

WESLEY MUSIC FOUNDATION (ACT)

Events and activities during 2011

There were about 120 concerts and other public events organised by the Foundation during the year in the Music Centre and Church, including 46 *Wednesday Lunchtime Live* concerts. The annual total of event bookings, other than for servicing of the facilities, was around 950, including hirings, joint ventures, professional engagements, seminars, master classes, music examinations, educational sessions, recordings and rehearsals. The largest single activity of the year was the visit of the Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge for two outstanding concerts attracting a total of around 500 people. This was their fourth visit since 1999.

A special event in June/July 2011 was a 10-day course in congregational song for theological students, ministers, worship leaders and musicians led by Michael Hawn, the distinguished Professor of Church Music at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. A total of 43 attended, including 15 for the full course. The attendees gained a great deal from Michael's extensive knowledge, experience and inspiring leadership. This activity was a follow-up to the National Seminar on *Celebrating our Faith* held at Wesley in October 2009 and also organised by the Foundation.

In 2011 the Wednesday lunchtime concerts attracted an increasing number of patrons. The performers included a high proportion of students studying at the ANU School of Music and also secondary students learning from private music studios. There have also been performances by ANU lecturers and community professionals and amateurs. Toni Law, a WMC volunteer, has continued her excellent work in the scheduling of performers and the production of flyers, media releases and programs. There have been a growing number of very young and highly talented musicians playing a variety of instruments.

The performers in other public concerts included Wesley Music Scholars and former Scholars, ANU graduates, current ANU students, ANU and other teachers, professional soloists and ensembles, community ensembles, and also private piano and voice studios.

Regular users of the Centre include many University of the Third Age groups and the Australian Music Examinations Board. The Music Centre hosted teachers giving lessons in voice, piano, cello and music theory. This may be expanded in the near future to lessons in harpsichord and fortepiano.

The Foundation's ACT Organ School received a significant boost in the second half of the year as a result of generous donations to fund 7 new organ scholarships in addition to the John Perrin Keyboard Scholarship currently held by Marko Sever. There are a surprising number of very young students interested in pursuing the study of the pipe organ. The outstanding teachers are Calvin Bowman and Philip Swanton. The current students range in age from 8 to 17. The new scholarships were awarded by a public advertisement and a selection process to three students aged 12, two aged 13, one aged 15 and another aged 16. Several of the students show exceptional talent. All are making good progress and demonstrating enthusiasm for the instrument with a dedication to regular practice. We expect a significant number to get involved in playing for church or chapel services in the foreseeable future.

A major new development during 2011 was the launching of successful joint ventures with three community associations. These included the Music Teachers' Association of NSW (Canberra Branch) for master classes, heats and finals for the long-running Janice Battison Awards for piano students, the Classical Guitar Society of Canberra for the commissioning of guitar compositions and the Carillon Society of Australia for a carillon composition competition

focussed on tertiary students in Canberra and Sydney. Donations for the joint projects were received by the Foundation and the joint venturers to mount new and expanded activities.

During the year the Foundation again provided opportunities for fund raising by recognised charities and for financial support for young performers, including graduates of the ANU School of Music.

Early in 2011, Dr Calvin Bowman was appointed as a part-time Artistic Director for the WMF and the Music Centre when he was appointed as a part-time Senior Lecturer at the ANU School of Music and University Organist. He was on the Selection Committee for Wesley Music Scholars in March and has spoken with the Board on plans for new initiatives in 2012 and future years. Given his outstanding musical skills and experience, we look forward to his coming to Canberra, his commencement as Director of Music at Wesley from February 2012 and his availability for the detailed planning of WMF events as well as personal performances as a keyboard soloist (organ, piano and harpsichord).

Thank you

I record appreciation for the work of the Board of the Foundation. The Board is responsible for the overall management of the Music Centre and other functions of the Foundation under its Trust Deed with the NSW/ACT Synod and its Constitution. The current Board members are Rev. Gregor Henderson (Chair), Garth Mansfield (Secretary), Chris Emery and Simon Cowling (Treasurers), Elysia Fisher, Alan Hicks, Glenda McDowall, Robert Schmidli, Stan Sismey and Don Whitbread.

The Board is most grateful for the hard work and dedication of Becky Blair, the Executive Office of the Wesley Music Centre. The operations of the Centre depend crucially on the support of many volunteers. We thank the regular volunteers including Stan Sismey, Margaret Mansfield, Matt Dillon, Toni Law, Linda Collings, Bruce Bowman, Dan Sloss, Chris Emery, Simon and Helen Cowling, and since their return from New Zealand Colleen Rae-Gerrard and Michael Grafton-Green. Don Whitbread has assisted as MC for most *Wednesday Lunchtime Live* concerts and Margaret Mansfield has continued as Membership Secretary of the Friends of Wesley Music (approximately 180 members). We appreciate the help of others for specific events, including representatives of community associations, the ANU School of Music and secondary schools and colleges. We also thank ArtSound FM and their volunteers for their recordings and broadcasts of many concerts throughout the year, including more recently the recording of a number of *Wednesday Lunchtime Live* concerts.

The Board appreciates the continuing help of the Minsters, staff and volunteers of Wesley Uniting Church and also the support of Wesley Church members through attendance at events. More volunteers from the Wesley community would be most welcome.

We trust that the activities of the Foundation will continue to provide enjoyment, inspiration and support to many people, including young musicians, through a diverse and busy program under its charter to promote music and music education.

Garth Mansfield
Secretary to the Board
Wesley Music Foundation and
Director, Wesley Music Centre