HERITAGE HOMESTEAD SERIES 2012

NECOM's Homestead Series offers a magical combination of beautiful chamber music performed in three of the New England's private homesteads. By supporting this unique series you will not only have an exclusive springtime concert experience but will help NECOM raise funds for a much-needed piano for its community programs.

1. String Theory @ Chevy Chase, Armidale Sat 13 October, 3pm
   Alexandra Hiew (violin) Patrick Murphy (cello) Brieley Cutting (piano)
Chevy Chase, built in 1908, hosts String Theory’s French inspired concert featuring the glorious Méditation from Thaïs (Massenet), Debussy’s Sonata for Cello & Piano, Fauré’s Elegy and works by Bartok and Shostakovich. Tickets: $35 Adults $30 Concession

2. The Tablelands Trio @ Ohio, Walcha
   Sun 21 October, 3pm
   Nicholas Negerevich (flutes, penny whistle)
   Judy Hinch (harp) Warwick Dunham (keyboard)
Ohio, an 1840’s pastoral homestead, presents The Tablelands Trio to perform a virtuosic and eclectic program of music exploring Donizetti, Handel, Celtic songs, French jazz and more. Tickets: $35 Adults $30 Concession

3. Elena & Friends @ Petersons Great Hall
   Sun 4 November, 3pm
   Elena Kats-Chernin (piano) Alex Hiew (violin) April Kelson (violin) Eliza Scott (violin)
   Marion Barford (violin) Jacqui Thompson (viola) Charlotte Hayes (cello)
   Nick Negerevich (flutes, piccolo) Rob Woodhouse (clarinet)
Elena Kats-Chernin, Australia’s internationally acclaimed composer, and NECOM musicians will perform in The Great Hall of Petersons Winery & Guesthouse, the original 1911 Palmerston Homestead outside Armidale. This special event also includes post-concert wine and canapés with Elena and musicians. Tickets: $45 Adults $40 Concession
   As seating is limited, early booking is advised.

Spring at NECOM

Term 3 at NECOM was again action-packed – we hosted visits by some very impressive guest musicians, held many workshops, masterclasses and concerts, while our students gave great performances in AMEB and HSC exams.

October marks my first anniversary here at NECOM. When I arrived last year, Armidale was in full spring bloom and it couldn’t have been a more beautiful introduction to the New England.

Springtime is an inspiration to us all and to celebrate, we have created the Heritage Homestead Concert Series (please check the details included on this page) showcasing our staff musicians and guest artists. I am incredibly proud that Elena Kats-Chernin, arguably Australia’s most successful composer, will be our guest in Concert 3 of this series – this is a great honour for NECOM and her concert is not-to-be-missed.

Please come along and support this first-ever series – it’s not only a unique way to hear beautiful music but will help us raise funds for a much-needed piano for our ensemble and video conferencing studio.

On Sunday 28 October our most important performance of the year, New England Sings, sees over 900 students from across our region give two sensational concerts at Lazenby Hall. Thank you to Corinne Arter, to AMTA and all our teachers, conductors and accompanists for their extraordinary commitment and energy to this impressive project.

This edition includes a special feature in recognition of two of Armidale’s most respected musicians, Claire Keoghah and Kerry Hawkins, who have made an outstanding contribution to music in Armidale. Our strong cultural scene exists because of community musicians such as Claire and Kerry and NECOM is very proud to be a part of that wonderful tradition.

Susanne James
Director, NECOM
**Stop Press**

**Armidale Dumaresq Council**

**Supports NECOM**

Our sincere thanks to the Armidale Dumaresq Council for the grant of $5000 to support NECOM’s Music Therapy Program.

**Free Fees**

Corinne Arter assisting Chris Garden draw the winner of free fees for Term 4 2012. Congratulations to Sonya Wrenford-Mobbs whose daughter Summer attends one of our Mini Minstrels classes.

**Armidale City Bowling Club**

Welcome to the Bowlo for its generous grant of $2000 to NECOM’s Music Therapy Program. Thank you to SEO Phil Weaton and CEO Pat Crick.

**New website**

Visit [necom.une.edu.au](http://necom.une.edu.au) to keep in touch.

**Congratulations Robyn and Tim**

Music Educator Member Robyn Driscoll’s student Tim Williams recently gained his LMusA on piano – a great achievement. And Wendy Lorenz was one of his examiners!

**New England Mutual support**

Thank you to Gray Malone and Dane O’Connor for the New England Mutual’s sponsorship of the Chevy Chase and Ohio Homestead concerts in our new Heritage Homestead Series.

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**Claire Keoghan**

**Singer, actress and singing teacher**

Claire grew up in Ashfield, the only child of amateur singers. At 16½, Claire began singing lessons with Marjorie Walker and vocal coaching and language with Madame Arlene Lower in studios at Palings in the city. Young singers then performed widely at music clubs and other venues; Claire also sang in lunchtime concerts organized by the Elizabethan Opera in Hyde Park and on radio with the ABC Young Australia Program. A successful 1957 Elizabethan Opera audition came with a contract offer she chose not to accept, realizing that she didn’t have the commitment for a stage career. After marriage to George Keoghan in 1958, Claire began teaching singing in Campbelltown with three students.

In 1968, the Keoghans and their seven children moved to Armidale. Claire sang both alto and soprano roles with the Armidale Musical Society and the Armidale Choral Society. At a 1969 Continuing Education Summer School for Singing Teachers, Claire was the student Ron Jackson used to demonstrate technique. She attended the Continuing Education Opera Schools, meeting a young Peta Blythe and Bernadette Cullen. Claire taught singing privately and at local schools, conducted the choir at St. Ursula’s College, gave singing workshops in Tamworth and, with the 1974 Music Department inauguration at UNE under Cecil Hill, became the vocal tutor. She was the musical director of shows (A Taste of Opera, A Taste of G&S) at the theatre club and school musicals at O’Connor Catholic High School (Smike, West Side Story, South Pacific). Her studio was particularly active in the 1980s and her 50 students were encouraged to perform in UNE lunchtime concerts, in operas and musicals, attend singing workshops at the Sydney Conservatorium and enter eisteddfods. Claire’s taste in singing is eclectic and she encouraged a broad and diverse range of musical interests in her students.

Throughout her singing life Claire sought advice on her own voice and on techniques, rehearsing and performing locally with pianists Debra Crisp and Elizabeth Andrews, and working with Audrey Langford, a famous UK singing teacher, who, with her husband Andrew Field, gave a singing workshop in Armidale in 1985.

Claire retired in 1997, the last year that performance was taught at UNE. Her past students include opera singers and entertainers, high school music teachers, singing teachers and academics. During her 29 years of teaching, singers and singing became a vibrant and important part of Armidale musical life. Forty years after her first Armidale Musical Society role, Claire performed to critical acclaim in 2008 in Titanic. Her performing heritage continues especially in her 5th daughter Trish Aumuller, a child star of TAS productions who now performs in musicals in Orange to great acclaim; and in Trish’s daughter, Claire’s 20 yr old granddaughter Claire, who has performed in musicals since the age of 8.

*Dorothy Bell*
NECOM Musicians shine in Sydney

Australian Chamber Orchestra Academy

In the third week of the July holidays I was lucky enough to be one of the 27 musicians selected to attend the inaugural Australian Chamber Orchestra Academy. The Academy was a week of intensive rehearsals with ACO musicians culminating in a concert held at Angel Place, City Recital Hall in front of an audience of over 1000 people. The concert not only featured the chamber ensemble, but Emily Sun from Mrs Carey’s Concert came in and played a solo with us as well. It was an amazing week and I look forward to applying again next year.

Eliza Scott performs with the ACO at Angel Place, Sydney.

Australian Opera & Ballet Orchestra

Four students from the New England Conservatorium, including myself, Eliza Scott, Lucy Isaac and Jess Wright, travelled to Sydney for a residency with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra (AOBO) in mid-September. After arriving at The Opera Centre in Surry Hills we were divided into our sections and had our first rehearsal on the works we were to perform with the AOBO: excerpts from Madame Butterfly and Aida. We quickly realised the level of attention to detail that was required! Later that afternoon we had a tour of the Opera Centre and saw the stage sets, costumes and designs for a number of operas including The Magic Flute and A Midsummer Night’s Dream. The wig factory was amazing - the wigs are all made from human hair and it takes 40-50 days just to make one wig. It was clear that A LOT of money is needed to put on an opera. No wonder the tickets are so expensive!

The next day we went to the Carriageworks (where Masterchef was filmed) and saw the Sitzprobe of Madame Butterfly. This is where the singers and orchestra play through the score without the costumes and scenery. We finished the day off with a full orchestral rehearsal at The Opera Centre. On the last day we watched the rehearsal of Madame Butterfly at the Opera House and then our family and friends arrived to watch us perform with the AOBO in the pit of the Opera Theatre during the interval of the dress rehearsal. And yes, it’s as loud as they say down there in the pit! Some of the musicians have screens around their heads so they don’t damage their hearing. Overall it was an amazing experience and gave me a good idea of what it was like to be a professional musician.

Isabella Emanuel, cellist, in rehearsal with the AOBO.

Vale Kerry Hawkins

Kerry Hawkins was a stalwart of the music scene in Armidale and a committed member of the Armidale Symphony Orchestra with whom she played regularly for 35 years until her untimely death in 2012.

Initially a violinist, Kerry took up the French horn in the 1970s and became an accomplished player, often leading her section. She served as orchestral librarian for many years.

Her passion for the horn led her to be a mentor for many younger players whom she inspired with her skill and love of music. She took every opportunity to further her own skills by regularly attending workshops given by visiting professional brass players (particularly horn player, Robert Johnson) at the New England Conservatorium of Music.

In recognition of Kerry’s lifetime of dedicated service to the Armidale Symphony Orchestra, The Kerry Hawkins Award has been inaugurated by the orchestra to recognise outstanding commitment and dedication throughout the year by a playing member of the orchestra. It will be awarded annually.

Those who knew Kerry remember her as a cheerful, hard working, punctual, reliable and loyal member of the orchestra and the community.

Kerry is deeply missed.

Bruce Menzies & Heather Pavel

The Mini Singers conducted by Amy Walsh had the audience tapping and singing along to their happy little songs. Cantilena Chorale sang an uplifting rendition of Nyungar Alleluia, another example of Dan Walker’s prodigious talent as a composer.

Cantilena, under the direction of Rowena Tall, gave us a rollicking version of Johnson Boys with clever and engaging choralography. Leanne Roobol had New England Singers demonstrate their skill with a simple canon song – sung in 28 parts!

Then I’m Goin’ Up a Yonder produced a special moment when the New England Singers joined the Cantilena group. Both groups had very limited time to learn the piece, no prior rehearsal, but pulled it all together and demonstrated how wonderfully adept their choral training has made them!

All the singers and Directors shone with the enthusiasm that a good choral experience generates. We can’t wait to see the New England Sings! concerts.

Lisa Quast

AVAN YU RECITAL

AVAN YU, Winner of the Sydney international Piano Competition in 2012 presented a stunning piano recital in the Auditorium of the C.B. Newling campus of the UNE on Wednesday the 19th September.

This competition has nurtured a large audience and I for one enjoyed listening to the great piano repertoire played so well and with so many convincing interpretations. For the Armidale concert, the packed audience comprised regular music lovers along with those who had tuned in to the competition on ABC radio and were curious.

This curiosity soon turned into a satisfied fondness for this performer who presented the audience with works by Beethoven, Schumann, Debussy and Liszt. The Beethoven was played with “exceptional qualities of dedication and musical insight.” The Schumann Fantasie in C Opus 17 is one of the great German Romantic piano works imbued with a depth of emotion by magnificent melodies, harmonic tension and virtuosic writing.

After interval Avan Yu spoke about the Debussy Etudes and explained the challenges inherent in each one. The finger dexterity required was mastered by this pianist with what seemed to be a high degree of comfort and ease. Mr Yu demonstrated to the audience some of the attributes necessary for winning such a competition as SIPCA.

This impressive concert concluded with the virtuosic Hungarian Rhapsody No 12 by Franz Liszt. Many of the pages from this work are black with notes and could be deemed intimidating by some pianists. Mr Yu gave us a performance to remember and I am pleased to see that the piano is still standing in one piece.

This was a great concert. It was a privilege for us to hear him in Armidale and we wish him well.

Review: Deidre Rickards
We began the workshop by playing Funnel Web by Lance Eccles. David talked about making sure it was in a feeling of two not four. He also talked about making sure that the bass part was steady so that the other parts could fit on top. He worked on the cello part and then added the other parts bit by bit, and then it sounded much better. After that we worked on the first section, which is a slow part. In this part David talked about phrasing. He told us that we had to know where we were going with the music. The workshop was a great help. Thanks David.

Isla Biffin

On Friday 20 July, David Miller OAM, head of Ensemble Studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music hosted a masterclass for three senior pianists - Patrick Williamson, Susannah Brown, and myself, each of us receiving half an hour critiquing, analysing and improving a piece of our own choice. Some interesting suggestions he offered included alternate fingering, different emphasis between hands, as well as posture and playing position – especially in regard to seat height and placement.

We all benefited from Mr Miller’s knowledge and experience. I particularly found his ideas for playing Shostakovich’s first Fantastic Dance really helpful – bringing out the right hand in the main theme makes the piece sound completely different from my initial interpretation.

Nick Hadfield

Warwick Dunham (accompanist) with Will Smith, Sheba Boyd, Elana Leske and Dan Stanley, who enjoyed a wonderful masterclass with David Miller. On Saturday the 21st of July, Elana Leske, Sheeba Boyd, Dan Stanley and I attended a Masterclass with world renowned pianist, David Miller. The Masterclass was based on the soloist’s communication with his or her accompanist in a performance. David taught us how to communicate with the accompanist just before a performance begins, which included the tempo for the piece and how to bring in the accompanist if playing the piece at the same time. David also explained about working on general knowledge for music exams and how to use breathing methods to make an accompaniment performance sound really good. It was a great experience and what I learnt will help me greatly in my upcoming music exam. I would like to thank NECOM for this wonderful opportunity to be part of this class.

Will Smith

We broke off into groups and began workshopping the jazz classic C Jam blues (although we played it in Bb). I worked with a few others and Craig Scott on the double bass. We covered the basics of jazz, improvisation and the roles of the individual parts in the band, as well as creating a strong, tight rhythm section.

The band itself consisted of a wide variety of instruments including all the usuals - piano, guitar, trumpet and sax and some not-so-usuals, namely violin and clarinet. It was a jam filled evening that developed our confidence and musicality.

It was great to work with a bunch of lively, fun and inspiring musicians who shared their passion and expertise so willingly with us.

Angus Gallagher
Members of the Beginner Woodwind and Brass Program gathered on Sunday September 9th to celebrate this term’s achievements. We were delighted by a number of solo performances and by both the Beginner and Intermediate ensembles. The intermediate ensemble played the haunting ‘Hedwig’s Theme’ followed by a jolly ‘Coventry Carol’. The beginners played a number of simple rounds and duets much to the delight of the crowd. Nick Negerevich and I played a two part Bach invention arranged for Alto and Tenor saxophones. The concert was topped off by a wonderful performance from Nick on flute and Judy Hinch on harp playing delightful Celtic tunes. We enjoyed cake in the sun on the balcony to round the afternoon off. Thanks to all who came and made it happen.

Rob Woodhouse

GROWING THROUGH SONG LAUNCH

NECOM’s Music Therapy Program’s pilot ‘Growing Through Song’ was a great success with it’s CD launch at Armidale High’s formal assembly on Wednesday 25 July. ‘Growing Through Song’ CD was a compilation of 8 songs written and recorded by students from the Support Unit in conjunction with NECOM’s music therapist, Natalie Nugent.

One of the groups had the pleasure of performing live one of the songs from the CD with Natalie. This was a great thrill for the students and staff as this is the first time that the support unit had presented an item at the formal assembly.

The assembly also had in attendance Phil Weaton, SEO of the Armidale City Bowling Club, who has generously contributed a grant towards NECOM’s Music Therapy Program.

Corinne Arter, Susanne James and Phil Wheaton (SEO of Armidale City Bowling Club) with students (left to right) Owen Wright, Brett Dawson, Troy Morley, Jeremy Laing (back), music therapist Natalie Nugent and AHS teacher Deb Rothchild at the launch of their CD.

Natalie Nugent
BEGINNER STRING CONCERTS

Students from the BSP gave very impressive performances at two concerts held in the Auditorium. This year the programs for each concert included a mix of students from the three groups, as well as performances by the teachers. The students showcased their developing ensemble skills in duets and performances accompanied by piano. Everyone performed very confidently and the bowing etiquette was excellent. The audience also enjoyed diverse performances of the teaching staff. Charlotte Hayes performed part of a Schubert sonata, Marion Barford played a Celtic tune, and Alex Hiew was joined by Margaret Butcher and April Kelson in a movement from Dvorak’s Terzetto. Many thanks to the announcers Jennie Shaw and Corinne Arter, as well as our wonderful accompanists, Naomi O’hern and Julia Booth. Naomi will be leaving the BSP at the end of this term – we would like to thank her for all of her hard work, enthusiasm, and encouragement!

Alex Hiew

AYO Brass Quintet - Kara Hahn, Michael Ingel, Karina Filipi (back); Joshua Rogan & Rainer Saville (front) with administrator Meredith Potts and tutor Brett Favell after the concert.

The brass quintet from the Australian Youth Orchestra spent their recent residency based here in Armidale. From 10th-17th August they rehearsed, gave demonstrations to schools and presented concerts in the communities of Armidale, Inverell and Glen Innes. It was a very packed program that kept them very busy.

NECOM thanks the Australian Youth Orchestra for these invaluable residency programs - they are a great learning opportunity for NECOM students, the Armidale and Sapphire City Bands, and many others.

“Everyone has been enthusiastic to learn about our instruments and each of our personal stories that make music such a big part of our lives. Thanks to the staff at NECOM, the reception we have received has been really humbling. ” Kara Hahn (French Horn)
Inverell was a busy campus in term three. The STARZ show choir had their first full term learning and performing songs by Katy Perry, Coldplay and a disco classic, “Boogie Shoes.” They made their public debut at the Inverell Rotary at the end of term with a great reception. James Kortum, an eminent flautist from Sydney with years as first flute in the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra and second flute in the Sydney Symphony led the Inverell regional students workshop and performance in the Woodwind Bootcamp in July. August brought the AYO Brass Quintet to give brass players and students from as far afield as Wee Waa and Narrabri, a morning full of learning and experience. The Inverell Eisteddfod also featured many NECOM students in woodwind, brass and cello achieving excellent results. The term ended with Inverell welcoming Avan Yu to the Town Hall for a very memorable performance. He received the standing ovation he deserved from a very full (especially for a stormy, mid-week evening) and appreciative audience.

Michèle Jedlicka, Inverell campus coordinator

2012 has been a busy year for the trio program. We have visited many schools across the north west region including schools around Armidale, Uralla, Glen Innes, as far north as Mungindi and Boomi and as far south as Bendemeer and Wallabadah. It has been a great pleasure for me to be involved in bringing live music to rural areas and to play to kids who may not have ever heard instruments played in person. Some of their reactions are very funny!

So far the trio program has performed to 4,500 children, a fantastic achievement. Congratulations to Deidre Rickards for putting in such an enormous effort to this program, it’s been a great success!

Georgie Ostenfeld

Violinist Errol Russell, pianist Deidre Rickards and cellist Georgie Ostenfeld bring live music into New England classrooms.

“Ide the students thought the trio were very entertaining and felt they learnt a lot.” Wendy Barnett – Teacher at Willow Tree.

In August, I was invited to perform at the Bangalow Music Festival. The festival is put on each year by the Southern Cross Soloists, and showcases national and international performing artists in solo, chamber and orchestral programs. I performed as principal second violin in the festival chamber orchestra in three concerts. The first featured Tchaikovsky’s Serenade for strings, which was led by Ilya Konovalov (Israel Philharmonic); the next two programs included works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Bruch, Brett Dean and Vivaldi which were conducted by Sarah Grace Williams. It was a wonderful experience and I appreciate the support of NECOM to participate in this professional development opportunity.

Alex Hiew

CHAMBER MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

BANGALOW MUSIC FESTIVAL
The New England Sings! project is in full swing with regional and Armidale workshops commencing in Term 3. Both the commissioned works have been enthusiastically received by the choirs and their teachers.

The Bird King by Dan Walker is a fantastic work, full of ‘fun’ bits which the children are enjoying getting under their belts (particularly the mouth popping section!). Dreamers of the Day by Joe Twist is providing a good challenge for the secondary choir and orchestra and will provide a spectacular centrepiece of the second half.

So far seven regional workshops have been conducted in Tamworth, Kingstown, Walcha and Glen Innes with the outreach choirs. Our local music teachers and accompanists have given freely of their time, and their schools have generously granted leave for each of the workshops.

In addition, Cantilena Singers embarked on a tour to some of the outreach schools in mid-August to workshop the pieces and provide a backbone to the rehearsals. It was a great success – Cantilena sang the whole day – at the workshops, on the bus driving between the towns and at morning tea and lunch (drove us quite mad by the end).

The Armidale workshops for the combined Primary and Secondary choirs have been well received and many thanks goes to the following teachers and accompanists for their time and expertise: Leanne Roobol (Choral Director, NE Sings Secondary choir & NEGS), Rowena Teege (Armidale HS), Bruce Myers (Duval HS), Stuart Pavel (PLC, Armidale), Rowena Tall (Choral Director, NE Sings Primary choir & NEGS), Deidre Rickards, Naomi O’Hern, Euna Yeom & Warwick Dunham.

We are fortunate to have teachers and accompanists of their calibre working in Armidale.

Ticket sales are moving quickly, so get in early and don’t miss out!

Corinne Arter

On Friday 24th August Cantilena went on their first mini regional tour, visiting schools in Kingstown and Walcha to give concerts and assist with New England Sings! preparations. Everyone had a great day, even though we spent 3 hours total in travelling time. At least we had Jonathon and David to teach us the ‘ah-dee-doo-dah’ song which kept us busy on the bus. At Kingstown Public School we performed for a small but enthusiastic group of students who loved being able to sing along with a larger group. After a delicious morning tea and a brief tumble on the climbing equipment, we were off again to St. Patrick’s School in Walcha where we were given a very friendly welcome. The day was a wonderful opportunity for Cantilena to share their love of singing with other children and to have a ‘fun’ day out with friends from other schools. Thanks to NECOM for arranging the tour and especially for Sue Metcalfe who stepped in at late notice to accompany the choir.

Rowena Tall
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WHAT’S ON @ NECOM

October
Sat 13, 3pm  Heritage Homestead Series: Strings@Chevy Chase
Fri 19-Sun 21  Kodaly Workshop, NECOM
Sun 21, 3pm  Heritage Homestead Series – The Tablelands Trio
             Ohio Homestead, Walcha
Sun 28, 11am 2pm  New England Sings!, Lazenby Hall

November
Sun 4, 3pm  Heritage Homestead Series – Elena & Friends
             Peterson’s Great Hall
Sun 18, 2pm  Armidale Youth Orchestra, NECOM
Sun 25, 11am  Ensembles Christmas Concert, NECOM
Wed 28, 6pm  NECOM Choral Concert, NECOM

December
Sun 2, 3pm  Armidale Symphony Orchestra, Lazenby Hall

New England Sings!
Thanks to artist Shaun Tan for his drawing The Bird King for our promotion.
Tickets are selling fast. Phone us on 6773 6419 with your credit card details or call in to the office.

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