

GAMBA WATCH

The Newsletter of The Marais Project & Sounds Baroque



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And Now Adding Sounds Baroque

Regular readers of The Marais Project newsletter will note that it now has a name and that an extra ensemble has been added to the masthead. As well as directing The Marais

During 2011 The Marais Project and Sounds Baroque will give a combined total of almost 90 performances

Project since 2000, Jennifer is also a founding member and long term director of another quite special group, Sounds Baroque. Consisting of two singers, viola da gamba and harpsichord, it was formed more than 20 years ago by well known harpsichordist Paul Dyer. Sounds Baroque performs especially arranged and produced baroque operas in primary and infants schools across rural, regional and urban New South Wales as part of the Musica Viva in Schools Program.

Alongside Dyer, Sounds Baroque's past members include some of Australia's most outstanding early musicians and singers: Neal Peres da Costa, Geoffrey Lancaster, Phillip Swanton, Jennifer Bates, Paul McMahan, Chris Berensen, Jane Edwards, Erin Helyard, Brett Weymark and Hans-Dieter Michatz to name but a few.

In 2011 Sounds Baroque is launching a new baroque opera and we have thus decided the time is ripe to bring Sounds Baroque and The Marais Project together under the one organisational structure. During 2011 The Marais Project and Sounds Baroque will give a combined total of almost 90 performances making us the largest presenter of concerts for the viola da gamba in Australia.

Lamentations 2011

The Marais Project regularly engages in productive collaborations with a broad variety of artists including world music greats Mara!, jazz pianist Kevin Hunt, The Early Dance Consort and Pacific Opera as well as numerous guest composers. Building on this tradition we launch into 2011 with a special collaboration with the Sydney Chamber Choir directed by composer and conductor Paul Stanhope.

Under the title of "Lamentations", Paul has assembled a two part event drawing together threads from traditional Easter music alongside new compositions

Taking place in the Great Hall at Sydney University, in Part 1 The Marais Project will perform François Couperin's "Leçons de Ténèbres". Part 2 follows with the



Sydney Chamber Choir singing Tallis' Lamentations of Jeremiah and works by Nyman, Byrd and Paul Stanhope. Guest artist is the oud (Arabic lute) player Joseph Tawadros, one of the world's finest exponents of the instrument. There will be time between the two concerts for a meal in nearby Newtown. Lamentations promises to be a tremendously special and moving evening.



New CDs

Preliminary planning is complete for the recording of a new CD which will commence during 2011. This new CD will explore a completely different repertoire to our first CDs and should be released in 2012.

Preceding this we hope to make available an ABC studio recording of our critically acclaimed collaboration with members of the world music group, Mara!, which features an innovative and beautiful arrangement of Martin Codax' 13th century song cycle, Cantigas de Amigo.

2011 tours

Jennifer will lead The Marais Project on two regional tours in 2011. On 28-29th May the Project have been invited to the Bellingen Music Festival on the New South Wales North Coast to present two concerts.

Marais gambists Jennifer Eriksson and Shaun Ng, who first performed with us in October's "Across the Channel" concert for viol consort, will be joined by talented young Sydney harpsichordist Anthony Abouhamed and soprano Belinda Montgomery. Further details at: www.bellingenmusicfestival.com.au

We are also appearing at the Mt Beauty Music Festival in Victoria on 30 April and 1 May.



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Sounds Baroque residency at Bundanon artists' retreat



Sounds Baroque has been awarded a prestigious residency at the artists' retreat, Bundanon (see photo above) on the New South Wales (NSW) south coast to workshop and develop the final version of our new schools' opera, "Hercules". Hercules is based on Lully's Opera Alceste, with music adapted by Chris Berensen, and Jenny Eriksson, script by Natalie Shea and direction by Robert Jarman. The production designer is Tobhiyah Stone Feller. Hercules will tour NSW infants and primary schools for at least the next five years bringing the unique joy of baroque music to a new generation of students and teachers.

Sounds Baroque has been awarded a prestigious residency at the artists' retreat, Bundanon

While Sounds Baroque is residing at Bundanon several local schools will be "bussed in" to review and give feedback on the Show.

Southern Highlands' success



Diana, Jenny and Belinda at Moss Vale Uniting Church

The Church was packed to the rafters with every available pew taken up and extra chairs brought in from the hall. Former Australian Viola da Gamba Association President Dr Richard Millner and his wife Joan were able to take time out from a viol consort weekend taking place in the vicinity to join local attendees.

Almost \$1800 was raised and distributed to the charities concerned. Special thanks go to soprano Belinda Montgomery and harpsichordist Diana Weston who along with Jennifer Eriksson donated their time and talents to this wonderful initiative. We hope to undertake a repeat visit in Spring 2011.

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Partnership with ABAF

The Marais Project and Sounds Baroque are currently working with corporate volunteers referred to us by the Australian Business Arts Foundation (ABAF) to review our organisation structure and develop a formal strategic plan. We are also hoping to set up an advisory committee or board to support the artistic program. Jennifer is very grateful to the individuals concerned for donating their time and expertise.

Late in 2010 The Marais Project were invited to perform at the annual ABAF awards and accompanied the young singers from the Sydney-based Pacific Opera in a rousing rendition of Edith Piaf's "Padam, Padam".



New WWW site

Web-savvy Marais fans will be happy to know that we are upgrading our WWW site. Stay tuned for launch details



Join us on Facebook

Artistic Director Sounds Baroque and The Marais Project – Jennifer Eriksson

Joint Managing Directors – Philip Pogson and Jennifer Eriksson