year of the second millennium. However, we have already witnessed very serious natural and man-made disasters in this new era. The universal brotherhood as proclaimed by Beethoven and Schiller in Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* is far from attainable. How can new music creativity contribute to the mutual understanding and appreciation of humankind leading to world peace?

The 2007 ISCM-ACL World Music Days welcomes music that can communicate, music that can assimilate rather than exclude, music that brings in a fusion of ideas and practices, music that puts a balance to globalization and localization, music that leads us to appreciate different cultures of the world without discrimination, and music that goes beyond its own values.

We are therefore looking for works with a diversity of style and a variety of possibilities, with the use of ethnic instruments and elements, with music that goes beyond its local cultural boundary for a better world.

To combine the ISCM and ACL festivals in one single event in November 2007 will bring the world of music creativity to Hong Kong and Macau. Delegates of member countries and composers of selected works will be invited. The Festival will present no less than 24 concerts to showcase the 150 or so compositions from over 50 countries. In addition, educational seminars and symposiums will also be organized.

We will also be extending an invitation to all Festival participants and delegates to join us on a cultural exchange tour after the Festival to Xian and Chengdu, China to visit the various music institutes, as well as to be inspired by the historical and cultural richness of these ancient cities such as the famous *terra cotta* of the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC).

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We believe that local audiences, overseas participants and delegates of the 2007 Festival will not only receive a unique experience in musical stimulation, education and satisfaction, but also be able to witness the ambition, vitality and efficiency of Hong Kong.

Performing Forces and Categories

The Festival would like to call for works based on the following negotiating performing groups:

- Western orchestral music – The Academy Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Macau Orchestra
- Chinese orchestral music – Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Macau Chinese Orchestra
- Chamber music for Western instruments – Beefölk, Insomnio, Luxembourg Sinfonietta
- Chamber music for Chinese instruments
- Chamber music for mixed Western and Chinese instruments
- Vocal and choral performances
- Multi-media, cross media and installation performances
- Electronic and computer music

For further information please visit the following web sites:

International Society for Contemporary Music
www.iscm.nl

Hong Kong Composers Guild
www.hongkongcomposersguild.com

Thailand International Composition Competition for Saxophone

The College of Music, Mahidol University is pleased to announce the Thailand International Composition Competition for Saxophone. The competition accepts pieces in three categories:

1. Saxophone solo, with or without piano.
2. Saxophone quartet (soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones.)
3. Saxophone ensemble (2 soprano, 4 soprano, 6 alto, 6 tenor, 4 baritone, and 2 bass saxophones.)

The length of the composition must be 7-12 minutes.

Winning compositions in each category will be premiered at the World Saxophone Congress in Slovenia, July 2006. Each winner will receive a prize of USD. 2,000. In addition, winners will receive up to USD. 1,000 toward travel expenses if they attend the premiere performance in Slovenia.

Scores must be received in Thailand no later than February 28, 2006.

Winners will be announced on May 1, 2006.

All entries must include:

1. a score (hard copy or notation file such as Finale, Encore, Sibelius)
2. all Instrumental parts (hard copies or notation files.)

Audio CD (MIDI realization of acoustic recording) is not required but is highly recommended. All compositions must not have been previously performed or awarded in any competition. Each composer can apply for more than one category (separate application forms are required.) The composer must give permission for a world premiere performance of his/her piece at the WSC in Slovenia, July 2006.

For more Information, please contact: College of Music, Mahidol University 25/25 Phuttamonthon Sai 4, Salaya, Nakonpathom 73170 Thailand
Tel: 66.2800.2525 Fax: 66.2800.2530

Email: mwww@mahidol.ac.th

Web Site: www.music.mahidol.ac.th

COMPOST

Anne Shirley-Peel is seeking scores for violin and any other combination of instruments and voices including computer music pieces from women composers for a concert in Mornington next March. Please send scores to Get Noted Music Enterprises, 23 Emerald Close, Mornington, Victoria 3931. The content of the concert will depend on what scores are sent for performance. For further information email Anne Shirley-Peel at anneshirleypeel@hotmail.net.au

Contributions to the Newsletter

Contributions to the MCL Newsletter are welcome and should be emailed to Andrián Pertout at apertout@pertout.com. These may include promotional material for members' own activities.

Information

For further information regarding MCL events, membership enquiries or other questions should be directed to Howard Dillon on 9481 8189 or hdillon@nex.com.au.

Executive Committee

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