

*Celebrating 34 years*

**Volume 26**

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PO Box12

Launceston Tas 7250

0437 009 673

keplerensemble@iinet.net.au

**Saturday, April 26th**  
**7.30pm**

**Adult Education Centre**  
**51 York Street**  
**Launceston**

**HANDEL**

**VOLTA**

**ANDRIESSEN**

**HAHN**

**MADDEN**

**VIVALDI**

**PEPUSCH**

**BARTÓK**

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## ***Welcome***

We begin by offering you the warmest greetings in this brand new season and hope that 2014 will bring you the very best it possibly can.

This newsletter is out a little early this year just to make sure that you are apprised of the latest news from the Ensemble. As you can imagine, plans are well under way for the first of our regular concerts in April and, as you will see from the summary on the front page, this will include the usual wide variety of styles and composers.

## ***Venue for this Year***

After much consideration and consultation, we have decided to stay with the Adult Education Auditorium as our regular venue for 2014 and then review the situation for 2015.

It is, as we all know, much easier to stay where you are than to move and, in the absence of any pressing need, that is usually the best course of action. We will keep you posted should anything suddenly change, all fingers crossed that it doesn't ... ☺

## ***Jane Fleming***

The October concert last year saw the welcome return of our wonderful pianist, Jane Fleming.

The fabulous news is that Jane has agreed to return as a permanent member once again this year and will be highly influential in allowing us to expand our repertoire into areas which we previously had to neglect through lack of a regular specialist pianist.

Jane, as you may remember from the last newsletter, has a degree in performance from the Canberra School of Music and was a member of the group between 1987 and 1991, during which time she took part in over 40 concerts.

## ***Concert - April 26th***

Our first concert for the new season will be the last Saturday in April (26th) and the practice and rehearsal routine has been underway since the middle of January.

We have put together two trios for flute, violin and keyboard: one a traditional Baroque trio sonata by Pepusch and the other the intensely haunting Pastorale by the 20th Century Dutch composer Hendrik Andriessen. Other works include a Handel violin sonata with viola da gamba basso continuo and another trio for

violin, da gamba and keyboard by the popular (uniquely to Kepler Ensemble) composer, Giuseppe Volta.

The most exiting item of all, however, will be the premiere performance of a brand new flute sonata written by the Ensemble's musical director, Wayne Madden. Written for this occasion, this is a highly charged and ultra passionate powerful composition but we'll leave the exact details until the concert ... come and see what you think about it .... ☺ .... Jacqueline will play the first movement only, and then in August, the whole sonata as it will be completed by then. We want to give you a taste first.

## ***The Kepler Cat Chronicles!***

What more can be said about our furry friends, Dame Latté and Sir Gary? Their ownership of all things domestic (including their parents) is unquestioned. Gary's favourite spot for repose during the summer has been the landing at the top of the stairs. This is done in a carefully calculated way where he stretches out to the maximum possible extent making it nearly impossible for anyone to negotiate the top step without treading on him. Naturally the possibility of being trodden on is insufficient to cause him to adjust position and he will just look at you as you try in vain to safely step around him.

Latté is her usual self; demandingly loud on occasions and very much 'in your face' if she feels you might need the constant attention of a cat to help with tasks you may be doing. Of course, there are many hours of peaceful repose but this is punctuated by brief but extreme bouts of intense activity. It is unbelievable to think that a 12 year old cat could run and jump so athletically. Obviously she is not yet aware that she is a dozen years old!



## ***Alan Lester***

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the recent death of one of our most ardent supporters, Alan Lester. Alan began attending our concerts regularly in the late 1990s and was first added to our newsletter mailing list for the April concert in 1999.

For many years he was of great assistance to the group in helping with the monumental task of putting out posters leading up to our concerts. In fact, if we were ever so careless as to forget to send him a wad of posters before a concert, he was very quick to ring up and ask where they were.

Alan was also a mentor to the group and made many valuable suggestions regarding program content. He was always there for us, a true friend and patron.

Our thoughts and sincerest condolences go to Vera and other members of the family; he will be sadly missed by Kepler Ensemble and all who knew him.

## ***Change of Email Address***

Due to an experience with a maladroit Internet Service Provider (ISP) who shall remain nameless, we have decided to phase out using our own mail server for important incoming mail. The idiot ISP in question decided to disconnect our existing ADSL connection without telling us and weeks before they were due to connect the NBN. They then refused to put it back, a breach of contract. Needless to say, they are no longer our ISP. Our new ISP, on the other hand, had the whole thing up and running the next business day after calling them the night before. No prizes for guessing which awful company it was though, and you could really work it out in one second flat! ... ☺

However, the lesson learned here is that, if you run your own mail server with no backup SMTP service and something bad happens over more than a day or two, all your incoming mail goes into a permanent black hole never to be seen again. Therefore, we have set up all important mail addresses through our new ISP's domain and not our own.

This was given a serious test recently when, in a stunning display of incompetence while attempting to connect the house next door to the NBN, they managed to disconnect ours (again) before happily disappearing off the premises. Fortunately, a day or two later, three vans, nine workers and technicians, much digging, re-cabling and replacing of boxes, we were back on line. It must be mentioned that they looked like a tribe of wild hairy cavemen waving their arms and legs as they galumphed up and down the street shrieking to each other like crazed banshees. It was entertaining though, a circus that would make a platoon of orang-utans proud!

Our new ISP (from our experience so far) is reliable and are right there when we need them, thank goodness for their customer service, it is wonderful.

You can now email us at:

**keplerensemble@iinet.net.au**

We've taken the Kepler Ensemble web site off line temporarily while we consider redesigning it. It was starting to look a little dated and, despite keeping dates, news and concert details up-to-date, there have been quite a few major changes since we first put it together about six years ago. We will keep you in touch with further developments.

## ***Newsletter Subscription (please read: no more stamps)***

Like most modern amateur and professional organisations these days, we are seeking to disseminate as much information as possible (including this newsletter) by email. There is a huge difference between an email which is essentially free and a posted copy which entails paper, envelope, printer ink, a lot of work folding and, most of all, a 70 cent stamp!

Therefore, if you have an email address, we would delight in sending you the newsletter electronically. Please register your details by sending an email with the subject line '**Subscribe**' to:

**keplerensemble@iinet.net.au**

The newsletter will be sent as an Adobe Acrobat (pdf) attachment. Your details will remain private with us; we will never forward your address to anyone else either by giving it to a third party or by disseminating it visibly in the list to other recipients. You can, of course, unsubscribe any time you want by sending a corresponding email with the words 'Unsubscribe' or just sending a message explaining that you no longer wish to receive it.

## ***Friends of Kepler Card (please read)***

We have decided to keep admission costs the same as the previous few years so we can still offer you the 'Friends of Kepler' card for \$5 ... ***(we have discontinued the stamps as it has become far too expensive for you)*** per person per year (individuals only). This allows you a 50% discount on the normal \$10 recommended donation to each of our official concerts. Note also that the card is fully transferable so, if you can't make it on the night and would like another person to take your place, then your guest need only produce the card at the door.

The card only covers our regular concert series and not commissioned concerts. Please also note that this is strictly a ***one person per card*** arrangement, so couples or families wishing to attend regularly should order one for each person. **We enforce this strictly and you cannot subscribe at the door.**

If you lose your card or arrive at the concert without it, we have a printout of currently paid up members, so your membership will be recognised. However, if you do not have a card and your name is not on the list then your subscription is not current and you will need to pay the full amount.

Order your new card(s) at any time by sending your subscription to –

***Kepler Ensemble***  
***PO Box 12***  
***Launceston Tas 7250***  
***0437 009 673***

You may cut out the form below for this purpose. Please use a separate form for each person (photocopy if you would like to).

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| Name .....                      |
| Address (email or postal) ..... |
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**PLEASE REMEMBER: YOU CANNOT SUBSCRIBE ON THE NIGHT OF A CONCERT**

## *Letter from Norway*

**Greetings** from Norway, where we are suffering a disappointingly warm, rainy winter with the least number of sunny days in February since 1938 according to the records. There has been some snow, in December and a little later in January, but Christmas Day was “green” as they say here, rather than white of course. It has happened once before in my 12 years here and is one of the few complaints I pose to Norwegian friends: what is the point of Norway without snow at Christmas? The magic of this time of year, the combination of crisp cold and deep darkness with twinkling lights in the fresh snow, is for me an unforgettable experience. Christmas 2013 by contrast was such a deep disappointment.

A week before Christmas, as I was wending my way to church through the rain for a rehearsal of a Christmas play I had written, *Mary's Story* - a retelling, from Mary's point of view, of the two birth narratives in the gospels of Matthew and Luke together with contemporary material from the *Infancy Gospel of James* - I suffered a fall on the ice and sprained my left wrist. Christmas service playing was negotiated with considerable difficulty and pain for just 3 fingers of the left hand were usable. Ironically quite a number of people congratulated me on my playing unaware that it was rather restricted by my injury. I wonder what my playing is like the rest of the year!! The Christmas play, though, was a great success.

Only in the latter part of February have I been able to begin serious playing again and preparations have started for at least three concerts in my flat over the summer months. One concert will probably be just a piano recital, the other two concerts with clarinet. Music for piano will include Mozart's Piano Sonata in c-minor (KV 457), the Fantasy in c-minor (KV 475) and the Ten Variations (KV 455) (*Unser dummer Pöbel meint*), Debussy's Suite Bergamasque and Ravel's Sonatine; for clarinet with my colleague Olav Leikanger we shall perform Brahms' Sonata no. 2, Saint-Saëns' Sonata op.167 and Leonard Bernstein's Sonata (1942); and there will be selections of short pieces from more familiar repertoire.

Easter will soon be upon us but this year's Easter monologue performance on the biblical theme of resurrection has unfortunately been cancelled. Instead I will re-visit an older monologue, more properly a meditation based on Luke's Gospel, called “Jesus, the Resurrected, is the Messiah” for three readers and musicians.

May 17th this year is of great national importance for Norway being the 200th anniversary of the making of their Constitution for which they had to wait 90 years under the governance of Sweden before it became law. It is, of course, the national day of celebration when everyone wears their bunad or national dress. Part of the national romanticism of that time has come down to us in the music of Grieg and Johan Halvorsen from Drammen. I plan to play some Grieg in a concert in May or June, probably including Wedding Day at Troldhaugen which is a very typical wedding march in folk style.

Best wishes,

*John Leggett*