

The Galston Concerts Newsletter May 2020



Dear friends of the Galston Concerts

Hallo again with our once-a-month musical missive ... my attempt to partly fill the void of concerts postponed until 'we'll meet again, we know where but don't know when'. I hope the initial e-bulletins of March and April provided some pleasures. I certainly hope that none have found my despatches an unwanted intrusion. Please advise if you'd prefer to not receive these newsletters. I'll be even happier to hear back from any (many?) who are enjoying the musical menu – 'bouquets' are a welcome counterbalance just in case I receive any 'brickbats'.

'Office matters' first ... your concerts team has decided with deep regret that the remaining concerts scheduled in our 2020 series - **Sundays 26 July, 20 September** and **22 November** - are **postponed**.

The present public health crisis, ongoing risks and the possibility that government recommendations may not relax enough to allow large indoor gatherings suggest a greater wisdom of deciding now to postpone. We hoping to re-schedule 'lost' performers and programs to dates in 2021.

Refunds of ticket costs can be organized if you email your bank details to Elizabeth of the concerts team. elizabeth.guc@westnet.com.au

Until our live concerts return please consider the following news and links ... for your musical pleasure ... but first our traditional organ prelude (a free trip to Germany) with a famous Toccata & Fugue by **J S Bach** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nnug9PXbywA> with great visuals of hands, pedals and the church.

The Queen's Birthday holiday is just a week away so I'll start with two settings by **Beethoven**, to partly compensate for the loss of his cello-piano Sonata which would have been part of Susan Blake and John Martin's Galston Concert on Sunday 24 May. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7gQxZKiK2RQ> offers a familiar tune, well known to all of my vintage – *God Save the King* (as it was in **Beethoven's** time) plus a brief but free trip to London. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaZpYCSTR-g> takes that same tune and shows how clever Beethoven could be with what is called in Classical Music Variations form – the same tune camouflaged - faster or slower, smooth or spikey, louder or softer, happier or less 'happy' in major or minor keys. This video also shows how clever some 9-year-old talents are ... part of our Galston Concerts showcasing of Young Performers.

Not surprisingly the theme for the ABC FM radio Classic 100 audience survey in 2020 is – **Beethoven!** If you'd like to vote on line at <https://www.abc.net.au/classic/classic-100/beethoven/> you have until 9 am on Monday 1 June. The Classic 100 Countdown will be broadcast Saturday and Sunday 6 and 7 June.

The mention of ABC prompts adding 2MBS-FM (now FM 102.5 in Sydney) and the inclusion of more **Beethoven** in the guise of the slow movement from the *Pathétique* Piano Sonata, Op. 13. The opening of this contemplative movement https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGq3-Fi_zQY was the musical theme of *Adventures in Good Music* hosted by Karl Haas, which was broadcast for many years by the ABC until 1999, thereafter broadcast by 2MBS and other Australian community radio stations. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zINDMdEfGjQ> offers a late-in-career interview with Karl Haas – no actual music but an insight into his love and life of music, with a still young-at-heart' perspective.

Please remember that **ABC Classic FM** and **FM 102.5** offer seven days a week listening pleasures – a great way to enjoy good music without the merits and limits of watching a screen.

More 'good news'! We are very pleased to announce that Kenthurst resident **Jack Theakston**, talented organist, pianist and cellist, has accepted our invitation to serve as The Galston Concerts **Young Musician of the Year 2020** plus (since we'll be missing concerts this year) for **2021**. Jack is a scholarship student not only at Hills Grammar School but also at the Sydney Conservatorium's Rising Stars program on Saturdays. Jack was also selected as one of the youngest ever members of the Australian Youth Orchestra for 2020. Unfortunately the Rising Stars and AYO programs are both in abeyance – whereas his roll in Galston will allow him frequent visits to Galston Uniting Church for practising on our historic pipe organ and our concert grand – and to make some on-line videos for your viewing pleasure. We'll hopefully link some of those videos to our late-June Newsletter.

Even more good news!! To help fill the void of lost concerts we're thinking of video recording some of our 'lost' musicians performing brief (say 20 to 30-minutes) programs in Galston Uniting Church. We'll then offer the videos as a you tube or similar link for you to enjoy at home, at your leisure. The concerts team may well attend the recordings as a mini-audience, enjoying a triple-tier afternoon tea to help create the mood of a 'soiree musicale'. Your chance to make a cuppa (or a glass of bubbly) for an **I.T. High Tea** at home. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0MtzQDItr0> gives you a **Doris Day** clue.

Next month also includes **World Music Day, 21 June**. Our June e-bulletin will include samplers of global styles, not all Classical. A Classical teaser <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCYGD0cxSgo> offers **Beethoven** visiting Athens with Turkish music in a performance from Brisbane – almost worldwide (in a performance from my earlier life as a member of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra QSO – before they invented the movies, so it's sound, without the moving image).

For those with an extra hour for a concert viewed on line last Sunday, 24 May, from Long Island near New York City (at the former summer estates of the Guggenheim family, of Guggenheim Museum affiliation) please try <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWJjtTJsURo> for a program of Classical and World Music mix featuring **duo Jalal** (including expat QSO/Queensland violist Kathryn Lockwood).

For something on the lighter side, combining great music by **Chopin**, **Debussy** and others, fine playing under unusual circumstances and an entertaining (hopefully once in a career) triumph over adversity please try <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBbRTRBY4D4> Lasting eight minutes, viewed over six million times - it must have something going for it. Rest assured Geoff Smith and the Galston Uniting team are not envisaging similar renovations to allow for disappearing pianos.

Please let me know if a few 'musical joke' you tubes appeal to you. I could include Victor Borge YouTube links but if you start watching him you may have so much fun at home that you'll never want to return to live concerts in Galston.

Till next time please stay safe and well.

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for The Galston Concerts team

Request for refunds with your bank details to elizabeth.guc@westnet.com.au