

Saturday, 28 March, 2009
“Australian Country Report on Recent Contemporary Music”
2009 Asian Contemporary Music Festival (27th Asian Composers League Festival
& Conference), 27 March – 2 April, 2009, Tongyeong and Seoul, Korea
Club House, Tongyeong, Korea

The ‘Australian Country Report’ includes information about Australian contemporary music since the previous International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) / Asian Composers’ League (ACL) World Music Days Festival, Hong Kong, 23 November – 2 December, 2007, in Hong Kong.

The Melbourne Composers’ League

The Melbourne Composers’ League is a non-profit organisation with charitable status, which promotes the indigenous and art music of Australia in an Asian-Pacific context. It creates idealistic and inspiring projects of the highest artistic calibre. Since its inception in 1997, the MCL has presented 340 works in concerts, many with ABC FM broadcasts, of which 264 works have been Australian, 61 from Asia-Pacific, 4 from Latin America, while 11, European. Twenty-four 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, and Chile.

In 2001, it presented ‘Federation Music Week,’ with sixteen concerts and four seminars involving Asian Pacific and Australian music, to create a forward looking relationship for Australia with its neighbouring countries for coming years. In this event, as in most of our concerts, the composers were invited to come to Melbourne to meet Australian composers, musicians and audiences. In 2008, the MCL and independent producer Anna Monea presented ‘Below the Star-Stretched Sky’ – a concert of new music for trombone and string quartet from Australia and Korea featuring Barrie Webb and Silo String Quartet at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York, NY, USA.

At present the Melbourne Composers’ League has sixty-five members. The MCL’s present Executive Committee is Eve Duncan (Chairman), Andrián Pertout (Secretary), Antonio Tenace (Treasurer), Eugene Ughetti, Simon Charles, Peter Myers and Joseph Giovinazzo.

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The Melbourne Composers' League has hosted three concert events since December, 2008, which include:

Below the Star Stretched Sky – featuring new music for trombone and string quartet from Australia and Korea performed by UK trombonist Barrie Webb and the Silo String Quartet. The first presentation of this concert incorporated the music of composers Young-Eun Paik, Jesmond Grixti, Eve Duncan, Brenton Broadstock, Peter Myers, and Chan Hae Lee, and took place on the 22nd of September, 2007, at Trinity Uniting Church, Brighton. The concert was recorded by the ABC and broadcast on the 17th of November as part of Ten Years of the Melbourne Composers' League celebrations. In 2008 – in partnership with Independent Producer and Bayside Cultural Development Officer Anna Monea, and with the generous assistance of the Korean Composer's Association – the Melbourne Composers' League presented the same concert (with the addition of works by Joseph Giovinazzo and Sang Hee Kwon) on Sunday, 28th of September 2008 at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York, NY, USA.

Crossing the Blue – featuring new music for voice and guitar from Australia and New Zealand performed by Deborah Kayser, Geoffrey Morris and Ken Murray. This concert incorporated the music of composers Brigid Burke, Brendan Colbert, George Dreyfus, Helen Gifford, Jesmond Grixti, Scott McIntyre, Paul Moulatlet, Michael Norris, Andrián Pertout, Haydn Reeder, Thomas Reiner, and Antonio Tenace, and took place on the 9th of November, 2008, at Trinity Uniting Church, Brighton, Melbourne, Australia. The concert was recorded by ABC Classic FM and will be broadcast at some time in the near future. The concert presented a new work entitled *Restless* by George Dreyfus in celebration of his eightieth birthday.

La Flor en la Colina – featuring new chamber music from Australia and Chile performed by Johanna Selleck (flute), Robert Schubert (clarinet), Isin Cakmakcioglu (violin), Alister Barker and Chien-Hsiu Ong (violoncello), Michael Kieran Harvey (pianoforte) and Peter Neville (percussion). This concert presented Australian and Chilean contemporary chamber music, inspired by architecture, the natural world, spirituality, dance, poetry, and folklore. According to Chilean musicologist Juan Pablo Gonzáles, "Chilean musical identity has been circumscribed not only by the presence of folk materials, but by the use of melodic features derived from the Chilean way of speaking, the use of literary elements, the presence of a sad and melancholy mood, and the description of the landscape."

The concert incorporated the music of four Chilean and five Australian composers: Carlos Zamora, Eve Duncan, Haydn Reeder, Aliocha Solovera, Antonio Tenace, Eduardo Cáceres, Alejandro Guarello, Peter Tahourdin and Andrián Pertout, and took place on the 8th of February 2009 at BMW Edge, Federation Square, Melbourne, Australia. Included was Peter Tahourdin's work *Look at the Stars* for flute, clarinet, violoncello and marimba in celebration of his recent 80th birthday –

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the title of this work taken from the first line of a poem, *The Starlight Night*, by Gerard Manley Hopkins.

The concert was recorded by the 3MBS FM and will be broadcast on Friday, 17th of April 2009 as part of the 'Dress Circle' segment of the weekly 'Concert Hall' programme presented by Robert Hooke. There will be a further broadcast of the concert on Radio Beethoven (Radioemisoras) 'Siglo XX' – 96.5 FM, Santiago, Chile – a contemporary music program on Chile's only classical music radio station hosted by José Oplustil Acevedo.

The Melbourne Composers' League: Rear Vision CD

As part of the 10 year celebrations, the MCL also released a double CD entitled 'Rear Vision' launched on Sunday, 20 July, 2008 at Dante's in Gertrude Street, Fitzroy. The event included a performance by Rachel Atkinson of Peter Tahourdin's *Music for Cello* (included on the CD) as part of his 80th Birthday Celebrations. The MCL double CD features the music of members; the works of 27 Australian composers.

"Rear Vision is a collection of exciting, unusual, expressive, challenging or whimsical works by Victorian composers. This Melbourne Composers' League double compact disc celebrates ten years of concerts, workshops, an international festival, dinners and barbeques, and represents the output of composers working together.

"The works presented on this compact disc have been recorded at either an Elbow Room café concert, a Mosaics concert, our Asian-Pacific festival Federation Music Week, or at one of our cross-cultural concerts with Japan, Korea, Turkey, Romania, Thailand, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and New Zealand."

Featuring compositions by:

Katy Abbott, Ros Bandt, Brenton Broadstock, Julian Cafarella, Simon Charles, Brendan Colbert, Philip Czaplowski, Howard Dillon, Eve Duncan, Helen Gifford, Joseph Giovinazzo, Peter Graham, Jesmond Grixti, Sebastian Harris, Ross Hazeldine, Colin McKellar, Gary McKie, Paul Moulatlet, Peter Myers, Andrián Pertout, Haydn Reeder, Thomas Reiner, Wendy Suiter, Peter Tahourdin, Antonio Tenace, Dindy Vaughan, and Eugene Ughetti.

And performances by:

Natasha Anderson, Rachel Atkinson, Isin Cakmakcioglu, Robert Chamberlain, Carmen Chan, Hildy Essex and the Australian Contemporary Chorale, Steve Falk, Edit Golder, Peter Hagen, Michael Kieran Harvey, Danae Killian, Mark Knoop, Doug Leutchford, Justin Marshall, Richard Mason, Ashley McDougall, Geoffrey Morris, Peter Neville, Claire Nicholson, Anne Norman, Daniel Richardson, Carl Rossman, Robert Schubert, Andrew Seymour, and Barrie Webb.

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The MCL has also recently been successful in obtaining Art Victoria funding to present a 'Four Seasons' concert series of four concerts in 2009-2010.

Autumn

Sunday, April 19th, 2009

Trinity Uniting Church, Brighton, Melbourne

Andrew Blackburn (organ), Tristram Williams (trumpet), Jean Penny (flute), Eugene Ughetti (percussion)

Paul Moulatlet	Desole
Diane Blom	Heavenly Dances 1 & 2
Brenton Broadstock	At the Going Down of the Sun
Peter Graham	Make a Joyful Noise
Ramon Santos	Bandilan
Andrew Blyth	Invocation
Chan Hae Lee	New Work
Peter Tahourdin	Music for Solo Flutes

Winter

For trombone, piano, percussion and contrabass. The instrumentalists are Barrie Webb, Michael Kieran Harvey and Peter Neville.

Spring

For shakuhachi, two saxophones (soprano, alto, tenor, baritone) and percussion. The instrumentalists are Andrew MacGregor, Lachlan Davidson and Eugene Ughetti.

Summer

For flute, viola, harp and percussion. The instrumentalists are Mardi McSullea, Ceridwen Davies, Megan Reeves and Peter Neville.

Dr. Andrián Pertout
B.Mus (hons), M.Mus (Melb.)

Australian delegate of the ACL (Asian Composers' League), secretary of the Melbourne Composers' League, Honorary Fellow at the Faculty of Music, University of Melbourne and on the Board of Directors at the AMC (Australian Music Centre)

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