A Musical Walk Down Memory Lane – Celebrating 20 Years With WASO

Over its 83 year history, WASO has celebrated various milestones. On Sunday 27 March, the time had finally come to pay a special tribute to our legion of long-standing subscribers and acknowledge their loyalty over the last 20 years and more.

Winthrop Hall at the University of Western Australia was the appropriate choice as the location because of its key place in the history of WASO. After the Perth Symphony Orchestra became the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in 1950, some early concerts were held at Winthrop Hall and the Somerville auditorium, as well as at the Capitol Theatre. From 1967 onwards, Winthrop Hall became the home for WASO concerts until the opening of the Perth Concert Hall on Australia Day 1973. Many subscribers can well recall having attended those earlier WASO concerts at Winthrop Hall and some attendees even recalled the earlier concerts at the Capitol Theatre, which sadly no longer exists.

The 27 March celebration was opened with a warm welcome from WASO Chairman Janet Holmes à Court AC who announced surveys had shown WASO had nearly 1,000 20+ year subscribers. Over 600 were there on the day along with many of WASO’s emeritus players. A special mention was made of Merle Bardwell, one of the longest standing subscribers, who started in 1947 and now attends almost every concert with her friend and WASO patron Judy Sienkiewicz. Many also remembered former Principal Clarinet Jack Harrison who had been the longest-standing WASO musician for 42 years. Guests were then invited to enjoy the musical program with Principal Conductor Paul Daniel at the helm, followed by afternoon tea with the musicians.

The Orchestra played four works interspersed with videos of early memories by WASO subscribers and patrons, followed by an entertaining perspective from Principal Percussion Tim White, who has been with the orchestra for 25 years. One of his earliest “gigs” was the Proms Concert in 1985 under David Measham at the old Entertainment Centre. Tim also mentioned the rail trips to regional towns for school concerts and the orchestra’s first overseas trip – to Rottnest Island! In thanking subscribers for their long-standing support, Tim reinforced the fact that while orchestras can be technically perfect in an empty rehearsal room, they are performers and it is when playing to an enthusiastic audience that the passion really comes through and the orchestra is at its best.

Continued on page 5.
Message from Paul Daniel

We had such a terrific start to the WASO season back in March! The combination of great music and wonderful playing, with the fantastic response from you, our audience, made for a pretty heady cocktail. It was very hard to leave Perth and fly back to the cold north.

Originally I was looking forward to a week off but my old mates at the BBC Philharmonic spotted the gap and invited me to come to record with them. We were due to perform a Haydn symphony, and a wonderful rare cycle of songs for tenor and orchestra by Benjamin Britten called Our Hunting Fathers. It’s a fascinating and brilliant work, which I’d never had a chance to conduct before. Sadly, the talented young tenor Ben Johnson had to withdraw at eight hours’ notice – and no-one else had it in their repertoire. And so we found ourselves playing Beethoven’s Symphony No.7 instead, hot on the heels of the terrific performances that WASO had given for the opening of our Masters season.

I often think about the way we get to choose our repertoire. A colleague of mine described his career as a careful and determined course along which he only accepted engagements in which he could conduct the works he’d already chosen for the rest of his career. I’m either not that determined, or lucky, or canny, but I have to say that some of the best and most inspiring moments come from those requests to conduct music I’d never imagined doing. That ranges, for me, all the way from Purcell (The Fairy Queen, a wonderful eccentric 17th century jam session of music, from which we’ll play you some of the very best excerpts in August), through to Mendelssohn’s Elijah (which to my shame I always thought of like a dull Victorian china cabinet until the orchestra of the Age of the Enlightenment and Bryn Terfel and Renee Fleming gave me the chance to discover how wrong I could be!), on to pieces like the Britten I nearly got to discover in Manchester.

In May, I will be back with the great Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, playing Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert, before a week in France with Prokofiev’s 5th symphony. Then I start work on a world première opera production (by Judith Weir) with the Vienna Symphony at the Bregenz Festival, which will have me doing daily swims in the Bodensee! I should be nearly fit enough after that to take on all the energetic work and music we’ll be performing in Perth in August. See you then!

Paul Daniel
Principal Conductor & Artistic Adviser

Paul Daniel appears courtesy of Wesfarmers Arts.

WASO Emeritus Players

These former members were part of WASO for more than 20 years, and are honoured for this service.

**Principal Emeritus**

40+ Years
- Jack Harrison, clarinet (42)

30+ Years
- John Dean, viola (33)
- Jay Harrison, cor anglais (31)
- Anne Henderson, bassoon (31)
- Kevin Johnston, trumpet (32)
- Jim Mann, trombone (35)
- Joel Marangella, oboe (30)

20+ Years
- Ashley Arbuckle, Concertmaster (21)
- Neil Fisenden, flute (29)
- Brian Pope, bassoon (20)
- Boguslav Szczepaniak, double bass (25)
- Graham Wood, Associate Concertmaster (24)

**Members Emeritus**

30+ Years
- Geoff Black, violin (38)
- Lochmond Haynes, horn (35)
- Aino Neumann, double bass (36)
- David Phillips, violin (32)

20+ Years
- Neil Barclay, violin (28)
- Jill Cole, cello (23)
- Jill Haynes, flute (25) (Principal, 2)
- Ed Martin, trumpet (22)
- Neil Pierson, horn (21)
- Shirley Sonik, violin (22)
- William Stewart, horn (23)
- Lewis Tomlin, cello (20) (Principal, 2)

After almost 30 years with the Orchestra, WASO’s Principal Oboe, Joel Marangella decided to retire. Over the past three decades, Joel has made an outstanding contribution to the Orchestra and has touched the lives of many people with his exceptional music making. The board, musicians and staff at WASO would like to thank Joel for his significant contribution to the Orchestra and wish him all the very best for the future.

Joel Marangella
We’re excited to announce that two works commissioned by WASO over the past two years have been nominated for Work of the Year in the Art Music Awards. Both Andrew Ford’s *A Dream of Drowning* and James Ledger’s *Chronicles* are among the four works to receive a nomination in this category.


The train journey toward Kwinana – the starting point for the 60km division of the ride – seemed to go on and on and the long distance cyclists realised exactly what they were in for on their ride to Joondalup. The sun was just beginning to rise as the train pulled into the station and the anticipation and excitement of what lay ahead was building. In no time, we were rallied into our starting groups to begin.

The starting groups were based on speed, with the fastest riders leaving first. Shaun Lee-Chen (violin), Keith McGowan (Executive Manager, Orchestra Management) and Evan Kennea (Board member) lead team WASO, finishing the 60km distance in an incredible 1 hour and 23 minutes. Other team members included Principal Conductor Paul Daniel and Chief Executive Craig Whitehead. Along the journey, fellow cyclists had fun, asking questions of team WASO: “what do you play?” and “when are you playing next?” were popular remarks.

Where is your Principal Conductor?” someone asked Craig Whitehead. “Back there somewhere” was his response as he pointed toward the slower riders.

As the ride continued the team found their pace and split up into groups. Within no time the city was in sight. A punctured tire on the Narrows Bridge left Hilary McKenna (Marketing Coordinator) and Callum Moncrieff (former Artistic Program Coordinator) fighting to change tubes and get back up to speed.

The last 30km of the ride were the most challenging. The temperature was heating up, the surface getting rougher and the inclines increasing. At this point competitors from the 30km or 10km family ride had intersected and momentum was building toward Joondalup. It wasn’t long before the finish line came into sight and the celebrations began!

We all rode for different reasons. Some rode for charity, with the team raising over $700. Some rode for fitness and some just wanted to have fun and take the chance to ride on the freeway. Team WASO is looking forward to donning the lycra again for the 2012 ride!

Team WASO hits the freeway!

**Award nominations for WASO**

We’re excited to announce that two works commissioned by WASO over the past two years have been nominated for Work of the Year in the Art Music Awards. Both Andrew Ford’s *A Dream of Drowning* and James Ledger’s *Chronicles* are among the four works to receive a nomination in this category.


The awards are run by the Australasian Performing Right Association and Australian Music Centre and winners will be announced in Sydney in May – stay tuned!

**ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards**

WASO will again be hosting the Keyboard Final of the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards. Be sure to join us on Thursday 9 June as we bring some of Australia’s finest young pianists to the stage of the Perth Concert Hall, performing their chosen repertoire, under the baton of conductor Vladimir Verbitsky. The winners from this semi final will go on to compete for the title of Young Performer of the Year at the Grand Final which will be held on Saturday September 3 at the Queensland Performing Arts Center. All tickets $25. Bookings 9326 0000 or waso.com.au For more information visit symphony.net.au

**WASO heads to the Southwest!**

In late August WASO is hitting the road and heading to Mandurah and Bunbury for two very special concerts. Principal Conductor Paul Daniel will lead the Orchestra through a program of masterpieces including Haydn’s joyful *Clock* symphony and the evocative Romance, *The Lark Ascending*. The concert will feature a solo by our Associate Concertmaster, Margaret Blades.

**Mandurah Performing Arts Centre**
8pm Friday 19 August
manpac.com.au or 9550 3900

**Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre**
2pm Sunday 21 August
bunburyentertainment.com or 1300 661 272
We are excited to be continuing our popular webcast program with iNet in 2011, with five webcasts planned this year.

Our first for the year was our gala season opening, *Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto* on Saturday 12 March, with clarinettist Paul Dean. The webcast featured some wonderful interviews with Principal Conductor Paul Daniel, Orchestra Manager Alex Morris and Paul Dean. As well as the many people who watched the webcast live on the night, it has been viewed over 2,000 times on demand on the iNet Freezone. We have since webcast the Saturday night performance of Carmina Burana.

This year we will again webcast a selection of concerts live to the Northbridge Piazza screen so you can enjoy a WASO concert under the stars. Check our website for more details of these concerts throughout the year.

A reminder that you can watch all of our webcasts on demand on iNet’s Freezone website at http://freezone.iinet.net.au/channels/freezone/music/waso and also on your iPad or iPhone using iNet’s new mobile application which is free to download from iTunes.

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### 2011 Webcasts

**A Tribute to Louis Armstrong with James Morrison**  
Saturday 30 July

**Cello Fantasy**  
Saturday 3 September

**Symphony in the City**  
Saturday 10 December

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### Subscriber Benefits 2011

Use your West Australian Symphony Orchestra 2011 Subscriber Card to take advantage of these great discounts and special privileges.

**Emirates**
Access amazing online fare offers exclusive to WASO Subscribers at waso.com.au. Enter your password ENCORE and experience exceptional service, comfort, superior technology and an unsurpassed fare courtesy of WASO’s Principal Partner.

**ABC Shops**
Receive 10% off any full price purchases in ABC Shops in WA. This discount only applies to in-store purchases.

**Adelaide Symphony Orchestra**

**AEG Ogden**
Receive 5% discount on food and coffee for pre-show dining at the Perth Concert Hall and His Majesty's Theatre. Phone 9231 9946.

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**
Receive 10% off full price adult tickets for the ACO's 2011 Season at Perth Concert Hall. Enter the promotion code WASO when you book online at www.aco.com.au or phone 1800 444 444. Cannot be used in conjunction with other offers, subject to availability.

**Black Swan State Theatre Company**
Receive concession price tickets to all main house Black Swan State Theatre Company 2011 productions. Bookings via BOCs 9484 1133.

**Ellington Jazz Club**
Receive ‘Jazz Standard’ member’s price to all performances at The Ellington Jazz Club at 191 Beaufort St Perth. Book at www.ellingtonjazz.com.au or 9228 1088.

**Elmstock Tea Company**
Receive a 10% discount on Elmstock Tea purchased at the Balcatta outlet, or online www.elmstocktea.com.au. Quote coupon code WASO104 in the shopping cart.

**Hyatt Regency Perth**
Receive a 25% discount off the total bill in Café. Up to a maximum of $45.00. Valid any time.

**Limelight Magazine**
Receive over 40% discount on a 12 month Limelight subscription: Retail $102, WASO Subscribers $59.95. Phone 1300 610 765 and quote 6229 or go to www.subscribenow.com.au/s6229

**Luna Palace Cinemas**
Purchase movie tickets at the discounted price of $13.00 at www.lunapalace.com.au

**Melbourne Symphony Orchestra**
Receive 10% off single ticket prices to subscription series concerts. Book at the MSO Box Office, 3 Driver Lane, Melbourne, phone (03) 9929 9600 or at any Ticketmaster outlet. Subject to availability.

**Musica Viva**
Receive a 10% discount off all full price adult single tickets to Musica Viva performances. Bookings via BOCs on 9484 1133.

**Opera Australia**
Receive 10% discount on tickets for 2011 Opera Australia performances at the Sydney Opera House and the Arts Centre Melbourne. Phone (02) 9318 8200 (Syd) or (03) 9685 3700 (Mel) and quote WASO. Limit 4 per customer. Not valid with any other offer.

**Perth Theatre Company**
Receive concession price tickets to all Perth Theatre Company 2011 productions. Bookings via BOCs on 9484 1133.

**Plan B Wealth Management**
WASO subscribers enjoy exclusive rates for Plan B’s comprehensive range of wealth management services. For more information about Plan B, please visit www.planbonline.com or call 1300 362 082.

**Queensland Symphony Orchestra**
Receive the concession price for single tickets at 2011 concerts, subject to availability and excluding Gala concerts. To book, call Qtix on 136 246 and quote QUEENSLAND ARTS SUBSCRIBER.

**Sydney Symphony Orchestra**
10% discount on single tickets for the Sydney Symphony’s 2011 subscription concerts. Quote promotion code 2569 when you book at www.sydneyphony.com or call (02) 8215 4600. Terms and conditions apply.

**The Perth Mint**
One ‘2 for 1’ admission offer to The Perth Mint’s Gold Exhibition as well as a 10% discount on jewellery and souvenirs at The Perth Mint Shop.

**West Australian Ballet**
Receive a 10% discount off full price tickets for West Australian Ballet performances. Bookings via BOCs 9484 1133.

**West Australian Opera**
Receive concession price adult tickets to West Australian Opera’s 3 main house productions. Applicable to A, B and C Reserve seating and not valid on opening or Saturday nights. Bookings via BOCs 9484 1133.

**West Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra**
Receive a 10% discount off full price tickets to WAYJO performances. Bookings 9471 1950.

**West Australian Youth Music Association**
Receive a 25% discount off full price and concession tickets to WAYMA performances, excluding children’s concerts. Bookings 9328 9859.
The music performed included Verdi’s *Force of Destiny* Overture, Dvořák’s *Largo* from *The New World Symphony*, and Grainger’s *Molly on the Shore*. Paul Daniel told the audience how grateful he was for the support from the subscribers and let them in on the fact that it had initially been intended to have a smaller group of players for the event, but that all orchestra members had insisted on being part of the celebration – pro bono – to give thanks to their audience.

Guests received gift bags that included a commemorative gold coin specially commissioned by the Perth Mint and a bottle of quality Western Australian wine from WASO’s Margaret River wine partners.

Over afternoon tea in the university grounds, everyone got a chance to mingle with both musicians and fellow long-term subscribers and many a funny anecdote was exchanged over laughter and a warm buzz of “I remember, I remember”...

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who attended the event and got in touch with us to let us know how long you have been subscribing to the Orchestra. We have been amazed at how many of you are out there!

WASO wishes to thank Plan B Wealth Management, the Perth Mint, Clairault, Cape Mentelle, Vasse Felix, Wise, Howard Park, Hamelin Bay, Happs, Voyager, Leeuwin Estate, Lenton Brae, UMAMU, Pierro and Woodside for their support of this important event.

Katherine Drake (Viola), Giovanni Pasini (Principal Violist) & WASO Chairman Janet Holmes a Court with subscribers.

Joan Kennedy, Eve Clarke, Jill & Eric Lawson and Beverley Ludlow.

Paul Daniel and the Orchestra during the performance.

Paul Daniel & Joy Fitzhardinge, subscriber for 60 years.

Tim White (Principal Percussion) sharing memories with the audience.
The Friends of WASO hold functions throughout the year that combine opportunities to get up close with the Orchestra with the aim of making a modest financial surplus to help support the players. In 2010, the new Friends of WASO Scholarships were created with the aim of providing career and skills development opportunities for full-time Orchestra members in order to encourage high achievement and retain quality musicians in Western Australia. The scholarship fund provides up to $10,000 per year to assist players in taking up professional development opportunities in Australia and overseas.

In its first year, the 2010 Friends of WASO Scholarship saw three scholarships awarded to members of the Orchestra: Principal Percussionist Tim White, Principal Oboe Joel Marangella and Violist Kierstan Arkleysmith. All three scholars used their funding to further their skills. Tim was able to mix with leading percussionists from around the world at percussion conferences in Queensland and the United States and he learned about many new ideas that he plans to use in the future. Joel Marangella attended a ProGouge Seminar at the Michigan State University in the United States, where he undertook studies in reed making skills that were not available in Australia. Kierstan Arkleysmith used her funds to attend the Utrecht Conservatory in the Netherlands for fitting and trial of a chin and shoulder rest setup. She also took lessons in the Alexander Technique which addresses bad habits of posture and movement and helps to develop even distribution of muscle tone for musicians.

Applications for the 2011 Scholarships are now open and the Friends of the WASO look forward to providing more WASO musicians with the opportunity to strengthen their skills and contribute their knowledge and expertise to this wonderful Orchestra.
Leaving a Legacy – WASO’s Endowment Fund

WASO’s Private Giving team is excited to have launched the Orchestra’s new Bequest Brochure, which outlines ways to support the Orchestra and the next generation of Western Australians by leaving a legacy through your will.

A bequest is a special gift that we preserve as your legacy. Monies received from bequests and major gifts are separate to Annual Giving donations and are invested in the WASO Endowment Fund for the Orchestra. This means that rather than going into the day to day expenses of running an Orchestra, bequests will support the Orchestra’s financial viability into the future to ensure that it still plays for your children’s children.

We have been able to launch our Endowment Fund for the Orchestra thanks to a generous gift of $100,000 received late last year from WASO Patrons Tom and Jean Arkley. On November 16, WASO’s Private Giving team launched the Endowment Fund for the Orchestra at the home of Board Director Barrie Lepley. Attended by the WASO Board, musicians and Patrons, the night was an extremely enjoyable occasion that included a fantastic performance of Haydn’s Divertimento by Giovanni Pasini, Andrew Rootes and Andrew Nicholson.

Tom and Jean explained on the night that WASO had been a major part of their lives for a very long time and that they had wanted to do something to “make a difference” and encourage others to do the same. It was agreed that a leadership gift enabling the launch of an Endowment Fund would be a wonderful way to achieve this aim.

To our great sorrow, Tom Arkley passed away on 17 February 2011 and our thoughts are with Jean. Tom, a soil scientist who graduated from the University of Berkeley in California, came to Western Australia in 1969 to tackle the salinity crisis. He leaves behind his wife Jean, his stepsons James and Ted (Eddie) and two step-grandchildren. Everyone at WASO will remember him fondly and we remain deeply grateful to Tom and Jean for the important contribution they have made to the future of the Orchestra.

If you are interested in learning more about leaving a bequest to WASO, please contact Alecia Benzie, Executive Manager, Private Giving on 9326 0020 or benziea@waso.com.au; or Sarah Gallinagh, Donations & Bequests Coordinator on 9326 0075 or gallinaghs@waso.com.au

All enquiries will be treated in confidence.

Events

Meet The Percussion & Timpani

We are pleased to invite you to a double take of instrumental excitement, combining the next instalment of our popular Meet the Sections event, the Percussion, with a showcase of our brand new Timpani. On Wednesday 1 June join us on stage at the Perth Concert Hall and see Principal Percussion, Tim White and Principal Timpani, Alex Timcke explain the intricacies of their many instruments and of being a percussionist. You will then be treated to a showcase of WASO’s brand new Timpani, whose purchase was enabled through the kind donations of WASO Patrons.

As many of you will know, Tim is not only a gifted percussionist but also a talented speaker and his enthusiasm for his instruments is infectious, so it promises to be a fun and entertaining event. The Percussion section build the rhythmical backbone of the Orchestra’s playing while getting to watch performances from the back of the stage so we are sure there are many intriguing stories to tell!

Tickets are $40 for Patrons and Friends* and $45 for Guests and include delicious catering and Margaret River wines. Please arrive at 5.00pm for a 5.15pm start.

*Donors who have contributed to the Timpani Appeal are invited as guests (free of charge), and will receive a separate invitation by mail.
### Events

**Tea & Symphony with Slava Grigoryan on Friday 3 June**

The next of our popular Tea & Symphony open rehearsals will take place during the final rehearsal for *Slava Grigoryan Plays Rodrigo* on Friday 3 June at the Perth Concert Hall. This rehearsal will feature Joaquin Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* for Guitar and orchestra with Slava Grigoryan on guitar, as well as Manuel De Falla's Suite from the ballet *El Amor Brujo* and Béla Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*.

During the interval of this final rehearsal, you will have the chance to mingle with players and guest artists over morning tea in the Green Room.

Rodrigo's glorious Guitar concerto, which the composer described as capturing the “fragrance of magnolias, the singing of birds and the gushing of fountains” is a popular classic and regularly voted into the ABC Classic FM's top 100 concertos. Slava Grigoryan was born in 1976 in Kazakhstan before growing up in Australia. He toured extensively in Europe, North America and Asia before making his celebrated debut in New York in 1997. He has won a number of awards including Young Australian of the Year for the Arts in 1998, the Mo Award for Instrumentalist of the Year in 2001, and the ARIA for Best Classical Album in 2002 and 2003.

To attend this Tea & Symphony event, please arrive at the Concert Hall at 9.30am for a 10.00am start and have your name checked off on the list at the desk (we do not issue tickets). Morning tea with the Orchestra will be served at interval.

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### EVENT BOOKING FORM

If you would like to attend upcoming events please complete this form and mail or fax to:

**PATRONS AND FRIENDS OF WASO.** PO Box 3041, Perth Adelaide Terrace, WA 6832. Fax 9326 0099 or telephone our Box Office on 9326 0000.

| Name(s): | ......................................................................................................................................................................................... |
| Address: | ......................................................................................................................................................................................... |
| Phone: | .................................................................................... | Email | ................................................................................... |

Please indicate how many tickets you would like to purchase for the following event.

**Meet the Percussion/Timpani Showcase – Wednesday 1 June, Perth Concert Hall**

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**Tea & Symphony – Friday 3 June, Perth Concert Hall**

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I enclose a cheque for: $ ............................................  I wish to pay by:  [ ] Mastercard  [ ] Visa

(please make cheques payable to West Australian Symphony Orchestra)

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Cardholder's name: ......................................................................... | Signature: .....................................................................

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE DO NOT ISSUE TICKETS. YOUR NAME(S) WILL BE CHECKED AGAINST A LIST ON ARRIVAL.
In the Baroque period of music, during the 17th and 18th Centuries, chamber music was designed to be played in a small home, or chamber. Today, we are fortunate to hear chamber music in an array of venues. One such venue that lends itself perfectly to chamber music is the exquisite and recently refurbished St Mary’s Cathedral in Perth.

The afternoon of 15 April 2011 was a milestone for WASO with the first of our new Chamber Music Series performed at St Mary’s Cathedral, under the direction of Paul Dyer, director of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra.

WASO Principal Clarinet Allan Meyer will be performing in our third Chamber Series concert, Mozart & Mozart, and he spoke to Illuminating Notes about his love of chamber music.

What experience have you had as a chamber musician?

I’ve had a lot of experience and it’s been varied, but most recently a real highlight was performing a world premiere of Blackwood at the Perth International Arts Festival. Composed by Iain Grandage and based on poetry by Kevin Gillam, it was commissioned by my wife, Jody Harrison to be performed by Sara MacIver (soprano), Graeme Giling (piano) and myself. We performed against a backdrop of paintings by Brendon Darby, and it really was a celebration of WA, with all artists, composer, poet and painter from this State.

I’ve also been fortunate to perform a premiere of a clarinet quintet by James Ledger in the Utzon Room (Sydney Opera House), and have performed Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto several times previously.

Is it difficult to adapt to the different styles of chamber music: new music as opposed to historic works?

It can be difficult in a brand new piece, with difficult techniques and tricky ensemble playing. But the great thing is you can work with the composer throughout the rehearsal process, whereas with an existing work, you tend to have set ideas on how it will be performed. That said, it’s always good to work with a different quartet who have different ideas, and so every performance of the work is unique.

How does chamber music differ to symphonic music?

The chamber genre is much more intimate. It’s more focused on working with individual players. However, there are instances in movements of big symphonic works where you need to be able to work as a chamber player; for example the music is intimate and you need to listen closely to each other.

Traditionally, during the time of Mozart, performers would have used gut strings on their violins, the clarinet would have had five keys not 17, the horn would have had no valves, and the tuning would have been lower than concert pitch today.

The Mozart Horn and Mozart Clarinet Quintets differ to works such as the Mozart Clarinet Concerto in that there’s no soloist: the horn and clarinet blend beautifully with the other instruments of the quartet, and that’s part of the brilliance of Mozart’s writing.

WASO musicians and choristers spread Christmas cheer at PMH.

Musicians love performing to appreciative audiences. And the patients at Princess Margaret Hospital are among the most attentive and gracious audiences WASO performs to.

In 2009 WASO commenced a program with the Hospital School Services team at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) thanks to the generous support of corporate partner John Holland. The program gives students at PMH the opportunity to meet WASO musicians and hear live classical music. Now in its third year, the Hospital Orchestra Project (HOP), as it is now known, is a highlight in WASO’s calendar, with musicians keen to be involved in performances.

In 2011, WASO will visit PMH on six occasions, offering a variety of ensembles, as well as a workshop with teenage patients. The workshop will be the first time WASO musicians have visited “Club Ado” which includes a specially designed recording studio for teens at PMH.

Prior to each performance at PMH, musicians undertake ward visits, ensuring that patients who are unable to leave their beds and wards can meet WASO players and hear them play.

Performances are held in the Starlight Theatre and are broadcast live throughout the hospital using the hospital’s in-house television station, ‘Starlight TV’.

As part of the final concert of 2010, WASO musicians celebrated Christmas at PMH with a special concert featuring members of the WASO Chorus, and a surprise visit from our Principal Conductor Paul Daniel.

HOP to it!
According to WASO fan Jason Chong, an International Artist Masterclass “definitely is a win-win – raising the profile of WASO’s soloists as we get to see them work behind the scenes – but also improving and inspiring the music community in WA.”

In 2010 WASO began an International Artist Masterclass series as part of the Discover! Education and Outreach program. Now in its second year, it has proven to be a fantastic initiative for students of all ages, teachers, musicians and regular WASO concert-goers. In 2010 WASO hosted three classes with Jian Wang, Renaud Capuçon and Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and already in 2011 we have seen classes with Paul Dean and Henning Kraggerud.

Masterclasses are public lessons taught by expert musicians. Each WASO masterclass has three or four participants who are given the opportunity to perform a short work and then receive invaluable advice from the artist about performing, practice techniques, instrument-specific issues and the music itself. But you don’t have to be a musician to enjoy a masterclass and many WASO subscribers, patrons and staff as well as friends and family of the students have taken the opportunity to experience a masterclass. Not only can you see young and emerging musicians show off their talents on stage, but listening to the advice given to them can help develop a new level of understanding about the instruments and music.

WASO Patron, Barry Neubecker who attended Paul Dean’s clarinet masterclasses, enjoyed watching the students learn. “In all cases, the talented young artists displayed immediate improvement after following Paul’s advice regarding posture and breathing,” he said. Paul also got the audience involved in the breathing exercises, ensuring everyone walked away having learnt something new!

Masterclasses are invaluable and an incredible gift for music students as they develop their skills. Each performer leaves the stage with a smile and a newfound inspiration and motivation to continue their path to becoming a better musician.

For UWA student Jasmin Parkinson-Stewart, “the masterclass was really, such a great experience – a performance opportunity and the chance to meet and work with an international artist… I loved that [Henning] focused on the music and the performance, rather than just technique”.

There are plenty of good reasons why musicians such as Renaud Capuçon, Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Henning Kraggerud are such highly regarded soloists – their technique, understanding of music and performance, ability to tell a story through music and make their instruments resonate so beautifully. Having them share their wisdom with Perth’s emerging musicians has been incredible. WASO is grateful to Masterclass partner Apache Energy for supporting this program in 2011.

The next International Artist Masterclass will be on Thursday 1 September with cellist Alban Gerhardt. For more information please visit waso.com.au

Masterclasses inspire the music community

Chris Dragon and Paul Dean.

Jasmin Parkinson-Stewart and Henning Kraggerud.

Orchestra News

Eve Silver (Cello) tied the knot with Peter Miller (Trumpet) on 19 December at Melbourne Zoo. The couple honeymooned in Vanuatu.

Andrew (Principal Double Bass) & Fiona’s first child, Joshua Sinclair Rootes entered the world on January 23rd, weighing 3.685kgs and measuring 50.5 cm. He is partial to the music of Brahms and Lehar, though he recently enjoyed a rehearsal of the magnificent Sibelius Violin Concerto. His parents are still in discussion over whether double bass or oboe will be his preferred instrument.

Angus Murray Timcke was born at 3.44am on January 5, weighing in at 4.175kg and measuring 54cm. Much loved third child for Alex (Principal Timpani) and Cass, and little brother to Molly (7) and James (5). Angus has already enjoyed his first WASO concert – he relaxed under the stars at Justine Clarke with WASO at the Zoo.
In November last year, the horn players of Perth played host to the horn section of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in a workshop and masterclass held at the WA Academy of Performing Arts. The WASO horn section was honoured to have Stefan Dohr, Sarah Willis, Fergus McWilliam, Stefan De Laval Jezierski, Georg Schreckenburger and Johannes Dengler take part.

The afternoon started with an insightful and entertaining masterclass with university students, then the massed horn ensemble took over! There were at least 24 players on stage ranging from high school students to professionals. The group played horn ensemble standards such as the Titanic Fantasy, La Danza as well a wonderful arrangement of I’m so Ronery from the movie Team America with the solo part enthusiastically played by Stefan Dohr. Stefan had played this before but was unaware that it had been arranged by WASO’s Principal Trombone Joshua Davis. The Berlin horns then performed a number of works including an arrangement of I Still Call Australia Home arranged especially for them by Josh, which they now use in their program Around the World.

At the end of the workshop the Berlin horns were each presented with a bottle of Margaret River wine and some York Mill chocolate before heading off to dinner with the WAAPA and UWA horn students.

The workshop was made possible thanks to the hard work of WASO musicians Robert Gladstones and Rachel Silver, with the help of David Wickham who accompanied the masterclass and WAAPA. Special thanks must go to Sarah Willis who worked with Robert to set it all up from the Berlin end.

New cello for Eve Silver

Following a seminar trip to Perth in late 2009 the London based violin maker David Rattray received a commission from Janet Holmes à Court to make a cello for WASO cellist Eve Silver. Scottish born, Rattray has been a maker of stringed instruments for almost 30 years and since 1988 he has divided his time between making instruments and curating the Royal Academy of Music’s famous strings collection. His intimate knowledge of the great classical Italian masterworks is reflected into his own work.

For the commission he chose to copy a magnificent instrument dated 1692 from the Academy collection, by the great Cremonese maker Giuseppe Guarneri known as ‘filius Andrea’. A close contemporary of Stradivari, he was second generation in the illustrious family of violin makers active in Cremona between 1641–1744. A relatively prolific cello maker, Guarneri’s beautiful varnishes often compare with that of Stradivari but his workmanship was generally more robust contributing to a deep penetrating tone combined with a wide colour palette.

The copy is made with a one piece back of figured maple with ribs and head cut from the same log the table of alpine spruce marked with a light hazel figure. The varnish patinated to further give the feeling of the original work.

David Rattray has been involved in a broad range of violin-related endeavors, from lecturing, jury work and curating exhibitions, to the reconstruction of the Mary Rose fiddles and the copying Paganini’s ‘Cannon’. Several of his violas are played by WASO musicians.

In February Eve travelled to London to collect the cello and see the finishing touches made to her new instrument. When flying with a cello, the instrument requires its own ticket because it has to travel in the cabin and can’t be carried as checked baggage. Thanks to the generosity of WASO’s Principal Partner Emirates, Eve was able to fly her cello home at no cost.

Eve is thrilled with her new instrument. “Playing on this new cello is such a joy,” she said. “I have been playing on the same cello for 15 years so it is especially exciting for me to play on a different instrument. It is a beautiful cello and continues to develop in sound the more I play it.”
Spotlight on conductor
Warwick Potter

Warwick Potter, who has worked with WASO since 2007, conducting education, family and pops concerts believes “conducting should always be viewed as a privilege at any level and with any ensemble.”

Warwick’s mantra is humbling as his career sees him conducting more and more difficult repertoire and travelling across the country to work with the state orchestras, as well as adjudicating an international competition and undertaking his PhD.

At age seven, Warwick’s parents decided he should do something more with his life than dream of playing centre-forward for Leeds United, and piano lessons were their answer.

Warwick accepted that challenge, and later commenced bassoon lessons at age 13. Growing up in Hastings in the United Kingdom, Warwick played in a local youth wind orchestra. It was there, and purely by chance that Warwick had his first experience conducting.

“I went to rehearsal on this particular day and the conductor was running late,” Warwick recalls.

“The Secretary ran downstairs and asked if anyone might like to conduct until he arrived. I put my hand up, and the bug bit... conducting really is like being bitten by a bug.”

Warwick has conducted high profile WASO events including Pops in the Park with the Panics and Symphony in the City but from a personal point of view, conducting Matthew Hindson’s Dangerous Creatures with WASO (in 2009) was a career highlight.

Much of Warwick’s work with WASO in 2011 revolves around education concerts, and which he believes offer a greater challenge than some of the other concerts he has conducted to date.

“Education concerts require more artistic planning from a conductor; repertoire needs to be carefully considered, in order to keep the attention of the audience, and so not to exceed designated instrumentation. Many education shows are repeated, so if music can be found that keep the players happy, that’s a bonus. It’s a necessity to keep a performance as fresh in performance four as it is in performance one.”

Warwick often not only conducts a performance, but also presents the concert to the Orchestra. “It’s quite challenging, talking to the students one second, then turning around and conducting a professional orchestra the next!”

Warwick has an exciting year ahead in 2011. Already, he has conducted excerpts of Stravinsky’s 1919 Firebird Suite with WASO and will make his debut with the Canberra and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras later in the year.

Watch out for Warwick Potter conducting our Creepy Classics and Peter and the Wolf later this year with WASO.