



# NEWSLETTER No.1

## *From the Director*

Welcome back to another year of music and drama at the Upper Hunter Conservatorium.

What a great year it is going to be with many great things planned; some which I can't tell you about yet, but they include several visits from outstanding musicians and educators from around the country.

As I type this listening to a Bach Cello Suite I am reminded of the awesome power of music and all it fulfills.

I thank you for trusting us with your future Bach's, Mozart's, Freddie Mercury's, Kurt Cobain's or Mel Gibson's.

### **TERM 1 INVOICES**

Invoices for Term 1 are included with this newsletter.

Please note the due date for payment which is Friday 26th February.

## **2010 Lessons Fees**

The Board of the Conservatorium has approved an increase in fees for 2010.

Below are the fee rates for the coming year. If this increase should cause any distress please contact the conservatorium office for information about our bursaries.

LESSON TYPE	FEES
Individual 20 Minutes each	\$20.00
2nd & subsequent 20 Minutes	\$18.00
Individual 30 Minutes each	\$27.00
2nd & subsequent 30 Minutes	\$25.00
Shared 30 Minutes (each student)	\$13.50
<b>GROUPS &amp; ENSEMBLES</b>	
Upper Hunter Orchestra & Ensembles	\$35/term
2nd & subsequent family members	\$25/term
Percussion Ensemble	\$51/term
School Band Rehearsal	\$35/term
Early Childhood Music	\$80/term
Drama Ensemble	\$130/term
Musicianship/Theory/Music Craft	\$45/term



## MESSIAH

The Conservatorium celebrated the end of 2009 with a return performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

Returning to sing with us was audience favourite Javier Vilarino who enthralled the audience with a powerful performance of *The Trumpet Shall Sound*.

Joining Javier was soprano Jill Carter and Alto Sue Davis who both sang wonderfully were very gracious performers.

The wonderful Conservatorium choir was in fine form, giving us a glorious rendition of the *Hallelujah* chorus. And of course the Conservatorium Orchestra was the glue that held the whole performance together, rising to give a stunning performance of this complex work.



*l to r:* Sue Davis, Jill Carter and Javier Vilarino

## SCONE JUNIOR STRING ENSEMBLE

In 2010, the Conservatorium is pleased to add to its ensemble program a Junior String ensemble based in Scone.

The ensemble will rehearse on Monday afternoons, from 4.45 – 5.30pm, at Scone Grammar School, under the direction of Mrs Gillian Miles. String players of all ages are welcome and membership is open to all Upper Hunter residents. The minimum level of playing is Preliminary Grade AMEB or equivalent.

## CHAMBER MUSIC WORKSHOP

### for String Players

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am – 3.00pm at the Conservatorium Building, Muswellbrook

Please see your teacher or ask at the office for enrolment forms and further details.



At the end of 2009 the Conservatorium farewelled long serving teach Mr Andre Vikas. Andre has worked with the Conservatorium since 2004, teaching woodwind to students through the Upper Hunter. We wish Andre well in his move to Melbourne.



Piano teacher Rebecca Roberts has taken some time away from the con for the imminent arrival of her first child. We wish Rebecca well and look forward to the new arrival. Rebecca's students are now in the capable hands of Elizabeth Glenday.

Elizabeth joins us after graduating from the Newcastle Conservatorium in 2009 with a Bachelor of Music (Honours). I trust that if run into Elizabeth you will make her feel welcome.

## ENSEMBLES AT THE CON

The Conservatorium is proud of its Ensembles Program with a variety of different ensembles to choose from. The Ensembles of the Conservatorium represent the con and our community locally, nationally and even internationally.

The Conservatorium Orchestra presents 3-4 concerts per year, performing a large variety of music, including music from the 1700's right through to today. Later this year the orchestra will premiere a new composition written especially for our conservatorium.



The Upper Hunter Show Band is a marching band consisting of students and staff of the Conservatorium—stay tuned for an announcement regarding this band.

The Conservatorium Choir is a highlight of the Conservatorium Vocal Program. Led by Jill Carter the choir performs a large variety of repertoire and will join with the orchestra again in 2010

These are a few of our ensembles—for full details contact the Conservatorium office for our ensembles brochure.

### ORCHESTRA/ENSEMBLES TIME CHANGES

Please note that our orchestra rehearsals this year will take place from 5.30pm – 6.45pm, still on a Thursday afternoon. New members are always welcome.


Junior and Senior Strings rehearsals will run from 4.30pm – 5.15pm.



Music Craft and Theory Classes are available in all centres.

Classes are essential to the musical development of all students.

Please call the Office to enquire about grades and classes in your area.



### EARLY CHILDHOOD DRAMA

Designed for children aged 1-5 the Conservatorium is seeking participants for an Early Childhood Drama class in Singleton.

Drama classes will provide our youngest students the opportunity to improve speech skills before school starts as well as developing self confidence and social skills.

Please call the office to register your interest.



## TERM 1 EVENTS

DAY	DATE	TIME	VENUE	EVENT
Saturday	6th March	All Day	Muswellbrook	Chamber Music Day
Sunday	7th March	Various	St Josephs, Aberdeen	Piano Masterclass and Rock Band Jam
Wed-Fri	17th-19th March		Scone	2010 Kia-Ora Camp
Sunday	28th March	Sydney	Sydney Conservatorium	Clarinet Ensemble
Fri-Sun	16th-18th March	Various	Muswellbrook	Eisteddfod - Vocal Section

### HUNTER VALLEY VIOLINS

**309a Hunter St, Newcastle**

**Ph: 4927 0700**

For any music student it is important to use the best possible quality of instrument and to have it maintained by qualified instrument repairers. Hunter Valley Violins (HVV) is the UHCM recommended dealer for all bowed string instrument repairs and they also have a wide range of instruments for purchase. HVV provides an e-newsletter including details of upcoming string events, concerts and in-store promotions. If you are interested in joining the network – contact HVV at [huntervalleyviolins@gmail.com](mailto:huntervalleyviolins@gmail.com)

### SCONE BAND

The Conservatorium is currently seeking expressions of interest from wind, brass and percussion players regarding the formation of a new concert band in Scone.

The band will focus on challenging and entertaining repertoire, with tuition from UHCM teachers, Robert Thompson and Janelle French. Rehearsals will commence in term 2, and will be held every second Tuesday at 4:30pm.

For more information about this exciting new project, call the Conservatorium office.



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