

High Notes

SUMMER NEWSLETTER — 11/2016

IT'S LIVE!
in Queensland

A message from Piers...

Greetings from a somewhat chilly autumnal London, though by the time you read this...

I shall be in dependably warmer climes somewhere not far from you! I'll be playing several recitals in Australia during November, and returning to the Huntington Festival where I suspect I'll see some familiar faces, including Carl Vine, the Goldners and Tamara-Anna Cislowska.

Since the heartwarming success of the 2016 AFCM, I've been trotting around the world. First off was Christchurch to play Rachmaninoff's second piano concerto. It's the fourth time I've been there since I experienced the first earthquake and still the city is a shadow of its former self. It was thrilling to play in the surprising acoustic of the aircraft museum – six planes having been removed to make way for 800 seats and a temporary stage!

I had a fab time in Alaska for the Anchorage Autumn Classics, along with AFCM artists Zuill Bailey and Gil Morgenstern. We gave the US premiere of AFCM's most recently co-commissioned work, Elena Kats Chernin's *The Three Dancers*. People loved it!

Then I joined Finhin Collins for his delightful New Ross Festival. The audience seems to love good music, late night parties and lots of laughs! I flew directly from Dublin to Seoul, where I had the joy of playing an outdoor concert that really worked, thanks to a huge audience and great sound engineering.

The chamber works included Brahms's first Piano Quartet that received such a stonking performance with Sa Chen in Townsville this year. I was thrilled to see a couple of AFCM audience members at the Wigmore Hall just now for the Australian Music Foundation Award finals, where my fellow judges included AFCM cellist Ben Hughes. I'm slowly sorting next year's Festival. It's going to be a big one!

Artists you already know will include Kathy Stott and Jiri Barta (Czech cellist from the mid-noughties) – but there will be many surprises to come: watch this space!

Piers Lane AO

Artistic Director



A message from Justin...

It seems that 6 August, and the 2016 festival closing night, was such a long time ago now...

As the team and I turn our focus to 2017, but the memories live on. What a fabulous closing night it was. As always full of surprises. None more so than the world premiere performance by Australian composer Elena Kats-Chernin of her work *Tropical Nights*. A piece commissioned by the AFCM to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Artistic Director Piers Lane AO.

This was truly the cherry on top of another fantastic festival. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces as well as some new ones both amongst the audience and the artists. There were amazing feats both on and off stage.

I hesitate to single out any one performance, as there were so many memorable moments. However, I will never forget the Herculean effort of the winner of the Sydney International Piano Competition, Andrey Gugnin, leaving Australia on the eve of the start of the festival to perform in Verbier, Switzerland to return in time to play for the first of the Ray Golding Sunset Series on Monday evening.

A Festival, such as the AFCM is only possible through the support of government organisations and individuals. Ticket revenues cover approximately one-third of the costs. Government funding is becoming ever harder to secure. This year we have secured funding for the next several years both with the Townsville City Council as well as the State Government through Arts Queensland and Tourism and Events Queensland. Unfortunately however, our efforts to secure funding from the Commonwealth have been unsuccessful, but we will continue to try.

Along with our corporate partners, we value the support of our patrons who support the festival beyond their attendance. You will find many of their names in this newsletter. We say a heartfelt thank-you to each and every one.

However each year the festival requires renewed and additional support, to continue growing and developing. I thus encourage you to consider joining the supporters list for 2017.

If you would like to discuss a donation, please call me directly on (07) 4771 4144.

Justin Ankus

Executive Director



Festival feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed our 2016 Festival Survey.

Your feedback is extremely valuable, with the information used to identify areas for improvement and to measure the Festival's economic and cultural impact on the Townsville region, which is valuable for funding applications. Here's what we discovered from the 2016 Survey:

The quality and variety of the music, along with the musicians themselves are again the two best things about the Festival. Also the friendly atmosphere, Concert Conversations and the tropical location!

63% of you are visitors to Townsville, with 3% coming from overseas (mostly NZ); you prefer to stay in holiday apartments and hotels; and your average stay was 9 nights.

31% of you were first time Festival attendees, which is wonderful to see. Of repeat attendees, 14% of you have been to 10 or more Festivals!

66% of you are female and 64% are 65 years of age or over. You mostly attend with a partner or spouse (49%), with friends (34%) or on your own (21%).

49% of you purchased tickets to individual concerts, 24% of you purchased a Gold pass and 7% purchased a Festival Four package.

The 8pm Evening Concerts and the 5:30pm Sunset Concerts continue to be the most heavily attended events with 91% and 75% attending respectively. Concert Conversations (64%), the free concert (54%) and the church concerts (51%) were also popular. However, the comfort of seating in the churches was an issue for some of you, so we will consider that for next year.

Other popular suggestions for improvement focused on transportation to venues and the catering at the Civic Theatre, Concert Conversations and Concert Crawl. You suggested earlier start and finish times for the Evening concert, better and earlier circulation of information and larger print in the program.

Overall, 97% of you were satisfied with your experience (up from 95% last year), 98% would recommend it to others (please do!) and 94% plan to return in the future. Fabulous... we can't wait to have you back!

Congratulations to Janet and William Ewan from Buderim who were the lucky winners of our \$500 cash prize for completing the survey. The Ewans are long-time Festival Members and regular attendees so we hope the prize ensures they return again in 2017!



Explore the surrounds of Townsville

Plan an extra day on your stay and visit TYTO wetlands, Crystal Creek and The Frosty Mango!

There really is an array of sights and attractions to entice visitors to Townsville to stay an extra day... or more! Here is just one suggested day trip we believe is worth doing. Drive north along the Bruce Highway for an hour before turning left at the Paluma Rainforest and Crystal Creek turnoff.

About 20 minutes in will have you at Little Crystal Creek, a stunning natural waterhole offering clear ponds, waterfalls and lush rainforest surrounds. You can continue along the scenic but windy road up the mountain to the picturesque Paluma where you can enjoy beautiful rainforest walks.

Otherwise after a dip in Crystal Creek come back out to the highway and continue north to the cultural township of Ingham. Visit Joe's Deli in the main street for tasty Italian produce including paninis, salamis, tropical fruit and more. After lunch head 500m along to the TYTO Wetlands and experience a truly unique 90-hectare natural wetland, home to over 230 species of birds, wildlife and plants.

Explore the four kilometres of walkways, viewing platforms and bird hides on your own or take a tour with an expert guide. To cap off your day, on your drive back down to Townsville stop in at The Frosty Mango for a mouth watering mango gelato!

For more information on attractions in and around Townsville visit
townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au.

Diary dates 2017

**Saturday 17 December 2016 —
Monday 02 January 2017**

AFCM office closed

**Friday 28 July —
Saturday 05 August 2017**
2017 Festival

Please note the 2017 Program Launch and Ticket Sale dates are yet to be finalised. We will communicate this information via email once confirmed.

Best of AFCM 2016

Remembering the good times

If you have the post-festival blues then re-live your concert experiences by viewing some of our photos on Facebook at
[facebook.com/australianfestivalofchambermusic](https://www.facebook.com/australianfestivalofchambermusic)

Contact us

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AFCM and the Queensland Outback

Join this boutique luxury cultural tour from 02—10 August 2017

Enjoy the AFCM and explore the Queensland Outback on this unique small group tour. Join Michael Fellows for four exciting days in Townsville at the AFCM including premium seats to six world-class chamber music performances and exclusive private events. Then experience the excitement and colour of the legendary Queensland Outback with a visit to historic Charters Towers, a brush with prehistory on the dinosaur trail at Winton and Hughenden, and an encounter with the stories of Australia's outback heroes in Longreach.

A maximum of 20 people will be confirmed on this exclusive tour.

For more information contact
Hayllar Music Tours on phone 02 8091 2545,
email contact@hayllarmusicstours.com
or visit hayllarmusicstours.com.

Thank You!

*We wish to extend a sincere thank
you to those who have donated to
the AFCM this year. We acknowledge
the following people who have
donated \$200 or more:*

Mr Andrew & Mrs Fiona Johnston
Ms Anne Matthews
Ms Anne Tanner
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Mr Warwick McEwan
Mr Willy Rombout
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Explore the critical issues

Hear from JCU experts and high-profile speakers as they tackle a range of thought provoking topics.

Visit alumni.jcu.edu.au/lecturelist to register to receive monthly information about upcoming lectures and events, or visit the JCU website.

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