

# The Marais Project newsletter



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## Love Reconciled CD Launch

The Sydney Conservatorium of Music provided an excellent venue for the launch of The Marais Project's second CD, "Love Reconciled", on 5th June. In fact this was only the second occasion that the full Marais Project ensemble has performed at the "Con" despite Jennifer and Belinda Montgomery having been Con students and Tommie Andersson and Danny Yeadon being employed there in part time teaching roles.

**Violinist Clare Conolly possesses a rare talent**



Jenny & Gerard Willems



Rehearsing for the launch

Along with the above artists and regular gambist Catherine Upex, we were delighted to welcome young baroque violinist Clare Conolly who filled in for Fiona Ziegler. Fiona was overseas at the time playing at a mandolin festival in Germany. Clare possesses a very special talent and her playing is passionate and engaging. She is heading off to Europe for further study and is an artist to watch in the future.

The CD launch program ran the full gamut of The Marais Project's well-known eclectic tastes: from John Paul Jones to Monteclair, from Marais to Elena Kats-Chernin via Stephen Yates. The encore consisted of Jennifer's newly minted arrangement of "Padam Padam", made famous by French songstress Edith Piaf. It is likely that this delightful song has never been performed in an arrangement for three viola da gambas, violin, theorbo and voice!

**Gerard Willems revealed himself to be an informed Marais-lover**

The highlight of the afternoon was the official launch of the CD by legendary pianist Gerard Willems who revealed himself to be an informed Marais-lover. Gerard told the audience that he even screens the Marais film "Tous les Matins du Monde" to some of his piano classes.

Our thanks to all who attended and particularly to those involved in the CD's production. ♡

## Marais Project on Facebook



Facebook is not for everyone but we are finding it a very effective way to keep those interested in social media up to date with the ensemble's activities.

Our Facebook site includes concert dates, photos and regular commentary. We generally only post once a week so as not to overload Fans with useless information. You will NOT be informed when Jenny goes for a walk or is making scones, for example. However, alongside the gamba, scone-making is one of her lesser known skills.

## Bastille Day at Tea Gardens

If you drive north of Sydney, cross the Hunter River and continue past the turnoff to Port Stephens you will eventually find the twin villages of Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens. These two quiet townships straddle each side of the Myall River with the Pacific Ocean to the East and the northern shores of Port Stephens lapping the white sands to the south.

**Jenny, Cathy and Lindy performed in the restaurant on the Friday and Saturday after Bastille Day and received a standing ovation from the entranced listeners**

Overlooking the river in the fishing village of Tea Gardens can be found Peter and Kerry Hodges' lovely restaurant, "Tillermans", home to a unique Bastille Day tradition The Marais Project regularly contributes to.

As well as running a successful eatery Peter translates French literature into English and is completing a PhD on French themes. Together Kerry and Peter also own a house in Sigoulès in the Dordogne region of France. Here they conduct annual food, wine, language and relaxation tours.

This year Jenny, Cathy and Lindy performed French music in Tillerman's restaurant on the Friday and Saturday following Bastille Day and received a standing ovation from the entranced listeners. They were also featured artists in the University of the



Tillerman's at Tea Gardens

Third Age (U3A) fundraising lunch at Tillerman's on the Sunday.

It's well worth planning to "go north" for Bastille Day 2011 to experience the relaxed, friendly atmosphere and fine music Tea Gardens has to offer. ♡

# The Marais Project newsletter



## Meet the composer

Although The Marais Project was founded to perform the complete works of Marin Marais we have always wanted to situate ourselves in the country and era that we live in and are part of. For this reason the ensemble has continually explored artistic partnerships with musicians from a variety of backgrounds including jazz, world music and contemporary composition.

We are very pleased to announce that once again The Marais Project has been the grateful recipient of a grant from Father Arthur Bridge's foundation "Ars Musica Australis" to support the commissioning of a new work for the ensemble.

Young Australian composer Daniel Walker has accepted the invitation to set to music several Australian poems to be premiered in 2011.

Dan has been commissioned and performed by such groups as the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, The Song Company, GondwanaVoices, Queensland Youth Choir, the Murrumbidgee Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. In 2003, Walker was the Sydney Children's Choir composer in residence, and also created new choral arrangements of national anthems for the Rugby World Cup.

Other recent work by Dan include The Silurian, commissioned by Jane Sheldon ( a regular Marais Project guest), and Peter Godfrey-Smith which was premiered by the Boston-based Firebird Ensemble as part of 'The Origin Cycle'.

**Young Australian composer Daniel Walker has accepted the invitation to set to music several Australian poems**



English lutenist and composer John Dowland



## Across The Channel

Our focus is typically on French music but our final concert for 2010 "Crosses the Channel" to explore some of the finest English works for lute and viols. Directed by Tommie Andersson and Jennifer Eriksson, and performed at one of our new venues, the Mosman

## Highlands Spring Concert

The Southern Highlands has a justifiable reputation as both a wonderful place to live and a special place to visit. The Marais Project is opting for the latter and is performing at Moss Vale Uniting Church, Cnr Argyle & Spring Sts, Moss Vale, at 2.00pm on Sunday 12th September. Moss Vale is the home of Jenny's parents in law and she has been visiting there for many years.

Why not take a trip down the Freeway, have lunch at Bowral or Berrima and drop by for the concert? Details at 0248 681 463

## Improvising the Baroque

Kevin Hunt is one of Australia's most versatile and respected jazz musicians with a string of achievements to his name from a Mo Award to years of touring with jazz legends such as Don Burrows, Herb Eillis, Larry Adler and James Morrison.

Kevin has composed two pieces for The Marais Project and on special occasions takes to the harpsichord with the group in semi-improvised performances.

In May 2010 the "Kevin Hunt Bach Trio" and The Marais Project shared a platform at the Sydney Conservatorium which gave the enthusiastic audience a rare opportunity to hear Hunt work with his renowned piano trio, lead The Marais Project from the harpsichord and introduce a luscious performance

of his own composition "To the Holy Spirit" which featured on our first CD.



Kevin Hunt & John Eriksson, Jenny's father at "Improving the Baroque"

Kevin is currently completing a PhD at Sydney Conservatorium examining the influence of the Australian designed and manufactured Stewart and Sons piano on jazz musicians.

Art Gallery and Community Centre, this promises to be a concert not to be missed. 3.00pm Sunday 24th October.

**Tickets from**  
[www.maraisproject.com.au](http://www.maraisproject.com.au)  
or phone 9809 5185