Chamber Music Festival attracts the best!

New England Chamber Music Festival  
17-21 April 2012  
Free Concerts - Sat 21 April

This April, NECOM is very proud to present its inaugural Chamber Music Festival to be held in Armidale this April. This unique event is the first to be offered anywhere in NSW so Armidale is in for a treat.

NECOM has snared some of Australia’s finest musicians for its inaugural Chamber Music Festival to be held in Armidale this April. This unique event is the first to be offered anywhere in NSW so Armidale is in for a treat.

NECOM’s outstanding guest musicians will include the Flinders Quartet, Armidale born clarinetist David Griffiths, trumpeter Paul Goodchild, orchestral tango specialist Maggie Ferguson, Dalcroze Eurhythmics experts Sandra Nash and Madeline Hagon, as well as NECOM’s own teaching staff.

The Festival has inspired over 45 emerging young musicians from Armidale and as far afield as Bellingen, Inverell, Tamworth and Warralda to travel to Armidale and to play in one of the 13 chamber ensembles.

“This is an amazing and unique opportunity for our young musicians to work with Australia’s expert musicians and to experience how incredibly exciting it is to play in a chamber ensemble,” says Director of the Conservatorium, Susanne James.

After four intensive days of immersing themselves in playing chamber music together, the New England’s emerging young musicians will present three concerts open to the public and NECOM invites everyone to come along.

3 FREE concerts  
Armidale Town Hall  
Saturday 21st April  
11am, 12:30pm and 2pm

Welcome to 2012

2012 has opened with a flurry of activity with hundreds of students, instrumentalists and choristers flocking into NECOM to commence their year of music making.

NECOM will present a treasure trove of innovative programs in 2012 and in a regional area with a population of less than 40,000+, it will achieve an astonishing reach across the New England community by providing musical experiences for over 750 enrolled students, 3,000 school students and 5,500 audiences.

We have welcomed many new musicians and teachers into the NECOM family this term. Firstly, New Englanders Peta Bale (Early Childhood) and Ruth Strutt (Choirs) have joined our team. Secondly, Kiwi Charlotte Hayes (cello), Queenslander Alexandra Hiew (violin) and Sydneysider Julia Booth (accompanist) have joined us this term and are already making a huge contribution to NECOM. We all know that making the move to live in a new community away from friends or family is quite a challenge so thank you all for welcoming Charlotte, Alex and Julia so warmly.

Thank you to Lisa and Gergely Malyusz who have worked tirelessly to build NECOM’s brass studio since 2010. They will be moving on from Armidale to live in warmer climes this month but it is not goodbye as they will return to continue as private teachers to NECOM’s brass students in Armidale and Inverell.

We farewell Amanda Waterman who leaves our administration team this month to move with her family to Queensland and welcome Rachael Edmonds who has agreed to step into her place.

2012 has had an exciting start with the introduction of NECOM’s new branding – our wave stave has been an instant hit so music does ‘speak volumes’. You will also see that our newsletter now has a name ‘Take Note’ and some new features such as our Teacher Profiles and News Flash. I hope you enjoy the change.

This April, we are very proud to present our inaugural Chamber Music Festival and I invite you all to come along to support our emerging young musicians and enjoy the beautiful and inspiring chamber music they perform.

My best wishes to all our music students, families and supporters for a wonderful 2012.

Susanne James  
Director, NECOM
NEW NECOM phone number
6773 6419

Congratulations
- to Aiden Gallagher on gaining entry to the Canberra School of Music
- to Zac Grafton on being accepted into WAAPA (West Australian Academy of Performing Arts)

Free fees for Term 2, 2012
Jan Kirk assisting Director Susanne James draw the winning ticket. Congratulations to Tracy Wright who wins free fees to the value of $299 for Term 2 2012.

Mini Minstrels Inverell
On Saturday 17 March, Inverell Mini Minstrels joined the Sapphire City Concert Band in “Meet the Band” Concert which was attended by 50 people. The children had a wonderful time playing with the band and dancing to the music.

UNE Graduation 2012
NECOM once again provided stunning live music to enhance the dignity of UNE’s graduation ceremonies, featuring soprano Samantha Cobcroft, trumpeter John Kellaway and pianist Deidre Rickards.

TEACHER PROFILE

Charlotte Hayes

I am very excited to be joining the staff at NECOM. I bring a wealth of experience as a performer and educator to this position, having worked fifteen years as an instrumental teacher and a further fifteen years as Director of Music in various high schools throughout New Zealand. In both roles I have presented ensembles at national and international competitions with acclaimed success.

As a performer I played with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra for over thirty years and am now enjoying working with fellow musicians here in Armidale as a member of the Armidale Symphony Orchestra as well as the ADMS Hatpin Orchestra.

I have a love and passion for music which I endeavour to impart to all my students.

Alexandra Hiew

Alexandra Hiew (B. Mus, MM, Mus, University of Cincinnati) has studied violin with Kurt Sassmannshaus, Won-Bin Yim and Emin Tagiev. She has participated in master classes with Dorothy DeLay, Felix Andrievsky, and the Tokyo and American String Quartets. Alexandra has been a member of several orchestras throughout America and Australia, and performed solo and chamber recitals in Australia, Germany, Italy, and America.

Currently completing a Doctor of the Musical Arts degree specialising in violin pedagogy, Alexandra has taught violin, viola, chamber music and string orchestras for the past decade. Teaching positions have included Northern Kentucky University, where she also performed in the faculty string quartet, program director at the Centre for the Arts Wyoming, and music director of the Covington Youth Strings. Alexandra has also adjudicated string performances for the Kentucky Music Educators Association and the University of Queensland.

Alexandra is also the Australian Ambassador and Event Coordinator for the Sassmannshaus Tradition.
New England Singers
Chamber Choir Debut Concert

Saturday 10th of March saw the New England Singers Chamber Choir perform its first solo concert. Founded by Ms Leanne Roobol (Director of New England Singers) in early 2011, this auditioned ensemble of fine young singers from every high school in Armidale plus students from the University, is conducted by Hannah Grigg, a Year 12 student from the Presbyterian Ladies’ College.

The concert was held in the Chapel at the New England Girls’ School and featured a selection of six pieces from Karl Jenkins’ acclaimed “The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace.” Accompanied by exceptional local organist, Mr. Warwick Dunham, “The Armed Man” was Hannah’s conducting debut and was well received by audience members, so much so, they requested an encore. Congratulations to all for your outstanding efforts and commitment, and a wonderful concert.

Constance Rolfe (New England Singers Assistant)

The male chorus of (from left to right) Nathan Eager, Andrew Grigg, Tom Fittler, Duncan Carmichael, Tom Henderson, Daniel Collins and Will Smidt singing the a cappella chorus “Save me from Bloody Men” from the Mass.

NECOM Music Therapy Program

NECOM is very proud to have established its Music Therapy Program with generous support from The Ascent Group and the Myer Foundation. This is a culmination of several programs that were trialled last year by music therapist, Natalie Nugent who is currently presenting three ongoing programs for NECOM: working with clients from The Ascent Group (adults with disabilities), PEDAL early intervention, private clients and consultancy work.

This term Natalie has also presented “Growing Through Song” with students from the Support Unit at Armidale High School. Music therapy can benefit anyone who has a specific need, including issues with communication, physical, emotional or sensory issues. Natalie not only involves clients in sessions, but also family members or support staff. Soon Natalie will be starting a consultancy program for clients in regional areas, such as Moree and Tamworth.

If you would like more information about the music therapy program or enquire about private music therapy or consultancy work, please leave a message for Natalie at reception or email: musictherapy@necom.org.au.

Natalie Nugent

The Chamber Choir with Conductor Hannah Grigg, Director Leanne Roobol and organist Warwick Dunham outside the chapel before their performance.

PARENT FORUM

The inaugural Parent Forum that Director Susanne James held to open the year was very well attended by over 40 parents who enjoyed the wine, cheese and opportunity to meet other parents and share experiences.

The Forum featured parents Cathy Archer and Rachael Law-Smith who shared their special tried-and-true tricks to support their child’s musical development (eg how to make practice irresistible!).

“I found the presentation very inspiring” exclaimed Florence Champion de Crespigny after the talks “and to hear from Rachel Law-Smith who has three musicians practising in the house gave me some practical ideas to help develop and support my own daughter’s practice routine.

I am very grateful that NECOM has taken the initiative to organise this workshop.”
Sawtell Music Camp

Our annual Sawtell weekend commenced in bright sunshine on 25 Saturday February. For the first time in many years we were missing the smiles and energy of our guest conductor Mal Hewitt due to ill health and, at short notice, Warwick stepped up to take the baton for the Youth Orchestra.

With the reintroduction of the Wind Ensemble another rehearsal space had to be found to accommodate all groups. Sawtell Public School offered us their hall and the Youth Orchestra moved to a new rehearsal space. This proved to be a great venue with lots of space for tutorials and an amphitheatre space for morning teas and social time. The Wind Ensemble claimed the Scout Hall and the String Ensemble took over the Camp Hall. As always, our parents contributed delicious morning teas and helped moving instruments, picking up ice, cleaning BBQ’s and generally ensuring the weekend flowed smoothly.

The Saturday night BBQ was well attended and the family fun night ran creatively on the Disney theme. There were many fantastic costumes and adults and children alike enjoyed a great evening.

Moving the Sunday concert off-site to the School was also a great success. Conditions were more comfortable for both the players and audience members. The concert proved to be a strong showcase of the weekend’s work with all groups presenting their items with great aplomb and musicianship. Conductors Warwick Dunham, Alex Hiew and Nick Negerevich assisted by Rob Woodhouse led their ensembles with energy and commitment and, as always, our tutors provided great skill and support to our developing players. All members are now looking forward to another great weekend in 2013.

Cathy Archer, President AYO

Armidale Youth Wind Ensemble

2012 has seen the re-establishment of the AYWE, directed and conducted by Nick Negerevich, as a distinct yet valuable adjunct to the Armidale Youth Orchestra Program. The new AYWE is a transition from the NECOM Intermediate Wind Ensemble that began as the Beginner Wind Ensemble when Nick first came to Armidale in 2007.

The AYWE serves wind players who are in the intermediate stages of proficiency and who aspire to play in the Armidale Youth Orchestra. In particular, it also allows young saxophonists, who would not normally find a place in a symphony orchestra, an opportunity to mix with aspiring wind players in performing music written specifically for concert and symphonic winds.

We are still looking for lower brass such as trombones, tubas and euphoniums. French horns are also very desirable and as there are many of these instruments available we encourage new students to join up!

Currently, AYWE has 3 flutes, 4 clarinets, 1 bass clarinet, 3 saxophones, 1 trumpet and 1 euphonium, plus the generous support of Rob Woodhouse on Snare Drum. Occasional support from older AYO players has also been terrific.

My thanks to all the students who performed so admirably at the Sawtell Weekend and to their parents and supporters who give their time and encouragement.

Nick Negerevich, Conductor & Director AYWE
AyO Garden Party - Rosemary Leitch’s Garden, Sunday 1 April 2012

Rosemary Leitch welcoming everyone to her garden and opening the concert.

The AYO concluded the concert with the 1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky. Conductor Warwick Dunham is seen here thanking Concertmaster Eliza Scott flanked by the whole orchestra.

The Armidale Youth String Orchestra conducted by Alex Hiew.

Sponsors Murray and Barbara Giles assisted the AYO to purchase these brand new tubular bells. They are joined by AYO president Cathy Archer, conductor Warwick Dunham and enthusiastic AYO members.

Murray experiences the wonderful sound first hand.

Nick Negervich opening the Garden Party concert with 3 pieces performed by the AYWE.
Over 130 students travelled from all over the New England and North West region to attend the Year 10 Music Day at NECOM on 14 March.

The day started with a rousing choral session led by Battle of the Choirs judge, George Torbay followed by a stimulating movement/improvisation session with much-loved local musician/teacher Phil Oxley. “This has been a fabulous opportunity for my students to work with other talented students” said Gunnedah music teacher Matthew Minter, “they really enjoy these experiences which they wouldn’t otherwise get in a small country school”.

In the afternoon, students were divided into smaller groups and moved between ethnomusicological activities including African drumming and dance, Didjeridu, Indonesian Gamelan, Latin American percussion and a Ukelele session led by Cathy Welsford. We appreciated the loan of 25 black, gold and red Ukes from Minimbah PS for the afternoon.

Corinne Arter, NECOM Program Manager

HSC MUSIC WORKSHOP  Thursday 15 to Friday 16 March

Over 100 Year 11 and HSC music students attended our 2012 HSC Music Workshop that offered intensive sessions in composition, musicology/aural and performance with guest presenters Jennifer Carter, former Supervisor of Marking (Music), Jane Cateris, Senior Marker, and Damien Barbeler (Composition).

Our sincere thanks to AMTA (Armidale Music Teachers Association) for their expertise and support in helping NECOM provide outstanding music programs for school students and teachers.

HSC Workshop leaders Jennifer Carter, Deidre Rickards, Damien Barbeler and Jane Cateris.

music speaks volumes
NECOM’s Chamber Music in Your Classroom program was off to a flying start this term with Trios performing for over 1800 school children from Armidale to remote schools such as North Star, Narrabri, Weewaa to Ebor and Kelly's Plains. On Friday 30 March the Trio visited Burren Junction PS, a school with 45 students, with their performance beamed over to the 8 students in tiny Rowena Public School via video conferencing.

Generously supported by the Ian Potter Foundation, the program sends an instrumental trio of NECOM musicians right into children’s classrooms. In many instances this is the first time students have ever seen a musical instrument, let alone hear it played up close and in real time!

The success of the program lies in its hand-on engagement with children in their own classroom and NECOM’s support for teachers through Professional Development workshops and curriculum teaching resources with CDs.

Thanks to Deidre Rickards whose passionate support and advocacy has seen this program achieve such excellence and to the fabulous NECOM musicians Warwick Dunham, Nick Negerevich and Rob Woodhouse with guests Robyn Bradley, Deidre Rickards and Esther Albert. A fabulous effort by all concerned – keep the music coming.

Our deep gratitude for the opportunity our students had to take part via the connected classroom in the concert. It was the first opportunity Rowena has had in 5 years to ‘see’ live music.

Rowena Public School Principal Andrew Rodgers

The opportunity for students in isolated small schools to view a live musical performance of the quality of the NECOM presentations is virtually nil. Congratulations upon an outstanding presentation, excellent program and wonderful initiative!

Ebor Public School Principal Jennifer Winkel

The Wind Trio (Rob Woodhouse, Robyn Bradley and Nick Negerevich) brings Chamber music to Ebor Public School.
The NECOM Jazz Workshop on Saturday 18 Feb was a great success with 16 students of varied playing ability descending on the Western Common Room to learn and hone jazz skills. The students learnt three melodies or ‘heads’ and then applied simple melodic techniques to improvise over the chord changes of the songs. The workshop culminated in a concert where all the students had a go at improvising, some for the first time. It was great to hear everyone ‘composing in real time’ and there were some fantastic musical moments. We were also very lucky to have the support of a professional rhythm section in Warwick Dunham (piano), Dan Bale (drums), Francesca Andreoni (double bass) and trumpeter Benn Tracey. Our thanks to them. We look forward to our next jazz workshop. Stay tuned for details.

Rob Woodhouse and Nick Negerevich.

The Sakbutt blew and the Shofar sounded along with eight other extraordinary brass instruments, the forerunners of our modern brass family, at a Brass workshop on Friday 30 March at NECOM. Master Trumpeter John Kellaway introduced these instruments and the best possible advice...

...If there is a problem to sort with your brass playing, take the U out of FAULT and examine Fingers, Air, Lips and Tongue and you’ll have it sorted!

The students came from Tamworth, Inverell and Armidale for an inspiring, fun-filled hour-and-a-half workshop with John Kellaway who is also the Convenor of the Newcastle University Conservatorium. John was very impressed with the focus, involvement and enthusiasm of all the students – especially as it was after 4pm on a Friday afternoon!

Heather Pavel
Every Friday morning, delighted shrieks, singing, stomping and giggles ring out from the Inverell campus of NECOM as the Mini Minstrels classes get under way. Mini Minstrels teacher Ros Oliver leads the three classes and has seen some real changes in the children. “The babies who have been coming for a year now and at 18 months can already tap their knees to keep the beat.”

The program has also grown at Ross Hill Public School where Ros now teaches five kindergarten classes with 23 children per class. “I aim to make music fun and accessible for children. Music is such a beautiful way to learn and the benefits are staggering. If the beat is innate and the rhythm natural to children then they can go so far with music.”

And she has big dreams for Inverell’s future: “I would love to offer Mini Minstrels classes to every Long Day Care, preschool and kindergarten class in Inverell as well as have classes for infant school children, and Mini Singers.”

Michèle Jedlicka - Inverell Coordinator

Inverell Mini Minstrels

Mini Minstrels Armidale

On the last day of Mini Minstrels for Term 1 in Armidale, teacher Peta Bale invited everyone to bring their teddies and a friend to “The Teddy Bears Picnic”. Much fun was had by the children and their Mums and Dads in a special end of term party.

We look forward to seeing the children in Mini Minstrels next term.
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Saxophone.
Beginners to advanced; instrumental ensembles, orchestra, baritone soloist; classroom music;
Armidale String Quartet
Ph: 6772 1124

ZABOUL, Zaboul
L. Mus, AMusT, B.Sc (Hons) MTA (NSW).
Saxophone.
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### WHAT’S ON @ NECOM

#### April
- **Sun 1**: AYO Garden Party
- **Sun 1**: Armidale Choral Society @ 3 pm
- **Tues 17 – Fri 20**: Chamber Music Festival, NECOM
- **Sat 21**: Free Chamber Ensemble Concerts @ 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm
- **Sun 29**: Armidale Town Hall
- **Sun 29**: ASO Concert @ 3pm, Lazenby Hall

#### May
- **Thur 3 – Sun 6**: Bach Festival, Various Venues
- **Thurs 3 – Fri 5**: Bach Festival Masterclasses, NECOM
- **Mon 21**: Armidale Eisteddfod starts, NECOM

#### June
- **Tue 5**: Eisteddfod Band Night, Lazenby Hall
- **Thur 14/Fri 15**: Eisteddfod Choir Events, Lazenby Hall
- **Sun 17**: NECOM Ensembles Concert, NECOM
- **Sun 17**: Eisteddfod Gala Concert, NECOM
- **Wed/Thur 27-28**: Junior Orchestra Workshop, NECOM

#### August
- **Tues 7 – Sun 19**: Australian Youth Orchestra Brass
- **Sun 12**: Quintet in Residence, NECOM and Inverell
- **Sun 26**: ASO Concert @ 3 pm, Lazenby Hall
- **Wed 29**: Fiori Musicali Concert, TBC
- **Wed 29**: NECOM Choral Concert @ 6pm, NECOM

### TERM DATES 2012

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