



Newsletter

Term 2

June 2023



## ***Term 2 news from Mitchell Conservatorium***

### ***From the Executive Director***

Term 2 is always a busy time and this year is no exception. We've already heard major performances from the Conservatorium Concert Band, CONnections Big Band, Mitchell Young Voices, VOX and the Bathurst Chamber Orchestra in association with the Allegri Singers. On the weekend of 26-28 May, MitCon hosted the Big Band Blast festival at CSU with 15 bands from across the state coming together for a weekend of jazz concerts and workshops. What a time to be a musician or a music lover! We have so many opportunities across a broad range of styles for everybody from beginners to advanced musicians, young or old. If you have thought about exploring your inner musician, come on in and talk to our friendly and helpful staff - do it today!

### ***Upcoming event #1: Ukuleles in concert!***

Yes, Uke Can Jazz! Bring your lunch and your singing voices and join in the fun for free at a singalong lunchtime concert.

The Conservatorium's ukulele ensemble the **UkeCons** will present a program of jazz favourites to liven up your lunch hour. 21 June, 1pm, Studio 1, Mitchell Conservatorium, 130 Havannah St.



**Mitchell Conservatorium**  
Community & Joy through music

## **UKE CAN JAZZ!!**

### **LUNCH CONCERT**

**COME SING ALONG WITH US!!!**

**WED 21 JUNE - 1PM**  
**STUDIO 1**  
**MITCHELL CONSERVATORIUM**  
**130 HAVANNAH ST**

**FEATURING**  
**MITCHELL CONSERVATORIUM**  
**"UKECONS"**

**FREE ENTRY - DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

🎵 *Upcoming event #2: "Life is a cabaret, old chum ..."* 🎵

Yes, come to our cabaret! Enjoy an evening of great vocal and jazz band music held in the welcoming and informal environment of Keystone 1889. The brainchild of voice and piano teacher Michelle Griffin (pictured), this cabaret-style event will feature CONnections Big Band and a range of fabulous vocalists singing and playing great music from vaudeville, music theatre, tin pan alley and cabaret. Book a table of friends and let yourself enjoy a great evening of entertainment! There are two shows - 21 & 22 July - and tickets will soon be available online. Keep an eye on our Facebook and website pages. Enquiries: 6331 6622.



*Big Band Blast lives up to its name!*

The Bathurst region Big Band Blast Festival opened on 26 May 2023 and MitCon CONnections Big Band was in the thick of it right from the very beginning. After a huge day of setting the stages and working alongside musical legends Jackie Cooper and John Morrison, CONnections members took to the stage with a performance that showcased everything from the talent of MitCon teachers and adult students right through to how much fun a performance can actually be! A highlight for many participants was the rhythm section workshop on 28 May run by MitCon Executive Director Andrew Smith which 80 people attended. In fact, hundreds of big band and jazz enthusiasts from all over NSW attended the three-day spectacular, and support for a repeat in 2024 is strong!





## *Four MitCon ensembles perform at the Festival of Bells*

Cold and rainy weather did not deter a large crowd from enjoying a program of music in All Saints' Cathedral as part of the Bathurst Festival of Bells on Saturday 29 April. As well as wonderful Carillon playing and fabulous peals from the team of ringers at the Cathedral, MitCon ensembles CONnections Big Band, the Conservatorium Concert Band, Mitchell Young Voices, and Vox Chamber Choir were among the musical groups that made this a very special day. CONnections director Andrew Smith, concert band conductor David Hood and choirs director Michelle Griffin guided their groups through a varied and enjoyable program which belied the blustery and cold conditions outside.



## *Bathurst Chamber Orchestra busy at three concerts*

On Sunday 2 April the Bathurst Chamber Orchestra, led and directed by Nicole Hammill, presented an Easter Concert at Bathurst Uniting Church which featured flautist Emma Knott and included music by J.S. Bach, Rimsky-Korsakov, Haydn, and the Beatles. And then at Hoskins Memorial Uniting Church in Lithgow on Saturday 6 May and again at Bathurst Uniting Church on Sunday 7 May, the BCO joined with the Allegrì Singers, soprano Bethany Carter-Sherlock and mezzo soprano Amelia Bland, flautist Emma Knott, and trumpeters David Hood and Laykus Woods, for a program of works by Vivaldi, J.S. Bach, Gerald Finzi and others. William Moxey was the conductor. Overall, more than 150 people attended these concerts ... a big congratulations to all involved!





*An additional class for babies and their carers at MitCon (now we have four!)*

We reported in our last newsletter that we are proud and delighted to have Elissa Jones looking after our weekly Early Music Childhood programs at MitCon.

Now we are happy to announce that, in addition to our three existing baby and early childhood classes, Elissa is running a second baby class on Fridays at 10.30am. Like the baby class on Wednesdays, this class is a great place for babies aged 0-2 to begin learning the joy of music in a fun, dynamic and supportive environment.

Babies begin learning about sounds, noise, pitch and rhythm, all while having fun in a relaxed environment with you!

Full details are on our website:

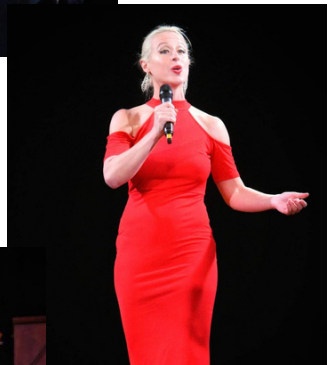
**[www.mitchellconservatorium.edu.au](http://www.mitchellconservatorium.edu.au)**



### *MitCon students shine at Performance Exchange*

On Sunday 30 April 2023 MitCon vocal students joined singing and piano teacher Michelle Griffin to take to the stage at the inaugural Bathurst Performance Exchange at Keystone 1889. The performance presented a great opportunity to showcase local talent and to perform and promote upcoming shows in a friendly and relaxed setting.

MitCon students got to close out the show and brought down the house with rousing performance numbers from the Con's two upcoming Cabaret evenings on 21 & 22 July 2023 at Keystone!





## *Farewell, Julia Romano ...*

Singing, piano and musicianship teacher Julia Romano is retiring after many years as a well-loved staff member and performer. Julia is an outstanding teacher of over thirty-five years experience, specialising in Classical Singing with a leaning towards Musical Theatre, Musicianship and Piano. In 2018, as part of its centenary celebrations, the AMEB recognised Julia with an award for her dedication to music education.

Her professionalism and cheery disposition will be missed by students and staff alike!



## *... and Nicole Hammill*

We also say goodbye to violin teacher, strings coordinator and Bathurst Chamber Orchestra leader Nicole Hammill, who is resigning to seek performance opportunities in Sydney and beyond.

Nicole performed for nearly 20 years with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra as soloist, concertmaster and Acting Principal First Violin. During her time at MitCon, Nicole was an inspiring and empathetic teacher to students of all ages and a wonderful orchestra leader. We wish Nicole and husband John well in their new endeavours!





## *MitCon teacher profile - Pete Armstrong*

In this newsletter, we profile one of the Conservatorium's long-standing and popular teachers, Pete Armstrong!

Pete rejoined Mitchell Conservatorium in 2016 and, as well as maintaining an active guitar and drum teaching studio at MitCon, he also tutors guitar and drums at schools in Bathurst and Lithgow. Pete tells us that he specialises in playing and teaching easy listening music that includes bluegrass, early pop and rock'n'roll, and classic country "that swings" - if you've ever attended one of Pete's popular gigs, you will recognise his range and talents immediately!



Recently Pete has been playing guitar for singer/songwriters Kylie Adams-Collier and Sandy Louise McNaughton, and he is a regular and well-regarded performer at the Tamworth Country Music Festival (that's Pete and partner Jo at Tamworth). Pete's current projects include vocals and guitar with Lawson Creek, Armstrong Brothers and solo shows that include his original material. We at the Con reckon Pete is a great asset to the organisation and wish him many more years of teaching and performing!



## *Creative Kids Vouchers*

*Creative Kids*  
*Create something great.*



You can use your Creative Kids voucher with us before 30 June. Don't forget to email or send your voucher into the office.

Creative Kids is available for all NSW school children. Go to [www.service.nsw.gov.au/creativekids](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/creativekids) or phone 13 77 88.



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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.