

The Monash University Academy of Performing Arts

The Monash University Academy of Performing Arts (APA) is an initiative of the Vice-Chancellor formally commencing operations in 2006. The Academy has been fortunate to engage Jeffrey Crellin (Music) and Peter Oyston (Theatre), both of whom have outstanding careers in their respective fields, as the foundation Artistic Directors. Drawing on the students from the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies and the School of Music-Conservatorium, the Academy provides a cultural context for highly professional theatre and music production, which is underscored by both artistic and academic discipline. The APA facilitates the development of relevant and innovative performance arts practices and practitioners to combine to make a significant contribution to the cultural and intellectual life of Monash University and its communities.

The music component of the Academy complements and expands the effectiveness of programs and directions already undertaken by the School of Music. By giving students the opportunity to work side by side with guest mentors and professionals in orchestral and chamber music groups, learning will occur both by example and from direct advice. For 2007, Jeffrey Crellin has developed programs and festivals which will bring together many disciplines of the Monash performing arts areas to promote the strengths of the University and to inspire students by giving them exciting public platforms to work towards. These opportunities, which are outside the normal experiences that students at Monash have hitherto experienced, are only possible due to the formation of the Academy.

In the first year the Academy has produced two fine orchestral concerts. The newly formed Academy Orchestra joined with Slava Grigoryan to perform *Rodrigo* "Concerto de Aranjuez" for guitar and orchestra. Ian Munro was the featured guest artist in the second concert. In September the Music in the Round at Monash provides twenty four hours of music and drama in six venues running simultaneously, culminating in a grand festival final evening concert. The festival showcases the talents of Monash's staff and students in classical music, jazz and drama.

In the theatre the Academy has created a season of *The Bacchae* performed by the Academy's Graduate Ensemble and to be presented at Chapel off Chapel in August. This is an accessible adaptation by Artistic Director, Peter Oyston. A production of *The Gate* has been commissioned by one of Melbourne's leading playwrights and will have a season in October. *Hamlet*, *The Three Sisters* and *The Crucible* toured to schools and Monash campuses in March of this year.

Jan Clancy
Director

BIOGRAPHY

Jeffrey Crellin is currently the Artistic Director – Music at Monash University Academy of Performing Arts and principal oboe of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, a post he has held since 1977. Born in Brisbane, he first attended the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, studying the oboe with Frank Lockwood, before transferring to Jiri Tancibudek at the University of Adelaide, completing an Honours Degree in 1974. He was the 1973 Commonwealth Winner of the ABC Concerto and Vocal competition (now ABC Young Performers), and in 1974 received a two-year Churchill Fellowship which took him to Freiburg in West Germany to study with the renowned oboe virtuoso, Heinz Holliger. While in Germany he won first place in the Freiburgmusikhochschole Oboe Competition.

Jeffrey has made over one hundred concerto appearances with orchestras in Germany, France, Japan, New Zealand and Australia, including performances with the Melbourne, Sydney, Queensland, Tasmanian and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras, the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Adelaide Chamber Orchestra and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. A keen chamber musician he founded the Australian Chamber Soloists in 1984, touring regularly for Musica Viva, and in 1989 also undertook an Australian tour as guest artist with the Reger String Trio from West Germany. He has performed regularly in Japan in both solo and chamber music capacities in Tokyo, Osaka, Ogaki, Kyoto and Kanazawa. He was invited by Toru Takemitsu to appear at the 1989 Takemitsu Ginza festival in Tokyo, and in early 1993 spent two months as guest soloist and principal oboe with the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa.

His discography includes “Distance” and “Entretemps” by Takemitsu with the Arditti String Quartet for the Fontec label, Riccardo Formosa’s “Dedica”, written especially for him with Patrick Thomas and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for Vox Australis, “Vers L’arc-en-ciel Palma”, by Takemitsu with guitarist Norio Sato, conductor Hiroyuki Iwaki and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for ABC Classics, “Images” with flautist Prudence Davis and guitarist Peter Lynch, and “Pictures at an Exhibition” as soloist and conductor with the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra for Move records.

As conductor, he has appeared with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Chamber Orchestra, Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra, Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Geminiani Chamber Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Choir, and the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra which he founded in 1990, holding the position of Artistic Director for seventeen years from 1990 until October 2006.