

PERSONNEL UPDATE AND 2023 SUMMARY OF GUEST MUSICIANS

No changes since last meeting:

- Dong Ma (erhu) - guest artist for regional touring of Julian Yu new work
- 2023 guest violinists
 - Liz Sellars - Program 1 and Northern Tasmania Tour
 - Natsuko Yoshimoto - Program 2 and Mildura tour
 - Cameron Hill - Program 3
 - Brigid Colledge - regional touring (August)
 - Jackie Wong (2022 FQ intern and first of the early career musicians) - Itet side by side regional concerts in May
- Appointment of violinist for 2024
 - It is unlikely that we will be confident enough to make a permanent violin appointment this year, and will look to appoint a violinist for a 12 month trial period; we are currently hoping this person will be Brigid Colledge

PROGRAMMING AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Mendelssohn hybrid production telling the story of Felix through the eyes of his sister Fanny; Richard Piper to be engaged as researcher (alongside Zoe) and dramaturg

- Development with Richard has commenced
- Presentation in 2024

Dance collaboration with a collection of composers comprising Emerge and Ascend past participants and established composers, curated along with sections of standard repertoire

- After meeting with Lucy Guerin, she suggested Stephanie Lake
- Meeting with Stephanie scheduled April 27
- Funding - Linda Herd, Phil Rounsevell and Nelson Estrella likely to be interested. Linda has said she really loves Stephanie's work
- A development late 2023/early 2024 would be ideal dependent on schedules and funding
- Presentation in 2025

New commissioning project

- Julian has very generously offered to commission a work from Melody Eötvös who you will see is at the top of our wishlist.
- As a spin off from the international composer idea (which we will continue to explore) we had the idea of creating "musical penpals" between two Australian composers, one living in Australia and the other overseas. They won't communicate in any other way except through writing music. Zoe will act as the go-between. Melody is very excited by the project and we are currently approaching Rishin Singh to be her comrade. We will now put our thinking caps on for a suitable patron for Rishin's commission.

COMPOSERS

Current commissions:

- Brenda Gifford - creative development completed and premiere in 2023 regional touring program (August)
- Julian Yu - creative development completed and premiere in 2023 regional touring program (August)
- Maria Grenfell - creative development to take place second half 2023 and premiere in 2023 subscription series concerts (October)
- Clare Strong - creative development scheduled for second half 2023 and premiere in 2023 Itet concert (December)

This is a new work suitable for high level amateur musicians to be workshopped throughout the year and premiered in December as part of John Noble Itet program. It will then be used in mentoring activity and promoted through Strike a Chord to enable student groups to have something satisfying by a female Australian composer to play (commissioned supported by Julian)

- Natalie Nicolas - creative development scheduled second half 2023 and premiere in 2023 private concert for commissioner (November)
A new work commissioned by Andrew Domasevicius to commemorate his wife, Aida's 55th birthday, dependent on the work's suitability, it may be included in future concert seasons
- Gordon Kerry - creative development scheduled early 2024 and premiere currently scheduled for 2024

Commission wishlist:

- Melody Eötvös
- Caroline Shaw
- Carl Vine
- Nigel Westlake
- Ollie Mustonen

Ascend and Emerge composer programs:

- Emerge has begun with 3 score study sessions so far. The composers are already a tight knit bunch and the sessions have been extremely well received.
- Zoe and the composers have tweaked the focus of the score study sessions as the composers were more interested in performer perspective.
- In-person Emerge workshops with FQ will commence in the second half of 2023
- Premiere Emerge performances in early 2024
- Ascend call for submissions will open in May 2023 for the 2024 program
- We have decided to commit to the \$6,000 Ascend commission fee as it is an important distinction between Ascend and Emerge and should serve to attract higher skilled composers. If budget constraints arise, we will limit the number of participants.

EXTRA PROJECT ACTIVITY

- Musica Viva Tour very successful
 - Media and reviews have been collated here: <https://www.flindersquartet.com/s/MVA-tour-media.pdf>
 - Feedback form workshops very positive

- We found Brisbane to be a thriving and vibrant student community and we will reach out to Bernard Lansky and Michelle Walsh to secure more activity there in the future. (Connecting a concert and masterclass through the Qld Conservatorium.)
- Margaret Sutherland recording project finished with David Griffiths as guest artist for the quartet for string trio and clarinet.
- Bryony Marks recording project completed; film composer Bryony Marks engaged the quartet to record the music she composed for films found in the National Film and Sound Archive. An extraordinary piece which we will look to perform in the future and a potential candidate for the dance collaboration in 2025.
- Monash residency - FQ will be mentoring the string sections of the Monash orchestra in August 2023. Wilma and Helen will be away, Jenny Khafagi and Brigid Colledge have been approached to take part. Monash is comfortable with three replacement musicians as FQ is not featured in this instance.

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

- Zoe and Helen are working with Fiona to consolidate and evaluate education activity with an assessment of time spent and impact - meeting postponed and to be rescheduled.
- Strike a Chord (SAC) ensemble mentoring
 - 2022 winners of the FQ prize Piccolo Quartet from Sydney will join FQ for a side by side concert of Mendelssohn Octet in July (Montsalvat subs concert)
 - Jamie Miles from Eureka Quartet (2020 FQ prizewinners) to replace Piccolo violist who is unable to attend
 - No SAC competition in 2023, possibility of doing a side by side program with Eureka Quartet in 2024 (2020 FQ SAC prize winners)
- John Noble's Itet program
 - Ensembles continuing in Bendigo, Shepparton, Mildura, Warragul/Traralgon, Bairnsdale, Western Suburbs
 - Mallee Quartet (Mildura) has had to withdraw from being ensemble in residence, FQ looking to offer the position to the Castlemaine Chamber Players made up of tutors from Resonance string orchestra (see below)
 - Side by side concerts in May, July and November
 - Final concert December
 - Mentoring by Helen and Zoe as part of their Education Coordinator and Artistic Director roles
- Secondary school residency program
 - City of Melbourne funding allows for the funding of secondary students and their family members to attend FQ concerts (30 tickets for each MRC concert)
 - Successful Betty Amsden Funding (application due April 24) would fund 2023 and 2024 development and public outcome activity.
- Resonance String Orchestra - 2 string quartets
 - Castlemaine and Woodend
 - Regular coaching from Zoe
 - Testing of the sequential string quartet repertoire
- Ensemble Dutala mentoring
 - Ensemble Dutala activity moved to Sydney in 2023 further mentoring unlikely
 - In discussion with Fiona about the possibility of developing relationships with First Nations musicians in the Geelong area through Mark Rose (Deakin University)

- Zoe has been in touch with outstanding Indigenous singer, Ngulmiya Gurrumburra about the possibility of a future collaboration. (He's phenomenal: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2GiN_VM-rc)

FQ DIGITAL

- FQ Digital subscriptions continue in 2023, with a new single-concert purchase option to be made available. Customers can access digital versions of the MRC performances. After 12 months, these videos will be made available on FQ Digital Free.
- FQ Digital Free will continue with the relevant updates and development of the curated FQ experience.
- Evaluation of FQ Digital will occur in September 2023 to make decisions on 2024 activity. Organisations are moving away from digital concerts, but regardless of the means of distribution, properly videoing the programs is proving to have real value for us in accumulating quality online content.
- Will consider the possibility of winding back FQ Digital and continuing with FQ Digital Free as part of the evaluation.