

MCL Annual General Meeting

Sunday, December 1st, 2013, Richmond Library Meeting Room

Present. Andrián Pertout (President), Eve Duncan (Secretary), Antonio Tenace (Treasurer), Johanna Selleck

In Attendance. Joseph Giovinazzo, Colin McKellar, George Dreyfus

Apologies. Paul Moulatlet, Haydn Reeder

1. Greetings.

2013 – 16th Year (MCL Annual General Meeting)

2. Adopting of the Minutes if the previous AGM.

Moved, Seconded, Carried. The minutes of the meeting of Sunday, December 1, 2013 were read and confirmed as a true and correct record of the matters raised.

3. President's Report.

The Melbourne Composers' League

Since its inception in 1997, the MCL has presented 404 works in concerts, many with ABC FM and 3MBS FM broadcasts, of which 317 works have been Australian, 71 from Asia-Pacific, 4 from Latin America, while 12, European. Twenty-nine concerts have been performed which juxtapose the music of Australia with that of another country, including music from New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia, Sumatra, Romania, Israel, Turkey, Taiwan, Chile, Malaysia and Italy.

At present the Melbourne Composers' League has sixty-eight members.

Since the 2012 AGM, the MCL has hosted 5 concert events:

Four Colours: Indigo

Saturday, 24th November, 2012, 8.00 pm.

A concert of new chamber music for string quintet from Australia and Hong Kong featuring Tim Veldman, Yi Wang, Jason Bunn, Alister Barker and Chien-Hsui Wung. Trinity Uniting Church, 15 Black Street, Brighton, Melbourne, Australia.

Works by Brendan Colbert, Eve Duncan, David Holyoake, Paul Moulatlet, Ada Nga-Ting Lai, Andrián Pertout, Peter Simondson, Silvia Simons, Anthony Wilson

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Four Colours: Orange

Sunday, 9th December, 2012, 3.00 pm.

A concert of new chamber music from Australia, New Zealand and Turkey featuring Robert Schubert (clarinet), Stuart Byrne (saxophone), Barrie Webb (trombone), Peter Neville (percussion), and Silo String Quartet (Aaron Barnden, Andrea Keeble, Ceridwen Davies, Caerwen Martin). Richmond Town Hall, Richmond, Melbourne, Australia.

Works by Brenton Broadstock, Paul Moulatlet, Andrián Pertout, Haydn Reeder, Peter Tahourdin, Antonio Tenace, Chris Watson, Anthony Wilson, Ahmet Yürür

Four Colours: Gold

Saturday, 9th November, 2013, 3.00 pm.

A concert of new chamber music from Australia, USA and Japan for flute and percussion quartet featuring Johanna Selleck (flute), Peter Neville, Timothy Phillips, Danny Richardson and Steve Falk (percussion). Trinity Uniting Church, 15 Black Street, Brighton, Melbourne, Australia.

Works by Brendan Colbert, Eve Duncan, Maria Grenfell, Lou Harrison, Colin McKellar, Paul Moulatlet, Andrián Pertout, Haydn Reeder, Tamaru Sawako.

Grainger Wind Symphony: Made in Melbourne

Grainger Wind Symphony: Made in Melbourne – featuring new works for wind symphony from Australia and Japan performed by the Grainger Wind Symphony conducted by Roland Yeung. This concert incorporated the music of composers Katy Abbott, Andrew Batterham, George Dreyfus, Peter Graham, Stuart Greenbaum, David Keeffe, Paul Moulatlet, and Jun Nagao, and took place on the 27th of October, 2013 at Richmond Town Hall, Richmond, Melbourne, Australia.

Elbow Room 20-13

In 2013, the Melbourne Composers' League reinstated our Elbow Room Concert series with Elbow Room 20-13. This series is especially dedicated to the performance of musical works of a more experimental nature.

Elbow Room 20-13 – featuring Johanna Selleck (flute), Brigid Burke (clarinet), George Dreyfus (bassoon), Adam Starr (guitar), Tristram Williams (flugelhorn, trumpet), Katrena Mitchell (soprano), Natalya Vagner (keyboard), Barbara Hornung (violin), and the Melbourne Bassoon Quartet. This concert incorporated the music of composers Brigid Burke, George Dreyfus, Paul Moulatlet, Thomas Reiner, Adam Star, and Natalya Vagner, and took place on the 21st of July, 2013 at Wesley Anne, Northcote, Melbourne, Australia.

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4. Treasurer's Report.

The total income for the 2012-2013 financial year was \$5,975, while the total expenses are represented by the figure of \$10,020.37. The amount of \$4,045.37 represents the shortfall (due to some grants being paid after the financial year, such as the Bayside City Council grant of \$2,000; \$1,700 in broadcasting fees that did not eventuate because of both ABC Classic FM and 3MBS-FM deciding not to record any of the MCL concerts in 2013 – therefore \$690 was required to hire the services of a professional sound recording engineer; and \$620 for membership subscriptions in arrears). The majority of the income came from funding grants (APRA contributing \$2,000 towards the MCL 'Gold' concert), \$1,680 in membership subscriptions, and \$815 in box office receipts. The majority of expenses were for performer's fees (\$6,300) and concert expenses (\$3,388.68 in total).

Currently there are 46 full members (17 less than last year), 18 associate members (3 more than last year), and 4 honorary members (1 more than last year: Greg Wernert *d.* 2012). The drop in membership is the result of members whose subscriptions have lapsed due to non-renewal for 2 years or more. At present there are 12 membership subscriptions in arrears, however the MCL expects these to be resolved over the coming months.

In an effort to improve the Melbourne Composers' League public profile and generate additional funds for future concerts, the MCL has also qualified as a non-profit group with YouTube, Google+ and PayPal and now has its own YouTube channel with a provision to accept public donations which are tax deductible. The Facebook and MySpace profiles will remain active and all of these accounts will be linked together with the MCL website in the coming weeks.

5. Election of the Executive Committee. Due to the fact that Andrián Pertout has held the position of 'President' of the MCL for the past 4 years (2009-2013), all positions, including 'President', 'Secretary', 'Treasurer', and 'Executive Committee' positions were made open to nominations in 2013. In the interest of rotating the position of 'President' Andrián Pertout stepped down as 'President' of the MCL at the AGM.

Another factor that affected election proceedings at the AGM is that this year not-for profit organisations like Melbourne Composers League have become legally obliged to change the Executive Committee to have a President, a Vice-President, A Secretary and a Treasurer. In order to maintain our present statutes, a vote to change our Executive Committee is needed. In the case of our statutes, we will ask members to vote 'yes' to the following change:

“Rule X, no. 42

The Executive Committee consists of one President, one Vice-President, one Secretary, one Treasurer and up to three Ordinary members.”

The vote will take place as an email sent to members informing them directly of this change and asking them to vote 'yes' or 'no' with regards to this matter.

The 2013 results of the elections were thus:

MCL Executive Committee

President: Eve Duncan
Vice-President: Johanna Selleck
Secretary: Andrián Pertout
Treasurer: Antonio Tenace
Joseph Giovinazzo
Colin McKellar

6. Asian Composers' League Delegate's Report.

Previous ACL Festival

31st Asian Composers League Festival and Conference, 20-23 September, 2013, Singapore

The recent 31st Asian Composers League Festival and Conference was held in Singapore between 20-23 September, 2013, and organized by the Composers Society of Singapore (CSS) chaired by Ho Chee Kong. The 4-day event consisted of 8 concerts dedicated to Chinese Orchestra, String Quartet, Chinese and Western Chamber Music, Arts Songs, Wind Ensemble, and Electroacoustic/Computer Music concerts, as well as the obligatory 'ACL Young Composers Competition' concert – the 'Arts Songs' category representing a new category for the ACL.

The young composer selected to represent Australia was Petar Jovanov from Sydney with the work *Strange Ways* for Three Percussionists, presented as part of the 'Asian Composers League Young Composers' Competition' concert on Monday, 23 September, 2013. Other representation from Australia included Johanna Selleck's *The Prospect and Bower of Bliss I* for Soprano and Pianoforte and Katy Abbott's *At the Clotheslines* from *The Domestic Sublime: Song Cycle* for Soprano and Pianoforte – both featured in the 'Art Songs' concert, as well as Stuart Greenbaum's *String Quartet No. 5* and Andrián Pertout's *Aequilibrium* for Flute, Clarinet, Viola, Cello, Trombone, Piano and Percussion; the latter performed by the Western Chamber Festival Ensemble conducted by Robert Casteels at the Yong Siew Toh University Concert Hall. All invited composers from Australia were present in Taiwan.

This year, the ACL festival also included a symposium component entitled 'Multiculturalism in Asian Contemporary Music,' which was moderated by Eugene Dairianathan, and consisted of panellists John Sharpley, Cecilia Kim, Joyce Koh, and Andrián Pertout. The discussion topics were framed around multiculturalism, the concept and definition of 'Asian' and, more generally, the challenges faced by the art-music practice today. The outcome proved interesting for participants and audience alike, as the topics discussed presented an array of contrasting points of view.

For an in-depth review, see *Resonate Magazine* (Australian Music Centre):

<http://www.australianmusiccentre.com.au/article/31st-asian-composers-league-festival-and-conference-singapore>

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After the festival, I travelled to Malaysia, together with the Indonesian composer Michael Asmara, to attend a 'Composium' hosted by the Faculty of Music, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). We were both invited as key-note presenters for the event organised around the theme 'Eclecticism and the compositional voice: pathways for the new millennium.' My key-note paper (entitled 'Defining Eclecticism in the New Millennium: *Luz meridional* and quotation as a compositional device') focused on the compositional process of *Luz meridional*, *Twenty-four Études* for pianoforte, no. 411 (2009-2012) - a work commissioned by Julian Burnside AO QC, and composed for pianist Michael Kieran Harvey as part of a 2009 State Library of Victoria Creative Fellowship. This 64-minute work incorporates quotations from early Australian composers, sourced from the State Library of Victoria's Australian manuscripts collection and received its world premiere in January 2013 in Hobart as part of the MONA FOMA Festival 2013.

Michael Asmara presented a paper on 'the treatment of the Western and Javanese traditional concepts of music into a new language with reference to *Gending Bonang* for Bonang and Kenong,' which focused on how 'Eastern' aesthetic principles of the rebab (two-stringed bowed spiked lute) are translated within the domain of his own 'Western' compositional practice. Of special note was Hanafie Mohd Imam's (UiTM) paper 'Gaméjazz ensemble: reharmonizing textures in the traditional Malay gamelan', which highlighted his compositions for 'Gaméjazz' ensemble, or the juxtaposition of gamelan ensemble with jazz trio, whereby extended 'jazz' chords are generated via the superimposition of two simultaneous tonal centres (or two pentatonic scales tuned a major second apart) - a method of generating what could be referred to as 'functional' polychords with a direct relationship to melodic voice leading. Tazul Tajuddin's (UiTM) paper 'The transformation of gamelan and pantun into new modes of expression' was also highly interesting, examining 'aspects of Islamic art and geometrical design reflected in the compositional structures', and 'the use of Malay batik and weaving concepts as a visual stimulus'.

Other presentations representing the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), School of the Arts (USM) and Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) included papers by Katia Tiutiunnik and Ross Carey (UiTM; 'Collaborative composition and the creative process'); Patrick Terbrack (UiTM); Razak Abdul-Aziz (USM); Jean Penny, Andrew Blackmore (UPSI) and Valerie Ross (UiTM); and Robert Burrell (UPSI).

What made the 'UiTM Composium' both interesting and unique was the fact that all the works discussed within the paper presentations on the day were performed presented in the evening concert that followed - a fantastic idea that succeeded in putting a collection of innovative compositional concepts into perspective.

The next ACL Festival and Conference is scheduled to take place in Yokohama and Tokyo (Japan) during 2-7 November, 2014.

2016 Asian Contemporary Music Festival (34th Asian Composers League Festival & Conference), Melbourne, Australia

A proposal exists that has yet to be formalized to present the 34th Asian Composers League Festival & Conference in Melbourne, Australia in 2016. I am currently exploring the viability of this project. In its 40-year-history, this would be the first 'official' ACL festival held in Australia.

Andrián Pertout

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7. Plans for 2014 and Beyond.

An Elbow Room Concert as well as other 'curated' concerts are planned for 2014. Members will be informed in due time.

8. MySpace and Website Report.

The Website needs to be updated so that it includes details of the 2013 Elbow Room Concert.

9. Other Business.

N/A

10. Closure.

There being no further business, the meeting will be closed as of 4pm, Sunday, December 1st, 2013.