



Newsletter

Term 3

July/August 2024



## *Term 3 news from the Executive Director*



Hello to the Mitchell Conservatorium Community. The first half of 2024 has certainly flown by, and now here we are in Term 3 with less than six months left in the year! As I reflect on the successes and challenges of the year so far, I wish to thank the staff, students, parents and community supporters of Mitchell Conservatorium for their hard work and commitment to our organisation. Conservatorium programs and events are important to the cultural vibrancy of our region, so thank you to all who attended and supported them. In Term 3, we are looking forward to producing the Swing Factor Black Tie Ball and the Winter Strings concert, as well as preparing students for AMEB examinations, Eisteddfod performances and HSC recital programs. I wish all our students the very best as they prepare for these important events.

There is no greater gift you can give to a young child than the gift of music. Many studies have confirmed that learning an instrument and active listening to music help children's cognitive development, social skills and manual dexterity. Our Early Childhood music programs for the under-fives, offered on Wednesdays and Fridays, are the perfect place to start. Give your child an early advantage in life and enrol them today!

Mitchell Conservatorium Ensemble programs offer a wide variety of musical opportunities for musicians of any age, musical experience or skill level. We have string ensembles, a jazz orchestra, concert band, vocal ensemble, junior rock band and even a ukulele group. We also have highly accomplished, educated and experienced teachers who can offer expert instruction to help you begin or continue your musical journey. If you might be interested in beginning to learn, or even revisit a once-learned instrument which has been sitting in the cupboard for many years, why not talk to us about tailoring a program to suit your needs. We will help you invigorate your passion for music!

I hope Term 3 2024 brings you and our community musical joy!

Andrew Smith, Executive Director, Mitchell Conservatorium

## *Alexander Technique classes now available at Mitchell Conservatorium*

You can experience the transformative power of Alexander Technique lessons at Mitchell Conservatorium. Elissa Jones (our Early Childhood Music teacher) has started teaching lessons at Mitchell Conservatorium supported by Greg Holdaway from BodyMinded Alexander Technique.



The lessons take a holistic approach to the mind and body and thinking and moving. You can learn to minimise stress or pain, enhance performance, and move with ease. Bring any activity, question or skill you wish to improve to your lessons and discover the impact of mindful movement on balance, coordination, and well-being. Elissa and Greg are offering 45 minute-long lessons on Fridays in term 3. Lessons can be booked by contacting Elissa ([elissa.jones@mitchellconservatorium.edu.au](mailto:elissa.jones@mitchellconservatorium.edu.au)) or the MitCon office on 6331 6622, or [bathurst@mitchellconservatorium.edu.au](mailto:bathurst@mitchellconservatorium.edu.au)

## *Early Music classes resume in Term 3*

Our Early Childhood Classes return with the incomparable Elissa Jones guiding children and parents through the world of music in a welcoming and fun environment. It's also a great time to meet other young families and socialise each week. Our classes are Wednesdays at 9:30-10:00am (3-5 years) and 10:30-11:00am (0-2 years), and Fridays Family Fun at 9:30-10:15am (0-5 Preschool Age).

[Click here to book](#)



## Coming up in August ... Mitchell Combined Strings Concert

All three string ensembles of the Mitchell Conservatorium come together for a great program of music at 2.30pm on Sunday 11th August 2024 at All Saints' Cathedral, Church St, Bathurst. The Bathurst Chamber Orchestra (conducted by David Hood), Bella Forte (conducted by Nicholas Newell) and Stringendo (conducted by Frances McLeod) will bring together players of all ages in a lively program of music by composers such as Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Mozart and - wait for it - John Denver! A very special treat will be pianist Elena Day-Hakker performing Haydn's tuneful and exuberant Piano Concerto in D Major with the Bathurst Chamber Orchestra.



[Click here to book](#)



## Swing Factor Black Tie Ball

The Swing Factor Black Tie Ball returns to BMEC for another year on Friday 9th August, brought to you by Mitchell Conservatorium. Prepare yourself for a huge night of dining, dancing and jazz music which includes performances by Denison College of Secondary Education Bathurst High Campus' own Swing Factor, and an exciting opening performance by Mitchell Conservatorium CONnections Big Band.

Ticket prices include a 3-course meal which is delivered alternate drop as well as live entertainment for the evening. If you have dietary requirements please note these during the booking process.

[Click here to book](#)

## *An afternoon of great vocal, trumpet and organ music*

Organist/pianist Mel Waters is joined by soprano Bethany Carter-Sherlock and trumpeter and tenor David Hood in an afternoon's concert of musical favourites by Mozart, Handel and others. Come and enjoy well-known and beloved sacred classical favourites, and help us conclude the concert with a rousing audience-participation rendition of Parry's great hymn setting *Jerusalem*, with organ and trumpet ringing out in the splendid acoustic of All Saints' Cathedral. 2pm Saturday 24th August 2024.

[Click here to book](#)

## *Cold Christmas Cabaret warms the spirits*

Audiences enjoyed a winter Christmas recently at the Conservatorium's *Cold Christmas Cabaret*. Hosted by Janelle Lindsay OAM and directed by Michelle Griffin, the senior vocal students of the Conservatorium were joined by vocal ensemble VOX and accompanied by CONnections jazz band. Featuring chilled winter classics, hot tunes and a rare off-season appearance by Santa, the attendees expressed their appreciation for a night of festive fun.



Mitchell Conservatorium  
Community & Joy through music

# Bright Seraphim

An afternoon of all-time favourites for voice, trumpet and organ.

2pm Saturday  
**AUGUST 24TH**

IN THE SPECTACULAR SURROUNDS AND  
SPLENDID ACOUSTICS OF  
**ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL**

Bethany Sherlock-Carter, soprano  
David Hood, trumpet  
Mel Waters, organ and piano

Tickets \$25  
Concession available

Contact Us: 6331 6622  
mitchellconservatorium.edu.au



## *Big Band Blast takes off*

Bathurst's mini Jazz festival the "Big Band Blast" played again in May with Mitchell Conservatorium at the helm partnered with John Morrison and Jacki Cooper. Over a huge 3-day weekend, many teachers and students of MitCon had the opportunity to attend incredible concerts, get involved in workshops led by industry professionals and, most importantly, to strut their stuff across a three-stage venue and show off their performing abilities. Alongside the Navy Band, MitCon's CONnections Big Band opened the weekend with a set of cracking swing tunes. The event concluded with a grand concert at BMEC with dozens of local and state schools attending.



## *2025 Scholarships*

Auditions for 2025 Scholarships will be held in Term 4 on Saturday 26th October. Applications will be available from Monday 5th August and can be downloaded from our Facebook page or our website, or obtained from the MitCon office at 130 Havannah Street, Bathurst.



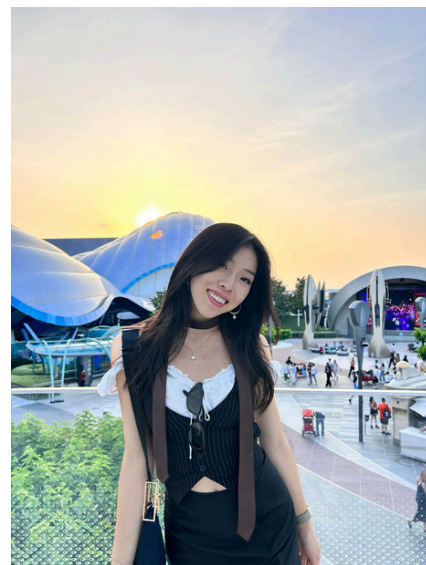
6331 6622

## *Two new teachers join MitCon staff*

### *Vivian Zhao, piano & violin*

Vivian started learning piano and violin at age three and over the past five years has been a piano student of AMEB examiner, Sydney Conservatorium lecturer and adjudicator Dr James Muir. She was awarded a High Distinction for her piano LMusA diploma and has also completed AMEB Grade 6 Violin. Vivian was awarded the Sydney Eisteddfod Alf & Pearl Pollard Memorial Award for Performance Excellence in piano, as well as numerous awards at Castle Hill, Penrith, St. George and Ryde Eisteddfods over the years.

Vivian enjoys teaching across all genres, with a focus on technical strength and performance skills and the aim to instil a passion for music in her students. Vivian is also a medical student and is passionate about continuing her music teaching while studying.



### *Robert Saville, piano*

Robert commenced piano studies as a child, completing AMEB 8th Grade in his late teens. He continued to play in various community groups and for personal enjoyment, while having a career in the public sector in finance, administration, financial systems administration and management accounting. He studied piano with Lyn Phillips and under her tutelage recently gained a Pass with Honours for his AMEB Certificate of Performance. He is now continuing his piano studies with Carolyn Miller and is working towards his AMEB A.Mus.A Diploma.



## Vale Laurie Orchard

For the many staff and students of Mitchell Conservatorium who knew Laurie Orchard personally or by reputation, it was with sadness that news was received of his death earlier this year aged 96. Laurie was the grandson of famed musician, music educator and administrator William Arundel Orchard.



Throughout his long and distinguished life, Laurie continued the family's tradition of excellence in music performance, teaching, lecturing, composition and administration, including as the inaugural Director of the Mitchell Conservatorium. Among many honours, Laurie was awarded an OAM in the 2022 Australia Day Honours List. The Orchard family's legacy to the Australian community continues through The Arundel Fund. The Fund is administered by Mitchell Conservatorium and aims to perpetuate the Orchard family's passion "to teach music well" through the creation of educational programs and provision of essential support and resources for both teachers and students of music. Donations can be made to The Arundel Fund, with amounts over \$2 tax-deductible. For details, please contact the Conservatorium at [bathurst@mitchellconservatorium.edu.au](mailto:bathurst@mitchellconservatorium.edu.au) or phone the office on 6331 6622.



### *Former MitCon Executive Director honoured by NSW Churchill Association*

Former Mitchell Conservatorium Executive Director Dr Graham Sattler recently received a Churchill Medallion awarded by the NSW Churchill Association. Graham is highly regarded in the field of music education and a regular presenter at international Music Education conferences.

Graham recently spoke at a number of regional conservatoriums where he outlined the results of his Churchill Fellowship research into best-practice musical inclusion and community music leadership training programs in the US, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Portugal and Armenia.



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Mitchell Conservatorium acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the many lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal people, the ongoing cultures and connections with the lands and water of the country. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge contributions of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians to the inclusion and empowerment of all people in a country we live in and share together.