

MELBOURNE YOUTH MUSIC ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF ITS 2011 STRING PROGRAM

In recent months, Melbourne Youth Music has announced major appointments to its Board and to the Artistic, Educational and Management teams. These significant developments are helping to ensure the regeneration of Melbourne Youth Music as one of Australia's leading music training and performance organisations. The continued growth of Melbourne Youth Music has resulted in the formation of a new string ensemble from 2011, **Melbourne Youth Chamber Strings**.

Melbourne Youth Chamber Strings will be lead and directed by violinist, Mary Johnston. Mary has extensive experience as a professional musician and music educator. Mary maintains an active career as a freelance musician, having formerly held positions with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Mary is now heavily involved with teaching young musicians, and is currently Head of Strings at Melbourne Girls Grammar School and conductor of the Symphony Orchestra at Mac Robertson Girls' High School.

"Melbourne Youth music is delighted that one of Melbourne's most passionate string educators, Mary Johnston has agreed to take on this new ensemble in 2011. The addition of the Melbourne Youth Chamber Strings further strengths Melbourne Youth Music's commitment to offering the very best opportunities for young string musicians to develop their skills."

Fabian Russell, MYM Artistic Director

The Melbourne Youth Chamber Strings under the guidance of Mary Johnston, will give members the chance to rehearse advanced string repertoire, demonstrating their achievements as an ensemble at performances throughout 2011 and working alongside a range of high-profile guest directors.

Melbourne Youth Music has also welcomed to the conducting faculty for 2011 Hamish Paterson, who has been appointed to lead the **Melbourne Youth Strings** program in 2011. Hamish comes to Melbourne Youth Music with a great deal of experience working with young string players and currently conducts ensembles at Loreto Mandeville Hall and Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School. Hamish's knowledge of string repertoire and technique will bring an outstanding depth to Melbourne Youth Music's string program.

One of the success stories of 2010 has been **Melbourne Youth Junior Strings** conducted by Kieran Casey. This program provides an opportunity for young string players in their formative years to have an enjoyable ensemble experience in a creative and nurturing environment. Kieran's high-energy approach to music making has resulted in exceptional musical growth of the ensemble across the year, and Kieran is thrilled to be continuing with Melbourne Youth Junior Strings in 2011.

MYM General Manager, Chris Clark commented: *"Melbourne Youth Music's mission is to take a leadership role in the development of youth music in Victoria and to encourage an appreciation of musical excellence. The addition of Melbourne Youth Chamber Strings to our 2011 Ensemble Program along with the distinguished team of conductors and tutors we have assembled, further strengthens our ability to encourage the next generation of musicians and to build their confidence both as performers and as future leaders in the community."*

Further information on Melbourne Youth Music's 2011 Ensemble Program can be obtained by visiting the MYM website www.mym.org.au

Media enquiries: Ben Kringas
Tel: 03 9376 8988
Email: mym@mym.org.au
www.mym.org.au

Strategic Partner



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development

MEDIA RELEASE