

# THE 2016 TEAM OF PIANISTS PROGRAM CLASSIC MUSIC IN HISTORIC VENUES

C & C RIGG BEQUEST CLASSIC MUSIC IN HISTORIC VENUES and  
BELEURA TWILIGHT CHAMBER MUSIC AT RIPPON LEA

**TWILIGHT CHAMBER MUSIC AT RIPPON LEA  
RIPPON LEA  
192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick (Melway 67 E2)**

### 1. Sunday 17 April – 6.30pm

Aura Go – piano solo  
Mozart – Sonata in B flat major, K.281 & Fantasia  
and Sonata in C-minor, K.475 & 457  
Max Cooke & Darryl Coote – piano four hands, with  
four vocal soloists  
Brahms – Liebeslieder Walzer, Op. 52

### 2. Sunday 15 May – 6.30pm

Rohan de Korte (cello), Darryl Coote (piano)  
Schumann – Adagio & Allegro, Op.70  
Schumann – Fantasiestücke, Op. 73  
Brahms – Sonata in E minor, Op. 38  
Brahms – Sonata in F major, Op. 99

### 3. Sunday 19 June – 6.30pm

Marina Marsden (violin), Justine Marsden (viola),  
Robert Chamberlain (piano)  
Works by Mendelssohn, Koessler, Lochner

### 4. Sunday 17 July – 6.30pm

Darryl Coote – piano, Jenna Breen – horn, Jack  
Schiller – bassoon, Alex Morris – clarinet, Ann  
Blackburn – oboe  
Mozart – Quintet for piano and winds, K 452  
Beethoven – Quintet for piano and winds in E-flat,  
Op. 16  
Poulenc – Elegy for horn and piano,  
Poulenc – Trio for piano, oboe and bassoon

### 5. Sunday 21 August – 6.30pm

Miki Tsunoda (violin), Rohan Murray (piano).  
Beethoven – 3 sonatas for violin and piano, Op. 12.

### 6. Sunday 18 September – 6.30pm

Rolf Plagge (Mozarteum, Salzburg) – piano solo  
Liszt – Sonata in B minor and other works

**C & C RIGG BEQUEST  
CLASSIC MUSIC IN HISTORIC VENUES**

### 1. The Tallis Pavilion, Beleura (Mornington)

\*Date and time to be advised.  
Audience meets at Peninsula Lifestyle Centre car  
park, Bungower Road, Mornington (next to  
Bunnings, enter from Nepean Highway or  
from Bungower Road). Bus to Beleura will depart  
from the Bungower Road end of car park.  
Rohan Murray (piano) and friends  
(\*programme and artists to be confirmed).

### 2. Venue to be advised

#### Sunday 1 May 2.00pm or 3.00pm

\*Time to be advised in due course, dependent upon  
venue.

Icon vocal trio  
(Justine Andersen, Vivian Hamilton, Jeannie Marsh),  
Robert Chamberlain (piano).

**From Edinburgh to Melbourne** – music from  
Scotland and Australia for voices and piano.

## CHARITY FUND-RAISING RECITAL

### GLENFERN

417 Inkerman Street, East St Kilda  
(Melway 58 F10)

**Saturday 22 October 7.30pm**

\*Date to be confirmed

Dollars for Dili – A fund raising concert with performances by emerging artists for the Dili Hospital, East Timor. A separate brochure for this recital, containing full details and ticket booking form, will be available later in the year, on the Team of Pianists' website [www.teamofpianists.com.au](http://www.teamofpianists.com.au)

## EVENT FOR AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND

### RIPPON LEA PIANO MARATHON

192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick (Melway 67 E2)

**Tuesday 26 January 10am to 5.00pm**

Up to 100 pianists will be invited to perform in the Rippon Lea ballroom (see article below).

Applications and information – Ph. 9527 2851 or via download at [www.teamofpianists.com.au](http://www.teamofpianists.com.au)

## TICKET PRICES AND BOOKINGS FOR ALL CONCERTS (excluding PIANO MARATHON and DOLLARS FOR DILI)

TICKET PRICES (incl. GST)

Single tickets	\$40
Single tickets for National Trust members	\$35
Pensioners holding Aust Govt pension card	\$35
Children & full-time students under 25 years	\$20

## BROCHURE BOOKINGS

**6+ TICKET OFFER (brochure bookings only)**

Purchase 6 or more tickets from the brochure in the same transaction and receive one free ticket to any concert of your choice

## ONLINE BOOKINGS

Online bookings can be made via the Trybooking links at [www.teamofpianists.com.au](http://www.teamofpianists.com.au)

Purchase 6 full-price tickets to the same concert and receive a 7<sup>th</sup> ticket for that concert



# The Travel Pages

## JUDGING IN THE JUNGLE, MARKING IN THE MALL

This September, I visited Malaysia to judge and present workshops at two large music festivals, events at which young music students perform, receive written feedback and compete for prizes and awards. The tropical jungles and massive shopping malls referred to in my title are two iconic images from modern Malaysia, but it is actually the chance to meet and work with Malaysian and international music educators, as well as young school-age music students, in a wonderfully organised event that is professionally so attractive.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Kota Kinabalu Music Festival (<https://www.facebook.com/KK-Music-Society-318946221710/>) was the first stop on this year's trip, and was held at the luxurious Rasa Ria Resort (<http://www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/rasariaresort/>), about one hour outside Kota Kinabalu, capital of Sabah Province in East Malaysia. September 20 was a very busy day for all judges, with 955 performances between 8.30am and 5.00pm in seven competition rooms. Other judges were from various universities around Malaysia, from the UK, Columbia, Japan and Australia.

Perhaps the best-known name amongst the judges, at least in Australia, was Christopher Norton, since 1983 a best-selling composer with Boosey and Hawkes publishers, as well as a music educator. and recently writer, with his wife Wendy, of numerous micro-musicals tailored for easy performance by classroom students in schools. Christopher is the author of many books well known to anyone who has worked with piano examination syllabuses in the past 30 years, such as the *Latin Preludes*, *Microjazz* and *Improvise Microjazz* series, *Microstyles*, and many more.

The second day of the Kota Kinabalu Festival featured presentations including my workshop on *Rhythm, Layers and Pedalling in 20th Century Piano Music – Challenges and Solutions for Teachers and Students Whilst Preparing for Exams*. For the first time I was able to ask a living composer to play his own composition in one of my workshops! I had chosen Christopher Norton's *Barbed Wire Blues* (from *Microjazz Collection 3*) as an example of a popular style (fast blues) in concert music and to show the importance of the notated articulation and dynamics for examination success. The teachers were delighted when Christopher Norton played this piece for us all, and they were not at all offended by the casual dress code. The airconditioning in the seminar room was broken and the humidity and temperature were so high that we each presented our workshops wearing shorts and sandals!

Rasa Ria resort is famed for its natural beauty and orang-utan colony, but the busy festival schedule meant that meals and a little socialising with the other judges and the delightful committee, plus a daily swim in the pool, were the only rest and recreation activities! However East Malaysia is certainly a place I would like to visit again perhaps to explore the jungle, the wildlife, the food and the famous Mount Kinabalu area. After the festival in East Malaysia I spent a few days in Kuala Lumpur to catch up with leading teacher Mei Kuen Lai and to meet her assistant, an outstanding young Japanese pianist Tomonari Tsuchiya, plus some of her students who will audition later this year to study music at Monash University.

Then it was on to the two-day Malaysian Youth Music Festival (<http://www.myof.org.my/festival>) at the Putrajaya Marriott Hotel, about one hour's drive south of Kuala Lumpur. Again there were many workshop presentations: by myself, by Christopher Norton, by the delightfully vibrant Dr Ana Maria Orduz from Columbia, and by the always intellectually stimulating Dr Andrew Filmer from *Universiti Putra Malaysia*, plus a fascinating presentation by Japanese violinist Rio Yamase on the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle, complete with Norwegian traditional costume and musical examples in many styles.

Hardanger fiddle is the traditional Norwegian folk violin, with four or five resonating understrings located beneath the four normal strings, with beautiful carvings on the scroll and mother-of-pearl inlays on the fingerboard and tailpiece. This is the instrument that Grieg constantly references in his music, and it was great to hear it played by an expert in this field. The international nature of this festival was summed up by a Japanese violinist, wearing traditional Norwegian costume and with a PowerPoint presentation in English about the snowy delights of life and study in Norway, while outside the heat and humidity of tropical Malaysia could be felt!

Again there were hundreds of performances from young people from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei and other countries, and we judges were kept very busy writing reports, conferring, and selecting prize-winners in many different categories. I enjoyed hearing some of the final concerts featuring some performances by judging colleagues, including Ecuadorian violinist Jorge Sadde-Scaff, who travelled 54 hours to get to Malaysia door-to-door, and UK-based pianist Mitra Alice Tham's Gershwin Preludes, as well as Malaysian guest ensembles and some of the best student prize-winners.

In Australia our large eisteddfods and competitions usually run in one venue only over a period of weeks. In Malaysia having such an event over just one or two days allows young performers and judges to travel from inside and outside Malaysia for one special day. It also showcases the wonderful administrative skills of the organising committees of the Kota Kinabalu Music Society and the Malaysia Youth Orchestra Foundation, led by Audrey Chin and Emily Wu respectively, as well as their assistants and volunteers from the teaching and student community.

Sadly in West Malaysia this year the haze from forest clearing fires in Indonesia was and still is especially bad, with many days of dangerous conditions. At various times schools have been closed, and sporting events cancelled. The atmospheric conditions were very bad on many of the days I was in Malaysia, with visibility down to a few hundred metres, much so that on my one free final day I passed on a tourist visit to Putrajaya, the administrative capital of Malaysia, and even decided not to risk a swim in the outdoor pool, such was the ominous smell and taste of the haze outdoors! However, atmospheric conditions aside, if you are ever in Malaysia in September and want to hear some fine performances, or see the bustling music education scene in that country while spending a day or two in a luxury hotel, look out for the KK Music Festival and for the Malaysian Youth Music Festival!

Robert Chamberlain  
Team partner

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## **THE COMMITTED COMMITTEE**

The 2015 AGM was held prior to the Team's August concert at Ripponlea.

The following members were elected for the 2015/16 financial year:

President: Patricia Sablyak

Vice President: Gerry Roberts

Secretary: Rhonda Boyle

Treasurer: Mickey Ruzeu

Committee members: Teri Brugman, Deborah Jackson, Clive Jackson, Louise Gomes, Christine

Walshe, Melissa Kwok.

Rhonda Boyle  
Secretary

## **REPORT FROM MAX COOKE ON THE SPRING PIANO SCHOOL 2015 HELD AT GLENFERN – SEPTEMBER 28, 29 AND OCTOBER 1**

The Spring Piano School has for many years been organised and administered by Robert Chamberlain, who has done a great deal to support and help young pianists. This year, Robert was involved with music events overseas, and could not participate in the Spring Piano School. Darryl Coote and I, not wanting to see the benefits of this event lost, decided we should try to organise this year's event. I suggested a new format, with the idea that it could be run more simply than the larger events in past years. Basically, we had fewer group activities and we provided individual lessons for each participant. This idea appears to have worked well, and the students who attended the school have reported favourably.

Each student attended two masterclasses every day, and each student received daily one x 30-minute individual lesson with one of the teachers of the school. The masterclasses were intended to interest not only the person playing at the piano, who would obviously learn a great deal, but also involve the listeners who would learn about the music, about the ideas of interpretation, and also about the techniques involved in realising the intentions. One student commented: "I particularly liked ones where there were lots of humour (silly sentences and jokes) and also questions to the audience". Another student commented that she "...thoroughly enjoyed the SPS, because I got to improve my piano skills but also meet inspiring people". There were many similar comments, which showed that the young pianists really understood what we were trying to do.

Darryl Coote and I, as organisers, did some of the teaching and took some of the classes, and we were supported by a fine group of invited teachers, some of whom took classes, and all of whom gave individual lessons. These participating teachers were Betty Vergara-Pink, Robyn St George, Kevin Suherman and Lachlan Redd. It was an impressive group.

The school was held over three days, two classes in the mornings for the Junior group, during which time three of the students at a time could attend individual lessons. On the third day, every student performed in a concert before the other students and parents. The standard at this concert was very impressive. Bernie Capicchiano, managing director of Bernies Music Land, gave a presentation on Schimmel and Bernstein pianos, with each of the students receiving a show-bag of promotional material. We are appreciative of the sponsorship provided by Bernies Music Land, in terms of the provision of a Bernstein upright piano and two digital keyboards.

The senior group had a similar programme held in the afternoons. Lachlan Redd and Kevin Suherman delivered the individual lessons, because the numbers were fewer. The seniors had also a successful concert to conclude their event.

As in past years, the Team partners are appreciative of the generous sponsorship from the Friends of the Team of Pianists. This sponsorship has been applied to \$2,000 worth of scholarships, each one valued at \$150 or \$200, thus enabling the Spring Piano School to be more affordable to some of the student participants and providing encouragement to them. Ms. Pat Sablyak, president of the Friends of the Team of Pianists, attended the final recitals and presented scholarship certificates to the recipients.

Four members of the Friends of the Team of Pianists – Greg Brown, Anne Robertson, Melissa Kwok and Christine Walshe – assisted generously in the provision of morning and afternoon teas, and we thank them for their time and efforts. I also give personal thanks to Darryl, especially for his time spent on the SPS at his computer.

Max Cooke, October 2015

TOP partner

## ROHAN ON THE CELLO

Rohan de Korte is a cellist who plays in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. When not performing, he is to be found teaching this instrument at the University of Melbourne. Following his recent performance at a TOP concert at Glenfern on 11 October, Mr Ed drew a long bow and decided to interview a man of the string section.

Rohan, thank you for agreeing to be interviewed for the FOTOPS Newsletter:

**Mr Ed:** *Were you ever trained in or tempted by the piano?*

**Rohan:** No! It never actually occurred to me to ever play another instrument. When I was a tertiary student I was jealous of people who could play the piano and I actually tried to learn but I was very impatient and could never get my two hands to play at the same time. It was very frustrating.

**Mr Ed:** *You have played in Team of Pianists concerts before. How and when did you first meet the members of the Team?*

**Rohan:** Growing up in Melbourne I knew that there was a Team of Pianists. But it wasn't until I returned from being abroad that I was asked, through Miwako Abe, to play in a trio concert with Darryl Coote. I've managed to do at least one concert a year with Darryl since then and I think we are up to our sixth year now.

**Mr Ed:** *How many cellos do you own and which one is your favourite?*

**Rohan:** I only have one cello. It is a very old instrument, from Germany. I like the fact that it was made in about 1720 – the same year that Bach composed his six cello suites and probably somewhere close to where he composed them as well. But the truth of it is that I don't really own the cello, I'm just looking after it until the next person takes it.

**Mr Ed:** *The cello is not usually a solo instrument. What other instruments do you most like performing cello with?*

**Rohan:** I love my job in the Melbourne Symphony and I'm always happiest playing in a team, whether it is chamber music or in the MSO cello section. It is a source of immense pride to be able to perform all of those amazing cello melodies from the symphonies or the great chamber music repertoire with other people.

**Mr Ed:** *You have travelled widely across the 'seven seas'. Do you have a favourite 'back to' venue that you love to perform in.?*

**Rohan:** Last year the MSO played at the Proms and the atmosphere in the Royal Albert Hall was amazing. I had played there twenty years ago and both times it has been a very special experience. There are some nice halls in many cities that I know but for chamber music I like the venues to be small, where the audience is close, the way chamber music is meant to be played. Rippon Lea ballroom is perfect for this.

**Mr Ed:** *What is your favourite piece of music and why?*

**Rohan:** I love many pieces – it depends on the mood I'm in – but Mahler's ninth symphony is very special, so are the Beethoven string quartets (I studied four of them with the Alban Berg Quartet). As a cellist the Bach suites are close to my heart, and of the cello sonatas I love the Rachmaninov sonata for cello and piano.

**Mr Ed:** *What is your favourite ice cream?*

**Rohan:** A really good vanilla. I make one at home for my boys from the recipe by Heston Blumenthal and it is a flavour sensation.

Thank you Rohan. Mr Ed

## PARLIAMENTARY PIECE: HANSARD HOWLERS

[Over many years of working in courts and as a Hansard reporter in Parliament I have collected a large volume of slip-ups that (in most cases) didn't make it past the initial draft. The following is a nonsensical fantasy made up of misspellings and literary boo-boos, for which I thank innumerable typists and reporters of bygone days, who shall remain nameless!]

The leader told the House that the attitude of the teaming millions of goal diggers boarded on racism; 'Sack them and be damned!', he cried. To back up the voracity of his claim he added that rape recidivism should be maximised and that innocent parties should not bare the guilt. 'I don't believe hanging is a detriment to someone who has committed murder', was his final comment. These matters came up for discussion when a sporting idle was invited to undress the gathering, and some very funny antidotes were told around the table. The keynote speech was so good that it was decided to have it translated into mandolin, but it was full of fortuitous insults about plutonic friendships, and that only aggregated the situation. Naturally, those remarks were expunged from the record after being given a tertiary glance.

The situation was thwart with danger because the forest had been deluded of trees; however the artesianians produced fine craftwork even though there had been a fractional fight in the party because the legislation had had a long digestion period. There was an occasional flair-up in the House, mainly because of the gentleman dressed in a mourning suit and the fairy farmers who had been badly affected by the measure. There were size and grows from the Opposition because they didn't realise that other people may have a different strain of thought.

Some honourable members wasted eloquent on the subject, but others stayed in their cowards parcel while the party hats backed up the Government, and thus the seeds of descent were sewn. There was only dribble from the Opposition, which found itself up the creek without a pedal. Luckily it had a well-known racing magnet who was an exponent of the marshall arts, but ultimately it had to tow the line and form an unwholly alliance with the plural lump.

The debate on the Preservation of Cruelty to Animals Bill revealed that the long-footed potoroo was on the verge of distinction, and the rabbit materialism that had led to that situation upset the genuine dear hunters and civil librarians, who had failed to grasp the metal because they had been busy mixing their menopause. One member who had survived the radishes of the locust plaque was in fine fiddle as he explained the numb of his argument on bureaucratic bundling and inadequate childmining facilities, which were part of a liturgy of disasters.

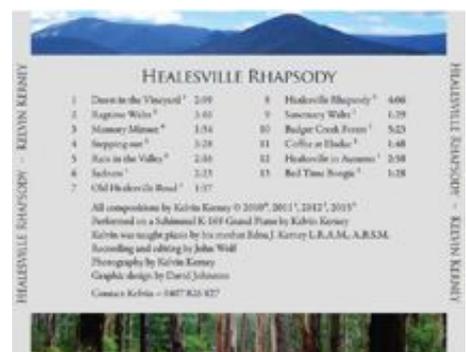
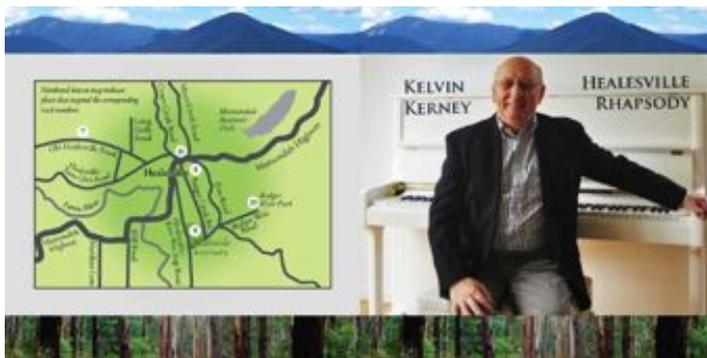
Finally in conclusion, it was found that reaction to the new research had been strangely neutered, even though the union shot stewards regarded their ill-gotten grains as manner from Heaven. Because the Government could not supply the wherewithout to finish the project, like Ned Kelly, they got a suspended sentence, and thereby hangs another tail.

(From Pat Sablyak, former Hansard reporter and subeditor, with apologies!)

## HARMONY IN HEALESVILLE

Enthusiastic pianist and composer, Kelvin Kerney, celebrated the launch of his first CD at the Salvation Army Centre in Healesville. Following his move from Melbourne to Healesville in 2009, Kelvin fell in love with the area and began writing the 13 tracks that make up the disc. On Saturday 24 October, Kelvin played most of them to a large audience of his music friends. He spoke of his inspiration, the places, the weather, the views, the walks and his Mum, who taught him to play the piano when he was very young.

Kelvin is in elite company, being one of the few of our members who also compose and publish their works. Congratulations, Kelvin. (To purchase a CD, please contact Kelvin on 0407 826827.)



## FRIENDS PLAY FOR FRIENDS NEWS



*The happy troupe at Bernies Music Land. Photo Ray Jacobs*

Thank you to those members who hosted us in their homes this year. The occasion pictured above was held at Bernies Music Land, where we were delighted to test-drive one of the latest Schimmel model pianos.

The annual FPF concert at *Glenfern* in August was a delightful success, with fifteen players on the program (possibly a record). This included three duets. Robert Chamberlain is thanked for conducting a masterclass two weeks prior, for the benefit of the performers.

Pianists continue to find the FPF events a valuable opportunity to advance their playing potential. Non-playing members are welcome to come and observe. To register to attend, members need to email Ray Jacobs so a programme can be printed for the day and the numbers attending can be controlled according to the capacity of the hosts' homes. Contact Ray Jacobs by phone 9435 2200 or by email: [ray@ymp.com.au](mailto:ray@ymp.com.au)

### **BE A STARTER IN THE PIANO MARATHON DAY TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 10am – 5pm STARTING LINE IS AT THE RIPPON LEA BALLROOM**

On Tuesday 26 January 2016, the Team of Pianists is arranging a piano marathon in the lovely surroundings of **Rippon Lea house and gardens** in Elsternwick. We are inviting up to 100 pianists to perform a three or five-minute segment each, depending on piano grade standard. It will be a fundraising event for the National Trust.

Visitors may take a picnic in the delightful grounds of Rippon Lea while the music is being performed in the ballroom. Audience members will be welcome to sit on the grass, wander in the gardens or take a tour of the house. The piano music will be able to be heard outside the house, on the pool terrace and the nearby lawns, enabling families to relax in an outdoor atmosphere.

Applications and information – Phone 03 9527 2851 or via download at [www.teamofpianists.com.au](http://www.teamofpianists.com.au)

## OTHER COMING MUSICAL EVENTS:

A weekend of piano concerts at Liddiard Gallery, Oakleigh Anglican Church, corner of Dandenong and Warrigal Roads, Malvern East, features several of our members.

### *Music of the 20's and 30's*

**Friday 13 November 8pm**

**Saturday 14 November 2pm**

**Saturday 14 November 8pm**

Pianists: Deborah Jackson, David deZilwa, Barbara Pritchard, Stephen Bedding, duet by Lilli Allgood and Alistair Maule

Singers: John Banks, Andy Barltrop, Louise Edgoose, Lynn Elder, Qun JoAn Mao

Flute: Greg Burns

Ukulele: Brian Davey

Classical piano music of the era combined with popular songs of the time.

### *Anatoly Dokumentov plays Brahms*

**Sunday 15 November 2pm**

Anatoly plays pieces by Brahms, combining with Nataliya Seliverstova to play Ten Hungarian Dances for piano four hands.

TICKETS for all concerts: \$35 adult, \$25 concession, \$15 children

Supper / Afternoon tea provided

Online bookings for Music of the 20's and 30's at [www.trybooking.com/JABN](http://www.trybooking.com/JABN)

Online bookings Anatoly Dokumentov Plays Brahms at [www.trybooking.com/JABP](http://www.trybooking.com/JABP)

Or ring Deborah on 9569 9178. Tickets available at door.

## ACORD GROUP

*Acord*, an early music ensemble, has been producing medieval performance entertainments in Melbourne for more than 30 years. Margaret Arnold, Jerzy Kozlowski, Sue Tweg, Richard Excell and Carol Williams perform with beautiful voices, diatonic harps, rebecs, vielles and organetto. One more concert is coming, in the 2015 series called *Dante's List* is:

**Sunday 22 November:** *The Tournament of Antichrist*. Performances start at 1.00pm.

The cost is \$20 adults and \$15 concession.

Liddiard Gallery is on the corner of Dandenong and Warrigal Roads, Malvern East.

For enquiries, contact Carol Williams on email at:

[carol.williams@monash.edu](mailto:carol.williams@monash.edu) or mobile 0425 702700 or [www.facebook.com/acordensemble](http://www.facebook.com/acordensemble)



## KEYNOTING A MUSICIAN

### **DR DAVID HELFGOTT b.1947**

David played in a concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre on 21 June to a full house. He presented the Italian Concerto in F minor by Bach and the *Appassionata* Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor by Beethoven. Combining on a second piano with Rhodri Clarke, he performed Piano Concerto No. 3 by Rachmaninoff.

David was born in Melbourne and became a music student of Alice Carrard. At age 19, he left for London to study at the Royal College of Music. He won many awards there. However by the early 1970s his emotional health was failing. He returned to Australia, and with the help of friends in Perth he was able to recommence giving concert tours in 1986. The story of 'how the fog lifted' is part of the Oscar-winning film, *Shine* about his life, and David's playing was used on the film's sound track. He has released five CDs of himself playing classical piano, and now performs around the world. He was awarded Honorary Doctorate of Music by the Edith Cowan University, WA.

Mr Ed

Source: Concert program

## DO NOT GO GENTLE

‘Do Not Go Gentle’ is the title of perhaps the most well-known of Dylan Thomas’s poems. When I was studying at university I read an excellent biography on Dylan Thomas and decided to compose a piano and spoken-word piece based on ‘Do Not Go Gentle’ The poem depicts the anguish of Thomas over the impending death of his father and ends with the well-known refrain ‘Rage, rage against the dying of the light.’

Usually when I compose I improvise on the piano. When something happens that I like I’ll remember it or write it down. Often this is just a few phrases and over weeks or months I’ll slowly build the piece up (again through improvisation) until I have a finished piece.

Prior to my interest in the poem I had always composed as described above. But this time the poem permeated my being and I ended up composing something that sounded very different from my usual composition style. It’s a beautiful, heartfelt poem and music and I hope to perform it soon at a FOTOPS or Glenfern concert. I just need a volunteer for the spoken-word part!

Hugh O’Shea  
Member

## BIRTHDAY 95

Lilli Stahr turned 95 on Sunday 11 October, and she was in attendance at the TOP Concert at *Glenfern* that afternoon. At interval on the front verandah of *Glenfern*, all assembled sang 'Happy Birthday' to her. FOTOPS committee member Teri Brugman produced a cake for Lilli that was shared with the audience. On this special day she was delighted to be with her niece, Liesel Stahr, who was visiting from Peru. Lilli has been a friend of the Team partners, Darryl Coote in particular, as well as of some of the FOTOPS members for many years. Music has always been important to her.

Lilli is not slow to talk music. Prior to World War II, she studied piano privately with one of the professors at the Conservatorium in Danzig. In fact her family has strong links to famous musicians: her father met Brahms at a concert in Berlin in the 1890s, her great-grandmother Fanny Lewald Stahr (a famous author) knew Liszt and Mendelssohn, and her great-aunts in Weimar were private students of Liszt – not a bad pedigree! Congratulations on this special birthday, Lilli!

TOP partner Darryl Coote and Mr Ed

## MUSIC . . . *gives soul to the universe* – Plato

**‘Music is universal and essential to life’.** This statement is called a ‘big idea’. It is the concept that underpins music education in a school located in Melbourne’s South Eastern suburbs. You may be asking, why have I decided to share this with you? The answer is simple. Music is a powerful and influential force in everyone’s lives whether it be through performing, teaching, learning, listening or analysing. This concept dates back to the time of Plato, who said that music was an integral part of education because it has the power to develop the soul. Music has influenced all our lives in various ways and it is time to say thank you to those who share their music with us.

As a music education preservice teacher, I have had the privilege of working with several leading piano and music teachers over the past four years, including Max Cooke, Robert Chamberlain, Rohan Murray, Darryl Coote, and Betty Vergara-Pink. I have attended many workshops, lessons, and performances and each time I witnessed the passion and professionalism they each have in their teaching and performance. This dedication towards quality music education and performance is a goal I will strive to continue in my own teaching practices.

Music is an ongoing journey. It does not give instant gratification, but lasting memories, achievements and skills. Thank you to everyone who shares their passion for music so that others may enjoy it too.

*“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything”* – Plato

Christine Walshe  
Committee member

## WHO HAVE YOU SPOTTED?

Several members were spotted at Kelvin K's CD launch in picturesque Healesville, where he played his musical compositions including 'Badger Creek Forest' and 'Rain in the valley'.

*"Raindrops keep falling on my head"*

Deborah J was spotted at the Adelaide Festival Theatre on opening night of 'Dirty Dancing'. Was she dancing in the aisles with muddy shoes?

*"Dancing in the dark"*

Bernie C was spotted playing on his video camera while PPF members were spotted playing on his Schimmel concert grand, at a special play-day at Music Land.

*"The piano man"*

Mickey R was spotted at the Ballarat Art Gallery. None of the paintings had red dot spots on them.

*"Pictures at an exhibition"*

David DZ was spotted driving to Healesville with Clive J as his passenger/navigator and vice versa.

*"The long and winding road"*  
*and "Keep your eyes on the road ....."*

Rhonda B was spotted bushwalking in the Castlemaine area. Did she kick any nuggets?

*"These boots were made for walking"*

**Have you been spot-on for spotting anything spot-worthy to tell Mr Ed for the next edition?**

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, GENERAL ENQUIRIES OR FOR PASSING ON ANY SUGGESTIONS

Patricia Sablyak (President)	Phone: 9803 1335
Rhonda Boyle (Secretary)	Phone: 9598 5889
Mickey Ruzeu (Treasurer)	Phone: 9399 1201 (AH)
Gerry Roberts (Vice President)	Phone: 83070454 (AH)

Clive Jackson (Newsletter Editor)	Phone: 9569 9178 (AH)
Deborah Jackson (Membership Secretary)	Phone 9569 9178 (AH)

**Email address:** [friendsoftop@yahoo.com.au](mailto:friendsoftop@yahoo.com.au)

**Postal Address:** Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc. PO Box 333, Balaclava, Victoria 3183.

I wish to thank those who have contributed to this edition and Christine Walshe as assistant editor. Mr Ed.

*Please remember to renew your membership for 2015/2016 if you haven't already. (Renewal notices were posted out after the AGM in August).*

*If a final reminder notice is enclosed with this newsletter, it means that you may not be financial at the time of this newsletter being posted.*

*Please send renewals to:*

<i>The Membership Secretary Friends of the Team of Pianists P O Box 333 Balaclava Vic. 3183</i>
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# *Invitation*

*The Partners of the Team of Pianists,  
Max Cooke, Darryl Coote,  
Robert Chamberlain, Rohan Murray,  
together with  
Patricia Sabhyak, President, and  
the Committee of Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc.  
Cordially invite*

*to the  
Team of Pianists' Christmas Party  
at  
Glenfern*

*on Saturday 5 December, 2015 at 7:00pm*

**There will be short music performances  
Drinks and finger food provided**

*The Team of Pianists are Artists-in-Residence at Glenfern,  
the National Trust's Centre for Arts and Culture*

**RSVP: Wednesday 2 December  
Email: [friendsofthop@yahoo.com.au](mailto:friendsofthop@yahoo.com.au)  
Phone or SMS: 0403 666 369 (Christine)**

***Please bring this invitation with you***

*Glenfern: 417 Inkerman Street (corner of Inkerman and Hotham Streets),  
East St Kilda, Melway 58 F10  
Limited off-street parking, enter from Inkerman Street  
(Please do not park under covered areas)*