## FRIENDS OF THE TEAM OF PIANISTS INC.



**NEWSLETTER NUMBER 43** 



MAY 2022

# PIANOMANIA! A MAX COOKE TRIBUTE CONCERT

Tuesday 24 May 2022 at 6.30pm

A night of celebration at the Rippon Lea Ballroom with two grand pianos and four pianists will honour the musical life of the late Max Cooke OAM. Rohan Murray, Darryl Coote, Robert Chamberlain, and Kevin Suherman, will perform, presenting works by Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Bizet and Smetana. The pieces will be performed as piano solos, two pianos, piano duets, and eight hands on two pianos.

The evening will also include canapes, a cash bar, a welcome address, a spoken tribute in the presence of Max's family, the launch of a limited edition CD, and the display and sale of special framed hammer memorabilia from Max's last grand piano. There's a special entry discount for current financial FOTOPS members plus an attractive offer for new members to join FOTOPS.

#### Rippon Lea Ballroom, 192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick

Visit the www.teamofpianists.com.au website for all booking and ticket arrangements.

#### IN THIS EDITION:

FOTOPS 2022 AGM Notice, TOP online concert information, interview with Kevin Suherman, the order form for the Max's piano hammers, and more.

REPORT OF THE TEAM OF PIANISTS ONLINE PROGRAM: GLENFERN SOIREE SERIES TWILIGHT CHAMBER MUSIC

A MUSICAL FLOWER-GARDEN FOR CLARINET, CELLO AND PIANO Held on Sunday 1 May 2022 3.00pm and 6.30pm (with audience in-venue attendance) at Glenfern, 417 Inkerman St, East St Kilda, and 6.30pm (on the Live-Stream via YouTube)

**Robert Schubert** (clarinet), **Josephine Vains** (cello), **Robert Chamberlain** (piano), in a musical flower garden of radiant chamber music. J S Bach's G major Gamba Sonata (cello & piano) complemented by the masterful, rarely-performed Trio Op3 by Zemlinsky

OF Works by Australian composer Julian Yu, including
AM: Prelude after J S Bach and The Nightingale variations (after Glinka), plus the Nachtgesang (Nocturne) from Bruch's Eight Pieces Op. 83, rounded out this delightfully varied recital.



MASTERWORKS FROM GREAT TRADITIONS Held on Sunday 10 April 2022 at 3.00pm (with audience in-venue attendance) and at 6.30pm (audience in-venue attendance and live-stream online viewing)



Some of the most popular classical pieces were performed by the best.

Beethoven - Sonata in G minor for cello and piano, Op5 no2

Brahms - Sonata in F minor for viola and piano Op120 no1

Mozart - Piano Quartet in G minor KV 478

Anne-Marie Johnson (violin), Gabrielle Halloran (viola), Rohan de Korte (cello) and Darryl Coote (piano) presented a program of masterworks from three great composers, who all settled in Vienna during the highpoint of their respective careers.

#### LET ALL THE WORLD SING!

Held on Sunday 27 March 2022 at 3.00pm (audience in-venue attendance) and at 6.30pm (audience in-venue attendance and live-stream online viewing)



Melbourne Capella Chamber Choir, conducted by Nicholas Cowall with Rohan Murray (piano).

This group performed a program that was contrasting an evocative setting of Henry Newbolt's *Songs of the Sea*, by Charles Stanford, with the much-loved *Mystical Songs* by Vaughan Williams.

Charles Stanford - Songs of the Sea Vaughan Williams - Five Mystical Songs

#### C&C RIGG BEQUEST CLASSIC MUSIC IN HISTORIC VENUES 2022-2024

TOP is delighted to announce that we have further support from the Colin and Cicely Rigg Bequest for a new two-year concert series 2022 – 2024. Over this two-year period they plan to present six to eight events per year: concerts, concert/live-streams hybrid events, and the occasional gala event, such as the upcoming *Pianomania!: The Team's Tribute to Max Cooke* at Rippon Lea Ballroom. The Team have already started planning of this series. They expect to continue with recitals in NTAV venues, but also to include other historic venues, particularly in regional areas.

Wonderful artists, recital dates and exciting programs will be announced over the coming months. It is anticipated that the new series will kick off with a recital by young stars Kevin Suherman (piano) and Ye Jin Choi (cello). Details will be posted on the Team's website <u>www.teamofpianists.com.au</u> as they become available.

On-line viewing tickets are only \$25 AUD each and ticket purchasers will receive an unlisted YouTube link via email before the recital. The live stream can be viewed by any TV, PC, Mac, tablet or phone that can view YouTube videos. The recital will be streamed in real time only - later podcast will not be available - so do check time differences if you are not in AEST zone.

For bookings, go to the Team website; https://www.teamofpianists.com.au/emails/view/2020-05

On the Home page, click 'BOOK NOW' and this will take you to the TryBookings site, to order tickets.

You can go to go to Trybooking directly.

All future events will be advised on the Team's website.

## A SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH A SPECIAL PIANIST

Kevin Suherman will be known to those who have regularly attended concerts of the Team of Pianists at Rippon Lea. He was one of the young pupils of the late Max Cooke. Max gave Kevin opportunities to perform at some of those concerts and at other venues. Kevin left Melbourne in 2017 and continued his piano education and performances at the Royal Academy of Music in London. In 2022 he returns to perform in the tribute concert for Max.

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

*Mr.Ed:* How and when did you become a pianist?

*Kevin:* I started learning the piano at age 5, but it was from the age of 9 when I knew that I wanted to be a pianist, and to pursue a career in music. When I was 9 years old, I performed my first public solo recital in Indonesia, and then shortly after, I was interviewed on live radio – and I was asked if I wanted to pursue a career as a pianist. I remember that I was always happy playing the piano, learning new repertoire and going to my lessons, so after performing my first recital and experiencing the joy of music-making on stage – I knew that this was for me.

#### *Mr.Ed:* How did you get to know the Team of Pianists?

- *Kevin:* I moved to Melbourne in 2007 to study with Max Cooke and to be a student at Melbourne Grammar School, and I first met Max in one of the concerts at Rippon Lea that year. I also met other Team of Pianists partners, and also some members of the Friends of the Team.
- *Mr.Ed:* Do you also play another instrument?
- *Kevin:* I used to play the violin back at Melbourne Grammar School, and I became the leader of the school orchestra. Apart from violin, I also learned the trombone for two years.
- *Mr.Ed:* You have travelled and played overseas, so do you have a favourite venue that you love to perform in? (not including Rippon Lea Ballroom)!
- *Kevin:* I was fortunate enough to perform at the Wigmore Hall in London, and I think it is one of my favourite concert halls that I have played in.

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

- *Kevin:* I think this is very difficult for me to say but my favourite composer is Beethoven and I think my favourite piece must be Beethoven's Third Symphony "Eroica". It has everything in it heroism, death, hope, despair and love. In 2020, I played Liszt's transcription of this Symphony and I think it is a phenomenal work. Liszt managed to transcribe and translate everything from the orchestral score, and made it into a gargantuan and demanding piano work. I ended up specialising in Liszt's Transcriptions of Beethoven Symphonies with my teacher Joanna MacGregor at the Royal Academy of Music.
- *Mr.Ed:* Thinking of the future, do you want to work more on writing music or teaching or performing or conducting, and will we see more of you in Australia?
- *Kevin:* Yes certainly the good news is that I have finished my studies in London, and I'm now back in Australia and living permanently in Melbourne. I will keep myself busy with teaching, performing solo/chamber music, and hopefully, one day, one of my long-term goals is to have my own orchestral ensemble, conducting from the piano.

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

*Kevin:* 100% Strawberry!

Thank you Kevin.



## FRIENDS PLAY FOR FRIENDS

These afternoons are designed for FOTOPS members who want to practice and improve their piano skills by performing with other like-minded people. These events have continued in the Covid environment by each member performing and sharing their screens online, projected through their laptops or mobile device.

Performers need access to a grand piano. If you want to participate just let Ray know on mobile 0402 992 116 or <u>ray@ymp.com.au</u> and he will add you to the mailing list.

You will receive an invitation to participate and details on when the next event will be held. If you want to attend, all you have to do is let Ray know and what music you would like to play, and we will do the rest. So if this interests you, don't hesitate and pick up the phone, or shoot Ray an email, and he will look after you. Ray Jacobs

## VALE GLENN WHEATLEY

Described in a Herald-Sun article as a music 'titan', the passing of Glenn Wheatley aged 72, after suffering Covid19 complications, is being felt by the music industry. He was first known in the 1960's as the bass guitarist in local rock band, The Masters' Apprentices. It was however, his role as manager from the 1980's onwards, of famous singing legend Johnny Farnham, that his own fame has endured.

There seems to be a real shortage of music managers in Australia. Glenn's passing should serve to focus on the role of managers and their importance. Its about what needs to be done behind the scenes to promote and manage musicians. Many pianists perform at concerts and our members include some of them. Having some support and backing, and a manager, is part of working to conduct successful music events and promoting local talent in this State.

Source: HeraldSun 2 February 2022 pp 1 and 5 and Mr Ed

## CHURCH MUSIC EVENT

Hymn book editor and musician, Rev Dr Darcy Wood, will introduce an afternoon of music, sharing insights into the heritage of Church music and its influences in the community. He will focus on the rich sources of Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian hymns. Bruce Macrae will lead a group of invited choristers on grand piano. The event is mainly online, and with a small live audience.

Sunday 12 June 2022 2.00pm Stonnington Uniting Church 57-59 Burke Road Malvern Free event. Uniting Church Historical Society. Register for Zoom link option by email: ken.barelli@bigpond.com Enquiries: Ken Barelli – Mobile 0418 317 942

## MEMBERS HAVE RENEWED

Nearly all of you sent in your 2021-2022 membership renewals, so thank you for keeping us going. In this very difficult time for musicians and for arranging performances of any kind, your continuing membership means so much to the Committee. It is also much appreciated by the Team members. Our group is within reach of achieving 100 members again. Please encourage any family members or musically interested friends to join us. The Membership Form is in the FOTOPS section of the Team's website.

### IN HONOUR OF MAX COOKE OAM

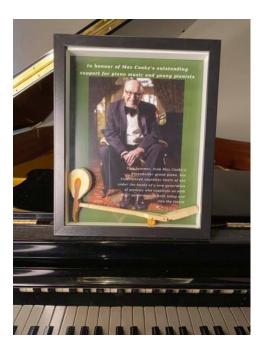
You are invited to acquire a hammer from the late Max Cooke's Bösendorfer grand piano Mounted and framed, these are available for \$50 each They may be collected personally at one of the TOP events in 2022 or postage can be arranged for an additional \$25

#### **PRE-ORDER NOW**

Write your name and contact details on this sheet, scan and email to: friendsoftop333@gmail.com or post to Friends of Team of Pianists PO Box 333 Balaclava 3183

An invoice will be sent to you with payment details Limited edition of 88 hammers, each framed under glass and mounted with a photo-poster background of Max

Your purchase will support the Team of Pianists' work with young pianists in the annual Spring Piano School as well as perpetuate Max Cooke's generosity towards young pianists. By purchasing this piece of Max Cooke memorabilia, you will own a genuine relic hammer from his last grand piano (Bösendorfer).



The text on the image says:

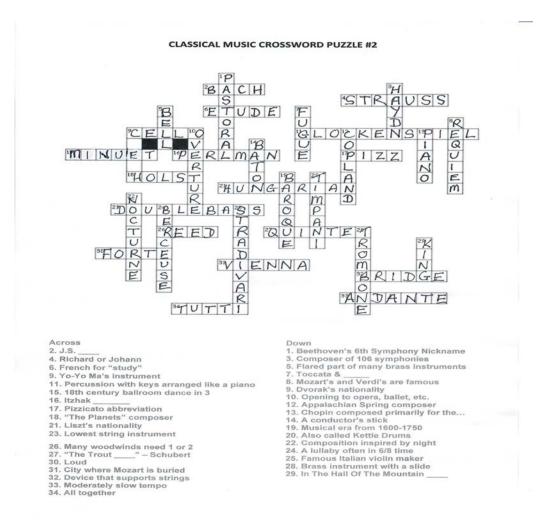
"This hammer, from Max Cooke's Bosendorfer grand piano, has experienced countless hours of use under the hands of a new generation of pianists who captivate us with their performances both today and into the future".

I would like to order \_\_\_\_ commemorative hammer(s)

Name:		
Address:		
Email:		
Phone / Mobile:		
Delivery method: [	Personal collection	Postage

### THE ANSWERS

The previous Edition 42 of this Newsletter contained Crossword Puzzle #2. For those who got clued up, congratulations! If however, you did not attempt the Crossword, you have no need to read this item!



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Cannot spot a spot this time!!!

Spot-on messages will be gladly received from members, at any spot.

#### COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

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

Deborah Jackson (President)Phone: 9569 9178Ray Jacobs (Secretary)Mobile: 0402 992 116Mario Anders (Treasurer)Mobile: 0418 564 852Louise Gomes (Deputy President)Phone: 9598 5311(ah)Clive Jackson (Newsletter Editor)Phone: 9569 9178 (ah)

Email address: friendsoftop333@gmail.com Postal Address: Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc. PO Box 333 Balaclava, Victoria 3183

**Team of Pianists enquiries:** Phone 9527 2851 As Editor, I wish to thank all those who have contributed to this edition. Mr.Ed



The NINETEENTH annual general meeting of the Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc. will be held on:

## Monday 25 July 2022 at 7.30pm AEST via the ZOOM link below

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88641483864

Meeting ID: 886 4148 3864 One tap mobile +61370182005,,88641483864# Australia +61731853730,,88641483864# Australia

Dial by your location +61 3 7018 2005 Australia +61 7 3185 3730 Australia +61 8 6119 3900 Australia +61 8 7150 1149 Australia +61 2 8015 6011 Australia Meeting ID: 886 4148 3864 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ki5AGjUey

Nominations for any of the following committee positions should be forwarded to:

The SecretaryFriends of the Team of Pianists IncP O Box 333 Balaclava Vic. 3183using the tear-off slip below

The closing date for nominations is Friday 22 July 2022

#### **Committee positions:**

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and several general committee members.

Nominees must be proposed by a member of the Friends of the Team of Pianists and nominees must also sign the **Nomination Form** below. Any member interested in joining the committee, but who needs assistance in finding a member to support their nomination should contact the Secretary, Ray Jacobs, mobile 0402 992 116 or send an email to:

friendsoftop333@gmail.com

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FRIENDS OF THE TEAM OF PIANISTS INC -NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE POSITION 2022-2023

Name	
Address	_Postcode
Committee position	
Signature of member proposing the nominee	

Signature of nominee\_