

TEAM OF PIANISTS 2010 SPRING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

- SPRING PIANO SCHOOL - INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS SEMINAR

In the Term 3 to Term 4 school holidays a lively group of school aged pianists descended on Glenfern for the Team of Pianists 2010 *Spring Piano School*. For three days from September 22 to 24, 13 primary school kids, from Melbourne, from Griffith NSW, and as far afield as Malaysia occupied Glenfern each morning, while in the afternoons 16 secondary school students from regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne attended. Tutors for the school were Max Cooke, Darryl Coote and Robert Chamberlain from the Team of Pianists, with guest teacher Peter Hurley, a specialist in improvisation and creativity. Peter's popular sessions were titled "Making it up – Fun with Creativity at the Keyboard" and they introduced the younger children to elements of improvisation and composition. Monash University School of Music – Conservatorium Masters students Zhang Chi and Hsiao-Ni Axtens, acted as teacher assistants to Max, Darryl and Robert for the secondary school group lessons in the afternoon sessions.

As well as games and challenges, repertoire lessons and duet work, the Junior participants enjoyed making new friends, riding bikes around the Glenfern garden and performing to their family and friends in a concert on the final day. The secondary school students focussed intensively on their concert and exam repertoire, in group lessons and masterclasses, with the opportunity to try their Baroque style works on a harpsichord. As well as a concert to family and friends on the final day, a sponsorship presentation by Bernie Capicchiano rounded off the program.

Bernies Music Land was the major instrument sponsor of this event, supplying two high quality Roland digital keyboards, as well as a fine Bernstein upright piano. These instruments greatly enhanced the 2010 *Spring Piano School* and enabled best use of the unique historic spaces at Glenfern. The digital pianos proved very popular - they were used for quite a lot of practice, for individual tutoring by the Monash University post-graduate tutors, as well as for some enjoyable "exploring of the sounds". During a recess break, one young lad was overhead working his way through the palette of sounds on the Roland digital piano, from honky tonky piano to organ to concert grand piano, with repertoire to suit all styles! The Bernstein upright piano enabled the Team to accommodate a greater number of students this year, equipping our third teaching space in fine style.

Scholarship funding was provided by the Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc (FOTOPS) - 16 scholarship were awarded in 2010. In addition FOTOPS and Bernies Music Land collaborated to provide two encouragement awards in the form of \$100 Print Music vouchers. These were awarded to Junior Participant Claudio Neumann and Senior Participant Alexandra Clayton from Bendigo.

A few days later Glenfern was host to the second Team of Pianists *International Teachers Seminar*. Around 20 teachers and university students from Australia and Malaysia enjoyed a program of lecture/workshops focussing on specific teaching issues as well as repertoire, masterclasses with performance by talented Australian students of all ages plus a promising young Malaysian secondary school age pianist,

concerts as well as a informal dinner, and catered lunches, morning and afternoon teas. Peter Hurley was again the guest presenter teaching popular, modern and jazz styles from current examination syllabuses while Max, Darryl and Robert contributed the other sessions. The opportunity for professional development, for networking and international exchange was enjoyed by all. Bernies Music Land was again the instrument sponsor for this event and participants enjoyed an informative presentation by Bernie Capicchiano entitled "Inside the Piano".

Educational Events for 2011 are already in planning. The 2011 Spring Piano School will take place from Monday October 3 to Friday October 7, 2011. This expanded timetable will allow a more expansive program and will also incorporate a recital and masterclass by visiting Canadian pianist Dr Roger Lord, who was an adjudicator in the 2010 Australian National Piano Award in Shepparton.

The Team of Pianists greatly values Bernies Music Land's sponsorship and support for these annual events. Their careful choice and supply of quality instruments, additional to the Schimmel Konzert series 213 grand and the Bernstein 178 grand already on site at Glenfern, allows us to use the teaching and performance spaces at Glenfern for exciting educational events such as the *Spring Piano School* and the *International Teachers Seminars*.

Robert Chamberlain, Team of Pianists
November 2010.