

Margaret Sutherland

The second Margaret Sutherland Festival was very well received by audiences and the online premiere for FQ Digital will go ahead as scheduled on April 11th.

Justin Beere (clarinet) filled in for David Griffiths extremely successfully, recordings for ABC went well and we are confident that our Margaret Sutherland project is having the desired effect of renewing interest in her music.

Importantly, Wirripang Press will be releasing the edited performance parts for other ensembles to play these pieces. The number of mistakes in the parts is far greater than anticipated and it will take a lot longer than we expected, but by the end of 2022, we should have reliable parts for all 6 pieces played as part of the 2021 and 2022 festivals. We suspect the oboe quintet was a premiere performance.

Planning for the first 2022 subscriptions series program is underway, Ashlyn scheduled to arrive as expected from WA. Ashlyn was engaged at the specific request of John Garran who commissioned the piece by Melody Eötvös. We have thought about funding an understudy to be ready to step in, but the unsuccessful RISE funding curtailed that. We do have a list of suitable people who can step in and learn the part quickly if need be and will have a replacement program if a mezzo can't be found.

FQ Digital

It has become apparent that the potential for FQ Digital Free to provide a valuable resource for composers, students, teachers and music lovers is enormous. Given the online fatigue of audiences but acknowledging the need for accessible performances online for those unable to attend in person (time constraints/disability/time of night/regional) we have decided to promote FQ Digital Subscription as a way for people to support the production of FQ Digital Free, with the bonus of having access to 4 exclusive concerts. It will be a way of helping to grow the content in FQ Digital Free.

Commissioning process

In recent years we have ensured that established composers are given enough development time to have the necessary artistic growth and to make sure that the FQ reputation for excellence in programming is maintained.

Recently, we engaged Clare Strong (past Composer Development Program participant) as emerging composer in residence with an attached 15 minute commission. Her 2018 CDP entry was strong, and we felt optimistic about her potential. After working with her on her vignette (to be premiered in 2022 Program 3) we realised she needed more assistance to continue her growth as a composer as her composition standard wasn't where we would expect an emerging composer in residence to be. We created the pilot program for FQ Emerge to help her improve her compositional voice but in working closely with her, we have concerns over her commitment to a career as a composer. Given this is a highly valued opportunity and one that needs to be given to the best possible composer, we are

currently drafting an emerging composer in residence agreement that specifies our expectations and allows for Clare to excuse herself from the commission if she feels unable to fulfil our requirements. We will continue to support Clare while being clear about our expectations.

Castlemaine and Woodend quartets up and running/JNQP Weekend in Bendigo great success

With the appointment of Helen as Education Coordinator, we have begun the process of creating our progressive quartet curriculum and rehearsal process guide, using new quartets in Castlemaine and Woodend to test our program. We will be building a library of resources to be housed on our learning hub and available for quartets to use to help them have a progression in their development.

High School Residency

After 4 years working with Footscray High School, we are confident that we have come up with a model for a high school residency that can be easily transplanted into other schools.

Using Shostakovich's 8th string quartet as the centrepiece will enable us to introduce teenagers to chamber music with the perfect piece, whilst not overloading the quartet with additional repertoire.

Future schools that have shown interest are:

MacRobertson Girls High

Ringwood Secondary College

2023 planning

- MVA rescheduled tour Feb/March
- Subscription season

Since drafting the 2023 subscription season for Creative Victoria, there have been some changes:

Program One:

Brenda Gifford * New work

Shostakovich

Andrea Keller * New work

Program Two:

(including possible Northern Tasmania tour)

Beethoven Op. 59 No. 1

Dvorak string quartet

Octet with Strike a chord FQ prize winners

Program Three:

Musical Portraits

Smetana - From my life

Cheetham - Bungaree/other Australian work based on an individual

Miniatures based on portraits

- FQ Emerge composer program
- FQ Ascend composer program
- Regional tour *Bach to Beijing* with support from Regional Touring Victoria and to include Shepparton Art Museum
Bach Goldberg variations arr. Julian Yu (*Commissioned by Carrillo and Ziyin through during the 2020 pandemic*) with guest artist: Ma Dong, erhu