

# the bridge



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t. 03 9650 3365 [www.mco.org.au](http://www.mco.org.au)

Message from

## STEPHEN



Looking back as I come to the end of my first six months at MCO, the musical highlights have come thick and fast.

Just one I will mention, however, is MCO's final concert for 2010, soloist Amir Farid's performance of Mozart's piano concerto no 14 with the orchestra was one of the most breathtakingly beautiful experiences one could ever hope to hear.

And I wasn't alone – here's what subscriber Brian Thewlis said in an email to William Hennessy:

"I am just writing this evening to let you know that I am surely one of many people who appreciate what you do, and have done today!!! Thinking about the concert I will go to bed tonight content and peaceful thinking what a happy day it has been.

So many thanks to you Mr Hennessy for your gifts of music to all of us, and may you continue for a long time more to share them with us. Bless you!!!"

I'm also delighted to have the pleasure of sharing with you my enthusiasm for next year's glorious program.

Mozart and Bach provide two of the cornerstones of the season, which is indeed understandable as many of the works stand near everyone's summit in the pantheon of great music.

The return of Australia's favourite concerto, the Mozart Clarinet Concerto – this time entrusted to one of our favourite clarinetists, Paul Dean – will please and delight. Paired with the Symphony no 40 – wow, what a stunning opening to the season!

And the pure pleasure just continues throughout the season – Ravel's Le tombeau de Couperin, the Brandenburg concerto no 5, Mozart's Turkish violin concerto – and so it goes on.

So, if you haven't already subscribed to this cornucopia of musical goodies, please, I urge you to get your skates on, as the season is selling very fast!

As well as supporting the MCO – and the wonderful younger generation of MCO musicians – by subscribing to the season, you can also show your appreciation by contributing to our fundraising appeal, the details of which are enclosed.



> Melbourne Chamber Orchestra

MCO receives only a very modest level of Government funding, and your support – through purchasing tickets plus any cash contributions you can make – help us to continue to bring the artistry of the MCO to you, and to the many other lovers of music in Victoria.

Finally, thank you again for your interest in MCO, and I look forward to welcoming you to an even more rewarding relationship with the orchestra and all those who work hard to bring you its unique brand of music-making.

Stephen Block  
Chief Executive Officer

# Melbourne Chamber Orchestra showers regional Victoria with GREAT MUSIC

Our Spring tour in late October to eight towns in regional Victoria was another great success for the orchestra, and once more demonstrated how eagerly regional audiences await our own MCO brand of moving musical experience.

On these occasions, we were able to treat our regional audiences to a full program, including the delight of having pianist Amir Farid perform the Mozart concerto no 14 with MCO.

The first week of the tour took in Wangaratta, Shepparton, Mildura and Horsham and was marked – apart from the rapturous receptions received – by some spectacularly heavy downpours. However, as violist Helen Ireland remarked as we were travelling through a particularly verdant landscape: “How wonderful to see country Victoria looking its best!”

The weather turned brighter in week two – Morwell, Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong were on the agenda – but mother nature still reminded us of her capriciousness, and at the final concert in Geelong, Dvorak’s Serenade was heard to the accompaniment of a rainstorm beating on the roof of the venue, the Sacred Heart College.

An exhausting fortnight, but wonderfully rewarding for all involved. Here is just some of the feedback received:

### Greetings from Bendigo!

*How can one possibly put into words the brilliance that is the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra? ...I’m a musician/music teacher myself and I attended tonight’s show with two of my students who had never heard classical/chamber music performed live before and they were absolutely spellbound! I’m very pleased to say that they now have the same appreciation for this music as I.*

Thank you....

Adam

*I attended your concert last week and just wanted to thank you for a delightful evening. While the audience size in the regional areas may not be what you are used to in the city, please be assured that your performance is very much appreciated as a source of inspiration, motivation and education for students like myself. I am 54 and am in my fourth year of learning the viola, so I paid special attention to Helen and the viola section. I overheard a woman seated behind me comment on the delightful playing of Emma the double bassist and I agree completely.*

Diane

*Dear Members of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, Last Thursday I was a member of the audience at Wendouree Performing Arts Centre. Wonderful tone, interpretation, precision, pitch and application made for a truly delightful evening. In particular, the Dvorak Serenade was an absolute joy. That wonderful piece dances, glitters and sparkles while also reaching deep into the heart and the spirit. Your presentation of this magnificent piece was superb. I do wish you all the very best for your future music making....*

With kindest regards,  
(Rev Canon) James Bishop



## THE ART OF MOZART march

### A Feast of Mozart

Australia’s favourite concerto returns in MCO’s 2011 season opener when the Mozart clarinet concerto features in The Art of Mozart on 17 and 20 March at Melbourne Recital Centre.

On this occasion, Paul Dean, clarinet virtuoso extraordinaire, has the solo role. Currently Artistic Director



Alexander Briger

## Welcome to MAXINE A NEW FACE AT MCO

The newest member of the MCO “behind-the-scenes” team is Maxine Miller, who joined us recently in the position of Philanthropy Manager. This is a key role as private fundraising is absolutely critical for the long-term success of the organisation.

CEO Stephen Block said: “We are delighted to have attracted someone of Maxine’s experience and savvy to MCO. Maxine already has an impressive fundraising track record in other sectors to her credit, and I’m sure all of our supporters will join me in wishing her every success.”

Should you wish to add to your support of MCO, Maxine would be delighted to hear from you. (maxine.miller@mco.org.au)



Maxine Miller

## ART OF MOZART Register for pre-concert talks

Pre-concert talks will take place in The Salon at Melbourne Recital Centre 45 minutes prior to the start of both performances of this wonderful program. Come and learn more about each of these program pieces in an informative presentation. Numbers are strictly limited – please pre-register at theartofmozart@mco.org.au or by phoning 9650 3365.

Pre-concert talks are on Thurs. 17 March at 6.45pm and Sun. 20 March at 1.45pm in The Salon, MRC.

We look forward to seeing you there.



www.mco.org.au/TheArtOfMozart  
17 & 20 March | Paul Dean, Alex Briger, Mozart



www.mco.org.au/That'sAmore  
5 & 8 May | Diana Doherty, Nicholas Carter



www.mco.org.au/AirsandGraces  
26 & 28 June | Rebecca Chan, Paul Wright



www.mco.org.au/TheGrandTour  
28 August | Hoang Pham, Prudence Davis,  
Jessica Fotinos, Benjamin Northey



www.mco.org.au/TheFourSeasons  
27 & 30 October | William Hennessy



www.mco.org.au/ChristmasConcerto  
20 November | Aura Goh, William Hennessy

# CONVERSAZIONE

with Kate

Kate Salvatore joined the MCO management team in early 2010 in the newly-created position of Artistic Operations Manager.

In this role she provides support to Artistic Director William Hennessy, as well as managing all of the practical and logistics issues for the MCO annual program of over 20 concerts (including two extensive tours).

Kate came to MCO with a professional background in orchestra management with the Melbourne and Tasmanian Symphony orchestras.

## Q. What is special or different about your role with MCO?

The responsibilities of this job are very broad, which makes it quite different to my previous roles working either as part of or managing an operations team. Even though MCO still performs less than the major full-time orchestras, I need to have my head around engaging quality orchestral personnel, concert and tour management, production, venue hire and music procurement – all within a very tight budget!

The special aspect of working with MCO is the opportunity to work with such talented players in an environment where quality music-making is the key. Perhaps because of our size, there seems to be a more collegial relationship between the players and “management”, which is sometimes lacking in other organisations. The MCO model is unique in that it supports the development of young string players and encourages its core players to step into leadership roles – it’s always rewarding to see the results of this. There is a lot of goodwill and support associated with MCO both internally and out in the community and I feel privileged to be able to be a part of MCO’s development as we grow from strength to strength.

## Q. What are amongst your greatest challenges?

The biggest challenge for me in terms of working with MCO is best described by Bill as “existing within the cracks.” Many of the core players that form MCO work with major professional orchestras; they’re often involved with study, travel or running their own chamber groups. We see our role as supporting our players by complementing these activities, but, as a result, our rehearsal and concert schedule need to accommodate all of these variables as much as possible. Our players are very loyal to MCO but at the same time they have a responsibility to be mindful of the extent of their commitment and how this impacts on their other, often full-time employment, as well as communicating effectively with the other parties involved.



Maybe this will change and become easier in the future, but for the time being this jigsaw puzzle will underpin the way I work.

## Q. How do you enjoy your role in MCO’s extensive regional touring program?

There is something very special about bringing MCO to remote regional audiences. The feedback we receive suggests that the opportunity to hear live orchestral music is very rare in some of these towns but always profoundly appreciated. We recently completed an 8-stop regional tour, performing the same program each night. Even though it was a marathon, it was fantastic to see the players re-energized for each performance, with the quality of the ensemble improving day by day. I think that touring is a unique experience and brings people together in a way that can’t be achieved in a normal work setting. We were all a little sad to reach the final performance in MRC last Sunday even though it was the icing on the cake!

## Q. You’ve been described both as a “people person” and as one who takes trouble with the detail – how important is that in your role?

Actually I wouldn’t always describe myself as a “people person”...but I suppose during the course of my work I’m always communicating with a variety of people. At MCO we rely so much on the support of our players, stakeholders and other arts organisations that we really have to look after all of these relationships as best we can. Attention to detail is definitely important, particularly when, like the rest of the MCO staff, I’m responsible for quite discrete areas. So despite our best intentions there isn’t always someone else checking the details for you! Part of being an effective orchestra manager is anticipating all of the things that could possibly go wrong – which can definitely be stressful at times! But I wouldn’t substitute that for being a well-organised smooth operation, which might not be as satisfying as performing a concerto, but has its level of satisfaction after the event.

## TAKE A LISTEN!

### MCO performance on ABC Classic FM 105.9

8.00pm Wednesday 8 December 2010

Emma Matthews, soprano; Benjamin Northey, conductor

Mozart *Symphony no 33 in B flat, K319*

Mozart *Ah se in ciel – concert aria, K538*

Mahler *Symphony no 4 in G (chamber version arr Erwin Stein)*

## Brian and Esther Benjamin

The Board of the MCO wishes to acknowledge the recent departure of Brian and Esther Benjamin from their respective roles as Chairman and Philanthropy Manager after being associated with the organisation for the past 6 years. Brian and Esther both made substantial contributions to the organisation during a time of great transformation for the MCO. The Board wishes them well with their future endeavours beyond the MCO.

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