

NEWS in Brief

Ivan Richardson and his trusty organ, "Harry the Hammond" brought smiles to Queensland flood victims with their performances at disaster relief centres.

In February, Bernie addressed the new intake of music undergraduates at Monash University. He spoke of opportunities and the future of the music industry and also presented the Bernies Music Land sponsorship awards to last year's recipient students.

The memorial concert for Nehama Patkin will take place on Sunday March 6. Please see the Dateline for details.

Vic Roads advises that parking at our front door is now banned, due to the risks of exiting into oncoming traffic. Please use our car park on the east side of the building (enter via the slip lane immediately after our building).

Special congratulations to Lester Cheung, our Piano Consultant, who has received his qualifications of Masters of Music (M.Mus). We are very proud of his achievements!

Bernie is delighted to announce the engagement of both his daughters, Lisa and Michelle. He now looks forward to an even-more-distant retirement!

Tim Neal will be back at Bernies for an awesome Hammond Jazz / Blues workshop on Friday 29 April and for Hammond lessons on Saturday, 30 April. Book now on 9872 5122.

LIVE AT BERNIES®

Special Event

The Live at Bernies CD label includes five CDs of music that has been recorded live at our nights here at Bernies Music Land. So far, the wonderful variety includes classical piano music, serious jazz, silent movie themes and also popular Hammond music. We invite you to attend the next Live at Bernies CD recording night for a feast of music and to enjoy the experience of being here for a CD recording. On Thursday 31 March, we welcome young pianist, Konrad Dorecki, who will perform a unique program of Romantic and Impressionistic inspired improvisation on the Schimmel grand piano.

Konrad, age 23, was awarded a music scholarship at Mentone Grammar School and studied piano privately. His improvisations are highly original and virtuosic and he has performed both classical concert repertoire and his own improvisations in recitals organised by the Polish community around Melbourne. In July 2010, Konrad was interviewed on 3MBS 103.5 FM and performed his improvisations in a live studio broadcast. In August, Konrad then presented an innovative recital format featuring solo improvisations at the Melbourne Recital Centre, Southbank. Konrad is the founder of the "Virtuoso Lounge" a group dedicated to presenting high-quality chamber music in a home setting in Beaumaris. Here, Konrad is equipped with a Schimmel K213 grand piano and has hosted many talented musicians and concert pianists.

Please join us on March 31 for a Live at Bernies evening of distinctive piano music.

Michelle C.

SCHIMMEL

at Brunswick Beethoven Festival

The Brunswick Beethoven Festival was conceived by Music Director, Sergio De Piere. The second annual festival took place in February, with eight concerts over 11 days, all overseen by the magnificent grandeur of the K280 Schimmel concert grand piano.

These eight concerts were all world class, with local and international performers all celebrating the works and era of Beethoven. All concerts were held in the Brunswick Town Hall.

The Opening Concert took place on February 3, with the outstanding Strelitzia Piano Trio. They played modern works new to Australia and were received with great praise. Their next performance will be at the Utzen Room at the Opera House!

The Finale concert was on Sunday, 13 February and featured pianist, Anthony Halliday, performing two Beethoven Sonatas and Rhapsodie Espagnol by Liszt, showing off the Schimmel to perfection and filling the Hall with its cascading sound - perhaps the best piano concert I have ever heard and will remember for many years to come.

During the festival, five feature pianists played the Schimmel - all different and each came to terms with and highlighted the Schimmel in all its hues from the softest nuances through to its crushing crescendos. There were duets with piano and violin, or viola, three singers - a baroque soprano with the music and the acoustics showing her to perfection. The incomparable soprano, Shu-cheen Yu, sang Mozart, Beethoven and three exquisite Chinese folk songs. Shu-Cheen was accompanied by magnificent pianist, Tamara Smolyar, who gave a thrilling solo performance as well. A new young pianist, David Patterson, gave an impressive solo and duo concert with a wide ranging repertoire of old and new.

The unforgettable Miwako Abe, played Bach on her violin and performed alongside two world class harpsichordists - one local, another from Italy - both playing as soloists and as accompanists. This performance was simply perfection.

Thank you to Bernies Music Land for providing the magnificent Schimmel grand piano, without which this event would not have been such a great success. We look forward to 2012 and beyond for the Brunswick Beethoven Festival!

Mark Higginbotham.

