



EVENT CALENDAR: Summer Holidays & Term 1 2009

All events at the Ainslie Arts Centre unless otherwise indicated

Fri 19 Dec – Sunday 11 January	MFE office closed for summer break: re-opens Mon 12 January 2009
Mon 19 January 2009	DUE DATE for re-enrolment & payment of fees for continuing 2008 members
Wednesday 21 January	Enrolments open for new members
Tue 27 – Sat 31 January	ROCK SCHOOL Holiday Workshop for 11-16 years
Saturday 31 January 6pm	ROCK SCHOOL Showcase Concert
Sunday 1 February 2pm	ROCK SCHOOL Free outdoor concert National Museum of Australia
Tuesday 3 February 5pm & 6pm	Come & Try sessions Contemporary SINGING: 5pm Youth 14-17 yrs 6pm Adults
Wednesday 4 February 3pm-6pm	Info & Enrol session for new members
Sunday 8 February	Contact Day, Garema Place Civic: Rock School performances & MFE stall
Monday 9 February	MFE TERM 1 2009 Classes commence
Monday 9 February 5pm	Act Up Sing Out Juniors: Information Session
Tuesday 10 February 6.45pm	Come & Try session SAXOPHONIX ensemble
Wednesday 11 February 4.30pm	Come & Try session LEYENDA youth guitar ensemble
Monday 9 March	Canberra Day public holiday – no classes
Sunday 29 March 3pm	MFE Ensembles Concert & AGM
Thursday 9 April	Last day of classes Term 1

COME AND TRY SESSIONS – give something new a go in 2009!

SINGING Tuesday 3 February

5.00-5.45pm: Youth 14-17 yrs 6.00-6.45pm: Adults

Develop your natural voice and learn the basic techniques for singing rock, pop, jazz and other contemporary styles of music, in an enjoyable and supportive group tuition program. Classes for adults, and NEW for 2009 a youth class for ages 14 to 17 years. No previous experience necessary – just bring your voice!

SAXOPHONIX Tuesday 10 February 6.45-7.45pm

This fun saxophone ensemble is for adults & youth from 15 years who have been playing for at least three to four years, can read music, and play at around AMEB level Grade 3-4. If this is you, and you love playing music of all styles with others, come along with your saxophone and try playing with this great group.

LEYENDA youth guitar ensemble Wednesday 11 February 4.30-5.15pm

This new group is for young acoustic guitar players aged from 10 years who have been learning guitar for at least two years, can read music and enjoy playing music for fun with other kids! Come along with your guitar and see if this group is right for you.

All sessions at the Ainslie Arts Centre Elouera St Braddon

music FOR everyone Newsletter December 2008

Act Up Sing Out Juniors: THE MAGICAL CHRISTMAS BOX 23-25 November

A very talented young cast led by director Nina Stevenson and musical director Erik Fink performed this final AUSO musical for the year, which was enthusiastically received by large audiences of families and friends, plus crowds of school children. An entertaining story that explored Christmas traditions to find the true meaning of Christmas, the Junior performers gave us all a wonderful end of year show. A great team of volunteer parents created lovely costumes and props, and helped to keep everything running smoothly back stage. Many thanks to Nina and Erik for all the hard work, creativity and professionalism they put into this show. Erik moves on to a new position next year as director of music at St Paul's Anglican Church - we wish him well in this new venture. And after 27 outstanding AUSO shows, Nina has decided to take some time off next year and is going away on a round-the-world trip - we're looking forward to some postcards! Her leadership, skills and dedication have developed Act Up Sing Out into a unique and highly-regarded program, with so many young people encouraged to achieve their very best in music theatre - everyone at MFE thanks Nina for her outstanding contribution so far to the success of AUSO.

MFE End of year Concerts: 7 & 14 December

Three end-of year events had packed programs full of great music from a varied range of instruments played by musicians of all ages, and the concerts were most enjoyable for the audiences. The MusicPlay Gathering with littlies and their adults making festive music together was a great success as usual, the Youth Concert showed a very high standard of playing from our young students, and again we had a very large number of people performing at our Adult Concert with most impressive playing from a lot of groups who have really developed in leaps and bounds over the past year. Well done to all our performers, and a very big thank you to all our MFE tutors for their extra work on these concerts. And thanks to Michelle and Greg for their work on the running of these events.

Annual theme for 2009: Celebrate Australian Music

Australian music in all its form, indigenous and non-indigenous, is our cultural theme for 2009. We look forward to performances of all types of Australian music throughout the year, we're doing three AUSO musicals with very Australian stories (see key dates below) and hope to present some other Australian music events if possible, although without funding for our special projects in 2009 from the Australia Council, we've had to cancel some great visiting artists we had lined up for this year. That's a shame, but Australian music is all around us, so let's open our ears and focus on the amazing cultural sounds of our own country!

Good-bye and thank you to some wonderful MFE tutors & Hello to some new ones

Sadly for MFE, in 2008 we said good-bye to some of our wonderful tutors: Gerry our amazingly versatile wind tutor who has created and developed so many wonderful classes and ensembles, Lina who takes her flute to Sydney and its symphony orchestra, Nina and Erik from AUSO - see above, Ewan and Vanessa our violin tutors who both move on to new professional music challenges, Nick our singing tutor moves with band Casual Projects to Melbourne, and Katherine who will stay with us to take String Swing but has to stop her violin teaching with us until her health improves - we hope that's very soon! To all these tutors, thank you so much for your contribution to MFE and your dedication to your students - we'll miss you! And we welcome new MFE tutors and look forward to great music-making with them in 2009: Benn (flute/clarinet/saxophone), Stephanie (flute), Mary, Frances, Alex, Claire and Tim (all for violin!), Rachael (singing), and also Greg (guitar) who began with us in Term 4.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMING UP:

• Rock School performance Sunday 1 Feb 2pm National Museum of Australia

Youth rock bands from MFE's summer holiday workshop, *SmokeFree Rock School*, take to the stage performing high energy rock classics plus their own original songs - bring along the whole family and enjoy this free outdoor rock concert on the last day of the school holidays.

• Contact Day Sunday 8 Feb Garema Place: MFE stall & Rock School performance

MFE will have an info stall and Rock School bands will perform at this great community day in Civic - come along and enjoy a wonderful day out. For times of Rock School performances on this day, visit our website and go to Latest News.

• Come and Try Sessions: SINGING, SAXOPHONIX, LEYENDA

Try something new this year! Go beyond singing in the shower and learn the tricks of the Australian Idol trade with our expert new contemporary singing tutor Rachael. Or if you play saxophone, maybe you're ready to join one of our great ensembles, *Saxophonix*, who are keen to welcome new members. And young guitarists will enjoy playing with other kids in our newest ensemble *Leyenda*. For all of these, we've organised special Come & Try Sessions to start off the year - just come along and see if a program is right for you, there's no charge if it doesn't work out. For dates & times of these session, plus info about these programs see box on first page of this newsletter. And if you're interested in joining any other MFE ensembles, they are also open to new members - get in touch with the MFE office and we'll make a time for you to meet the ensemble tutor. You can read about the different skill levels required for each ensemble on the MFE website.

KEY DATES & EVENTS FOR 2009

MFE TERM DATES 2009		MFE CONCERTS 2009	
Term 1	9 Feb - 9 April	Term 1	MFE Ensembles Concert Sunday 29 March 3pm
Term 2	28 April - 3 July	Term 2	Members Concert Sunday 17 May 3pm
Term 3	20 July-25 September	Term 2	Australian Theme Concert Sunday 28 June 3pm
Term 4	12 October-11 December	Term 3	Winter Warm-Up Sunday 30 August
		Term 4	Members Concert Sunday 8 November 3pm
		Term 4	End of Year Concerts Sundays 6 & 13 December

ACT UP SING OUT PERFORMANCES 2009		
Blunder Down Under	21-23 June	Ainslie Arts Centre Hall
Ginger Meggs	30 Sept-7 Oct	Belconnen Community Theatre
Ned Kelly	22-24 November	Ainslie Arts Centre Hall