PRESBYTERIAN LADIES' COLLEGE

Old Collegians' Association

MELBA MUSIC CONCERT

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2020 AT 3PM

Celebrating the 145th
Anniversary of Music at PLC

PLC PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
MELBOURNE

WELCOME

I have been so inspired by the enthusiasm and generosity of all our Old Collegian musicians who have joined together today, to entertain us and to raise money for the OCA Melba Music Scholarships. For my hardworking OCA Committee, after 18 months of planning the dream of holding a concert in the new PAC has become a reality.

A very special thank you to all our talented musicians and the numerous Old Collegians who have joined together to make this concert happen. In particular I thank our Concert Coordinator, Dr Ros McMillan (1959), our co-comperes Peter Ross and Lisa Leong (1989), our backstage team, our ushers and our refreshments team. A special thank you to the Principal for making the PAC available and also for all the support we have received from PLC Departments including Audio Visual, Publications, the Print Office and the Development Office. Special thanks should go to PLC's Heritage Centre Manager, Janet Davies (1980), who has provided the story of our rich music heritage with photo boards and key dates, and PLC Archivist Jane Dyer.

Please join us in celebrating this event.

Ailsa Wilson
President, PLC Old Collegians' Association

Music has played an important part in PLC life for 145 years. From the earliest days of the school it has been regarded as an essential aspect of the education of all its students.

Today's concert showcases over 40 musicians, mostly past students or music staff, whose links with PLC cover more than 70 years, from the late 1940s through every decade to the present. There are also three 'external' artists and two current students performing. The program consists of a variety of musical styles ranging from Italian opera to contemporary music theatre. It includes works from the Baroque era to the 20th century, as well as improvisation and the traditional music of Scotland and the West Indies.

It is testament to the quality of music-making at PLC over many decades that today's concert includes musicians and composers of the highest calibre in Australia, all of whom first became involved in music as school students. We hope you enjoy the diversity of sounds you will hear and appreciate the high standard of the performers.

Ros McMillan
Coordinator, Music program

PROGRAM

Concert Patron – Peter Ross

Compère – Lisa Leong

Welcome and official opening of concert
Ros McMillan and Dur-è Dara

1 ***Caro Nome* from *Rigoletto* (1851), Giuseppe Verdi (1813—1901)**
Ivanna Cheng, soprano, Hui-Ling Yeo, piano

2 ***Sonata for Eb Saxophone and Piano* (1939), Paul Creston (1906—1985).**
Cheryl Tsui (2019 Melba Scholar), alto saxophone
Hui-Ling Yeo, piano

3 ***Prelude* from Suite in C major, BWV 1009 (c.1717—1723), Johann Sebastian Bach (1685—1750)**

4 **'Cloudscape' for Morgan (2018), from *Mirror Reflections*, 2nd movement, Clare Strong (b. 1992)**
Edith Ellis, piano, Vivian Wong, violin, Janine Hanrahan, flute

5 ***Rain Aroma* (2016), Sharon Ross (b. 1957)**
Sharon Ross, tenor steelpan, Jesse Brown, double tenor steelpans

6 ***Re-Echo* (2015), Katy Abbott (b. 1971)**
Carmen Chan Schoenborn, xylophone, Josephine Vains, cello

7 ***Bioluminescence* (2019), Liza Lim (b. 1966)**
Paula Rae, flute

8 ***Wildflowers* (arr. 1979), Brian Brown (1933—2013)**
Edwina Kayser, Catherine Leslie, Samantha Richardson, violins,
Ruth McNair, Julia Choate, celli, Annette Sloan, Janine Hanrahan, flutes,
Ian Godfrey, clarinet, Jennifer Henry, Cheryl Tsui, Jesse Brown,
Sharon Ross, percussion, Hui-Ling Yeo, piano, Ros McMillan, conductor

BIOGRAPHIES

Ros McMillan (1959) – welcome
Dr Ros McMillan AM completed 60 years of teaching in 2019, including founding Head of the Yamaha Music Foundation (1970—1974), Director of Music at PLC (1974—1987) and Lecturer then Head of Music Education at the University of Melbourne (1987—2004). She is a keyboard player (synthesizer and pipe organ) and performed with her late husband, Brian Brown, in his trio from 2000 to 2010. Ros is an Honorary Senior Fellow in Melbourne University's Graduate School of Education.

Dur-è Dara (1962) – official opening of concert
Dur-è worked in youth welfare before focusing on music and developing restaurant ventures. She was the first woman president of the Victorian Restaurant and Caterers Association and received the OAM in 1992 in recognition of her promotional and fundraising activities for women's groups. She is a Director of the Victorian Women's Trust and has received the Vida Goldstein Award for Excellence. Dur-è was named on the Inaugural Women's Honour Roll in 2001.

Lisa Leong (1989)
Lisa is the host of *This Working Life* on ABC Radio National, the CEO of specialist consultancy O10 APAC and a Council Member of Ormond College, the University of Melbourne. Her focus is helping organisations and individuals to 'double down on being human at work' and her unique approach has been the subject of a Harvard Law Case Study and TEDx talk "Can robots make us more human?".

Peter Ross (Director of Music 1987-2007)
Peter began his musical career taking piano lessons at the age of 16 before gaining a BMusEd from the University of Melbourne. He was Head of Music at Melbourne High School then Wesley College during which time he took study leave, gaining an MMus and an MEd (Admin) at Columbia University, New York. Peter spent a year as Deputy Director of the Victorian Ministry for the Arts before being appointed Director of Music at PLC, a position he held for 21 years.

Hui-Ling Yeo (1983)

After leaving school, Hui-Ling graduated as a dentist while continuing to play piano and organ. She then undertook further piano studies at Monash University while teaching in the Yamaha Music system. Hui-Ling has been a member of the PLC Music staff since 2002, teaching piano and accompanying students. She runs a private teaching studio at home and recently acquired an adorable rescue puppy named Charlie.

Ivanna Cheng (2000)

Ivanna sang in the children's chorus of the Australian Opera for a number of years and at the age of 14 was selected to join the Gondwana Children's Choir touring Australia. While in year 11 she played the lead role of Mabel in the PLC/Scotch production of *Pirates of Penzance* and received her A.MusA in piano the same year. Ivana studied Music/Commerce at Monash University, majoring in classical voice.

Cheryl Tsui (Year 11 2020)

Cheryl is a year 11 IB student and was the recipient of the Melba Scholarship in 2019. She has been playing the saxophone for 10 years and completed her grade 8 ABRSM exam with a high distinction. In addition to the alto saxophone she plays a variety of instruments, including percussion, piano and guitar as well as the Chinese instrument, the erhu, all at an advanced level.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MUSIC AT PLC

1875 'From the first year, music tuition was available at the College, but unusually for those times, the founding staff regarded music as a serious branch of education and equally as important as Mathematics and Geography.'

Music Education at the Presbyterian Ladies' College Melbourne 1875–1935 by OC Rosalind McMillan (1959) (Director of Music at PLC 1974–1987)

Five Music teachers listed in the College Prospectus: Mr J. Buddee, senior piano teacher; Mrs Lyttleton, piano teacher; singing teachers, Herr Elsässer and Miss Clipperton and class singing under the direction of Mr Furlong.

1880
First midwinter music concert held.

Madame Carlotta Tasca appointed to teach Harmony.

Signor Adolpho Mallet appointed to teach piano.

1883 Mr Harper (PLC Principal 1879–1888) announced that the teaching of music at the school was to be thoroughly reformed.

'Hitherto each music teacher had had his or her own pupils and gone his or her own way 'as if they had not been in the same institution', but for the future music was to be a department under a director who would be responsible for all the work done in it, and to mark the scholastic status of music two scholarships were to be offered each year, one for piano and one for singing.'

PLC The First Century 1875–1975 by Kathleen Fitzpatrick p 81.

1884 Appointment of first Music Director at PLC – Mr Alfred Plumpton. (1883–1886)

All students studying music now expected to do so at school and efforts were made to provide lessons outside school hours.

Thirty students studying Theory of Music.

1886 Ninety pupils were learning piano, singing and harmony.

First recorded public appearance of Ethel Lindesay Richardson (1887) (known at school as Etta or Ettie) as one of the star pupils in music at PLC.

1887 Mr George B. Fentum appointed Music Director at The Ladies' College. (1887 until his death in 1914.) 'Mr Fentum, whose eminent musical ability, and skill and conscientiousness as a teacher, are well known in Melbourne. Mr Fentum is also an accomplished organist and teaches the organ to all who may wish it.'

PLC Prospectus 1900–01.

Violin offered as an 'extra' for the first time.

1889 First concert given by the Music Staff.

PLC OC Ethel Florence Lindsay Richardson (Henry Handel 1887) enrolled at the Royal Conservatorium in Leipzig, Germany to study piano.

BIOGRAPHIES

Emily (2018), Alice (2015) and Lucy (Yr. 11 2020) Clapperton

The Clappertons have been playing and performing music for as long as they can remember, in school choirs and orchestras and also as soloists. Their main passion, however, has always been singing and performing musical theatre. The sisters are very excited to be performing a song from musical theatre as a trio for the first time on a PLC stage.

Josephine Vains (1991)

Josephine is an Australian cellist, chamber musician and educator, with a performance career that encompasses modern and historical cello. An adventurous spirit has taken her to some far-flung concert venues - from an ancient cave in the heart of China to mountain-top Bach in the French Alps. Josephine relishes training the next generation of Australia's musicians at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, and the University of Melbourne. Today she performs on instruments by Thomas Dodd (London, 1800) and Thomas Kennedy (London, 1850).

Sharon Ross (1974)

Sharon has performed music from around the world throughout her life. More recently she has concentrated on the music of Trinidad, in the Caribbean, and the steelpan instrument which is handmade from 44 gallon oil drums. Sharon performed for HM Queen Elizabeth in 2002 at CHOGM and has won an Australian award for her steelband composition Carnival Done Gone. She has produced three CDs, two of which feature her own compositions.

Clare Strong (2010)

Clare Strong (née Johnston) has composed works for some of Australia's leading performers and ensembles including the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, the Goldner String Quartet, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, PLEXUS and Claire Edwardes, among others. Clare completed an MMus at the University of Sydney and a BMus at the University of Melbourne. She has received a number of awards including the Doris Burnett Ford Scholarship, the Esther Rofe Award and the David Henkels Award for Composition.

Edith Ellis (1973)

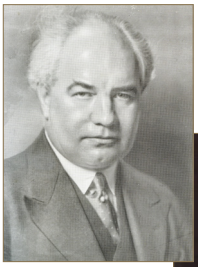
Edith has had a long association with music at PLC. She was School Pianist in 1973 and after completing a BMusEd began teaching in government and independent schools. On Annette Sloan's recommendation, Edith was employed in the Music School by Peter Ross and subsequently became head of keyboard before retiring in 2018 after 26 years of teaching, accompanying, organ and piano work.

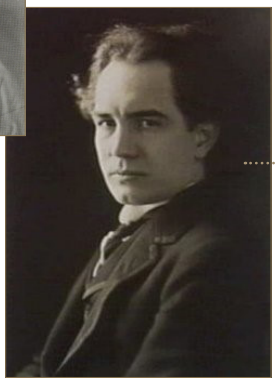
Janine Hanrahan (1984)

Janine is Principal Flute with The Australian Discovery Orchestra. She has been soloist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Dinu Lipatti Philharmonic and Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, Melbourne. In 2016 she performed with the Synchron Stage Orchestra and the Bratislava Studio Symphony Orchestra on the critically received album of the orchestral music of Nan Schwartz. Janine taught flute at PLC from 1985 to 2002.

Vivian Wong (2019)

Vivian was Music Captain in 2019 and completed her IB with outstanding results. These included Dux of Music, with violin as principal instrument. This year she has enrolled in a double degree in Engineering/Law at Monash University while beginning a career teaching violin. Vivian is also an accomplished singer and plans to join an a cappella choir at Monash.





1891 Miss Ada Bloxham appointed to teach singing.

1892 Music appeared as a matriculation subject for the first time; six passes and two of them were from the College.
(The Argus 21 Dec 1893)

1895 Three Music Scholarships awarded annually.

1900 'Music (including Singing) is sedulously cultivated. Indeed, the College now justly claims to be an important School of Music, and its reputation here is as well established as in other branches.'

PLC Prospectus 1900–01

1901 Music students numbered 120.

Individual instruction given in Singing, Piano, Violin, and the Harmonium, and classes in Theory of Music.

1902 Old Collegian and world famous operatic soprano Nellie Melba (Helen Porter Mitchell 1880) visited PLC and was met by her old school friends who then decided to meet regularly, forming the PLC OCA the following year. Melba was the first Australian to achieve international recognition as a classical musician.

1903 PLC Old Collegians' Association established.

1907 Nellie Melba accepted the position of President of the PLC Old Collegians' Association and a garden party was held in her honour.

1909 A competition for a College Song brought many entries: including "Who knows the swell of the clam'rous bell" ('The Blue, the Black and the Gold') by OC Enid Derham (1899). The winning entry was The College Song written in 1909 by PLC student Adele Metzner (1910) with music by PLC Music DIrector Mr Fentum.

1915 Mr W. A. Laver appointed Director of Music at PLC. (1915–1916)

PLC choir established.

1916 Mr Edward Goll appointed Director of Music at PLC. (1916–1935)

1918 The Music Rooms, the Preparatory School block, classrooms and cloakroom built in front of Woollahra at PLC East Melbourne.

OC Nellie Melba (1880) created a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for services in organising patriotic concerts during World War 1.

1921 School Orchestra founded by Miss Violet Woolcock.

1922 The Boarders' Choir started.

1923 Miss May Richards appointed to teach piano and music theory. (1923–1973)

1924 OC Dame Nellie Melba addressed the girls on her last visit to the school and presented a portrait of herself which now hangs in the PLC Performing Arts Centre.

1925 PLC OCA established a fund with the sum of £1,000 to purchase a pipe organ as a Jubilee gift to the school. (New organ purchased in 1960)

BIOGRAPHIES

Katy Abbott (1988)

Dr Katy Abbott is forensically curious about what makes us tick. Her music explores our passions, fears and motivations using contemporary musical flavours in traditional musical settings focusing on human connection. Katy's compositions are performed, published and recorded around the world. She has five solo discs of her work on ABC Classics and MOVE records. Katy is Senior Lecturer in Composition at the University of Melbourne's Conservatorium of Music and is the current Fellow (Music) with the Australia Council for the Arts.

Carmen Chan Schoenborn (1997)

Carmen is a composer-performer whose graphic compositions and project 'Do You See What I Hear?' have been featured locally and internationally. She was awarded a grant in 2017 by the Earle Brown Music Foundation for a tribute concert to Earle Brown and Morton Feldman that included a new work in their honour co-composed with Warren Burt. In 2018 she was one of three featured female composers for the Summers Night Project by TURA New Music. Carmen performs with Adam Simmons in a shakuhachi and marimba duo.

Liza Lim (1984)

Professor Liza Lim began composing in Year 7 with the encouragement of Music Director, Ros McMillan. She studied music at the Victorian College of the Arts/ Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and the University of Queensland. Her compositions focus on collaboration and transcultural and ecological ideas. Current projects include a large cycle Annunciation Triptych (2019–21) for the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, as well as a new work for the Sydney Symphony. Liza is Professor and inaugural Sculthorpe Chair of Australian Music at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Paula Rae (guest artist)

After graduating with distinction from the VCA, Paula undertook further studies in Europe. Then from 1988 to 2004 she was Associate Principal Flute in Orchestra Victoria, and now is called on regularly to play with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Paula is a founding member of Elision Ensemble and has performed with the group in Germany, England, Italy, Russia and Norway, as well as all major Australian festivals. With Elision, Paula has recorded for NMC, Etcetera, Ricordi, BMG and ABC Classics.

Associate Artists

The OCA is immensely grateful to the Associate Artists for their contribution today.

Cheryl Tsui (Year 11 2020), Edwina Kayser (1984), Catherine Leslie (1996), Samantha Richardson (1984), Ruth McNair (1980), Julia Choate (1985), Annette Sloan (1952; Music Staff 1966–2006), Ian Godfrey (Music Staff 1973–1979), Jennifer Henry (1985), Jesse Brown (Guest Artist)

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The Rusty Gate Jazz Ensemble has dusted off the music of 'Watermelon Man' and is looking out for new players. Connect now through Stagey 1889–2007 Facebook page or with Gil Harvey at info@plateoflife.com.au

Sally-Anne Richter (2005) is reaching out to other past students who would like to join her in an OCA Pipes and Drums Band. She can be contacted at sallyanne40@hotmail.com"

1927 OC Dame Nellie Melba (1880) elevated to Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire.

OC Dame Nellie Melba sang at the opening of the Provisional Parliament House in Canberra.

1931 First performance of the Junior Choir, the Boarders' Choir and the Day Girls' Choir at the annual concert. This concert included chamber music provided by a string trio and a quartet as well as two original compositions by student Bernice Lum. (Binny Lum 1931)

1932 OC Louise Hanson-Dyer (Smith 1900) established the major music publishing and recording company, the L'Oiseau Lyre, (The Lyrebird Press) in Paris.

1933 Miss Sylvia McConkey appointed Acting Director of Music (1933—1936) due to Mr Goll's ill-health.

1934 OC Louise Hanson-Dyer (Smith 1900) awarded the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, for her work for French music, with promotion to Officier of that order in 1957.

1935 The 60th Anniversary celebrations of the College included a Jubilee Concert in the Melbourne Town Hall.

1936 The Boarders' Choir made its debut over the air in the Presbyterian Half-Hour.

1937 Miss Sylvia McConkey appointed Director of Music at PLC. (1937—1948)

Mrs Carroll appointed to teach Junior School music in Hethersett.

1949 Mr Raymond Fehmel appointed Director of Music at PLC. (1949—1962)

1953 The Music Department purchased a radiogram to play micro-groove records.

A complete set of Lyrebird Press records sent to PLC from Paris by OC Mrs Louise Hanson-Dyer (Smith 1900).

1959 New School Song "Lamp Unto Our Life" introduced. The tune was written by PLC student Rosalind McMillan (1959).

A Junior Choir was formed whose members were made up of first and second form students.

1960 Dedication of the new organ in Wyselaskie Hall, which was presented to the College by the PLC Old Collegians' Association.

Formation of a Junior School Percussion Band comprising tambourines, triangles, cymbals, castanets and drums.

1961 First full-scale House Concerts held following on from former House Choral Concert format.

1964 'The Blue, the Black and the Gold' mentioned in Patchwork as the PLC School Song for the first time.

A record club for classical music lovers was formed.

1965 Mrs D. Hills listed as Musical Director in Patchwork.

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS
IN TODAY'S CONCERT

A major focus in the PLC music curriculum for many years has been the inclusion of creative activities. As a result, a number of past students have established careers as composers, four of whose original works are performed at today's concert and described by each composer. A fifth work was specially arranged in 1979 for performance by a PLC chamber group.

CLARE STRONG – CLOUDSCAPE FOR MORGAN

Cloudscape is dedicated to my late friend Morgan Mansell (1993—2018) who tragically passed away far too young. It depicts the image of clouds reflected in water. The work incorporates a brief quotation of a favourite work of Morgan's, Rebel Heart, by the Corrs, which we played together in an ensemble.

SHARON ROSS - RAIN AROMA

I wrote this music in the midst of a Brisbane summer rainstorm, the sort that starts with steamy humidity and growing tension. When the rain finally buckets down it is a tremendous release and the overwhelming scent encourages renewal. The title is a mischievous play on words: one of the most iconic calypsos played by steel bands is Lord Kitchener's *Rain-O-Rama* which tells the story of *Carnival* being rained out in 1972.

KATY ABBOTT – RE-ECHO

This work is a re-imagining of another work of mine titled The Empty Quarter. The piece represents a region in Saudi Arabia that borders the UAE where I was living at the time. Although elements of the work hint at the desolate isolated geographical area, (which incidentally inhabits some of the world's most formidable sand-dunes), it also contains other, emotionally 'empty' aspects, such as separation from country and family/friends.

LIZA LIM –BIOLUMINESCENCE

Bioluminescence, for solo flute (2019), was written for flautist Paula Rae who is performing the work today. The piece explores the flickering, shimmering qualities of Bioluminescence which is the emission of light by organisms such as fireflies, fungi and many sea creatures. A famous example is the Hawaiian bobtail squid which carries bacteria whose luminescent specks act as a form of 'invisibility cloak'. The squid blends with moonlight on a starry night seeming not to cast a shadow from the perspective of any prey below.

BRIAN BROWN (1933–2013) WILDFLOWERS

This work was originally written for the Brian Brown Quartet then re-arranged for a PLC chamber group. It was first performed at Speech Night in 1979 as a tribute to retiring Vice-Principal, Mrs Donalda Crofts. The piece was inspired by the wildflowers that emerged each Spring at Brown's holiday house east of Warburton. Despite freezing winters and long hot summers, tiny wildflowers in the richest shades of magenta, pink and blue would emerge every year. The music evokes the natural bush of Victoria with sounds of wind, a storm and an often repeated seven bar melody representing the wildflowers.

1967 The Music Society became open to anyone in the school.

1969 Miss Stooke formed the first Junior Orchestra, and Miss Torry, the first Recorder Consort. Pupils of Miss Thompson, Mrs. Sloane and Mr. Simpson combined frequently to form Wind Ensembles.

1970 Miss Loris Synan appointed PLC Director of Music.

1971 Miss Judy Anderson appointed PLC Director of Music.

1972 A lunchtime group of Junior School instrumentalists formed by Miss Dingwall.

1973 Mrs Joan Earle appointed PLC Director of Music.

1974 Ms Rosalind McMillan (1959) appointed Director of Music at PLC. (1974–1987)

PLC OC Lauris Elms (1947), an Australian contralto renowned in opera and lieder, appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

1975 Official Opening of the Centenary School of Music. Guests included past PLC Directors of Music Miss Sylvia McConkey and Mr Raymond Fehmel.

1976 In the new Music School, over 250 girls took part in weekly choral, orchestral or chamber music activities, with a total of 534 extra subject lessons given every week.

The generous centenary gift of $3,300 from the Committee of the Junior School Parents' Association made possible—among other things—the establishment of the beautifully furnished and equipped Sub-Primary music room, thus enabling the complete reorganisation of the Junior School music program.

Miss Rosemary McIndoe, pianist, and Mrs Margaret Kelso, cellist and pianist, joined the Junior School Music staff. Miss Aileen Stooke was in charge of violin teaching and instrumental group work, including Junior School orchestra and massed instruments, and Miss Jean Torry was in charge of the Grade V and VI Recorder Consort.

PLC College Choir performed with The Brian Brown Quintet as part of the Moomba Jazz Festival held at the Dallas Brooks Hall.

PLC Assembly Choir formed.

1977 The Getting of Wisdom film released, based on the 1910 novel by OC Henry Handel Richardson (Ethel Florence Lindesay Richardson 1887). Set in 1890s Victoria, Laura enters an exclusive Melbourne ladies' college based on Presbyterian Ladies' College.

OC Lauris Elms (1947) awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

1979 PLC Big Band formed, comprising saxophones, trumpets, trombones, bass, keyboards and percussion.

OC Lois Couzens established the Friends of Music School. Through informal concerts with well-known artists, the group was able to establish a bursary which is awarded each year to a girl in year 7 for the duration of her music studies at PLC.

PLC Newsletter April 1988

1984 PLC Music scholarships offered for the first time.

1986 Introduction of a system of Music Colours and a badge for Music Captain.

1987 Mr Peter Ross appointed Director of Music at PLC. (1987–2007)

1988 Approximately thirty ensembles within the Music School, covering a wide spectrum of music styles.

PLC OC Lauris Elms (1947) appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

1989 Old Collegian and PLC Piano Teacher Miss May Richards (1919) donated her Ronisch grand piano to the College.

1990 PLC Music colours for Year 10 approved.

1992 The PLC Stage Band spent 10 days in Fiji.

1995 PLCOCA choir formed, led by conductor OC Rosemary McIndoe (1957).

1996 A new Brass Ensemble opened a wonderful evening of musical entertainment at the annual concert at Robert Blackwood Hall.

1998 PLC Old Collegians presented an evening concert of PLC's musical heritage.

2000 Four performances of 'PLC in Pageant – The History of PLC' in Wyselaskie Hall.

2002 The Friends of the Music School presented the inaugural Music Roundabout, one 'extravaganza' night, which incorporated the former evenings of Jazz Cabaret and Music in the Round and aired the talent of over 400 students. The evening provided continuous performances in five different venues around the school, presenting all types of music and musical performances.

2003 Rhapsody in Blue, Black and Gold Concert held in Wyselaskie Hall to celebrate the Centenary of the PLC OCA. The Centenary Concert featured the newly formed 'Rusty Gates Band', the Old Collegians' Choir, an Old Collegians' Orchestra and a percussion ensemble.

2004 Inaugural performance of PLC's Pipes and Drums at the Family Twilight Picnic.

2005 Inaugural PLC 130th Anniversary Music Tour to Shanghai, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

Four performances held of 'The Getting of Wisdom - the Musical', the most ambitious PLC musical to date involving all students and many staff, with a total audience of over 2000. PLC Head of Jazz Studies, Mr Lachlan Davidson, composed the music and Miss Anne Friend oversaw the choral and vocal sound.

2006 PLC's Pipes and Drums became the first girls' school Pipes and Drums band to march in the Anzac Day Parade.

PLC OCA EVENT DATES FOR 2020

Saturday 16 May 2020

3.00pm – 7.00pm

AGM and Light Meal
with Lord Mayor Sally Capp

– Supper Hall, Melbourne Town Hall

Monday 18 May 2020

OCA Golf Day
– Royal Melbourne Golf Course

Tuesday 16 June 2020

2.00pm – 3.15pm

Tea and Conversation Afternoon
– Heritage Centre

3.45pm – 5.00pm

Driver Cup: OCA vs Senior A Hockey
– Hockey Fields

Friday 17 July 2020

6.00pm – 8.00pm

2019 Reunion Cocktail Party
– PLC

Saturday 29 August 2020

2.00pm – 5.00pm

PLC Women Panel
– Doris Daniel Theatre

Saturday 14 November 2020

11.00am – 3.00pm

November Spring Luncheon
– PLC

Online Donation to
Melba Scholarship would be appreciated:

Account name: PLCOCA

Account BSB: 063-197

Account number: 00900486

Reference details: Melba (and your name)

PLC senior string quartet provided the music for the guests and Prince Edward at the official Commonwealth Games Luncheon.

The Orange Tree Concert was held as part of the PLC Arts Roundabout on 3 September. This matinee concert celebrated the life of John Shaw Neilson, the acclaimed Australian lyric poet. It included especially commissioned music which, along with Neilson's verse, was performed by PLC students. Shaw Neilson's patron was OC Mrs Louise Hanson-Dyer (Smith 1900), founder of L'Oiseau Lyre Press, illustrating the historical and cultural links between the poet and Old Collegians of his day.

The University of Melbourne renamed the Music Library the Hanson-Dyer Music Library in honour of PLC OC Mrs Louise Hanson-Dyer (Smith 1900).

2007 PLC Music Tour visited Mainz, Paris, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

2008 Mr Richard Squibb appointed Director of Music at PLC. (2008 to the present)

2009 The first PLC vs Scotch Battle of the Bands held, as two of PLC's finest rock bands faced off against two of Scotch College's best. Funds raised for PLC's sister school in Malawi, Neno Girls' School.

2011 PLC Music Staff consisted of 60 musicians.

2014 PLC Music Tour to Paris, Heidelberg, Munich, Salzburg, Vienna and Prague.

2016 OC Janet Fry (Perkins 1960) donated a collection of nine bound copies of Gilbert and Sullivan scores owned by former PLC Director of Music, Mr Raymond Fehmel, (1949–1962) to the PLC Archive.

OCs Sally Anne Richter (2005), Katherine Gekas (2006) and Vivienca Luong (2015) played at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Melbourne.

2017 Official Opening and Dedication of PLC's Performing Arts Centre by world-renowned composer OC Professor Liza Lim (1983).

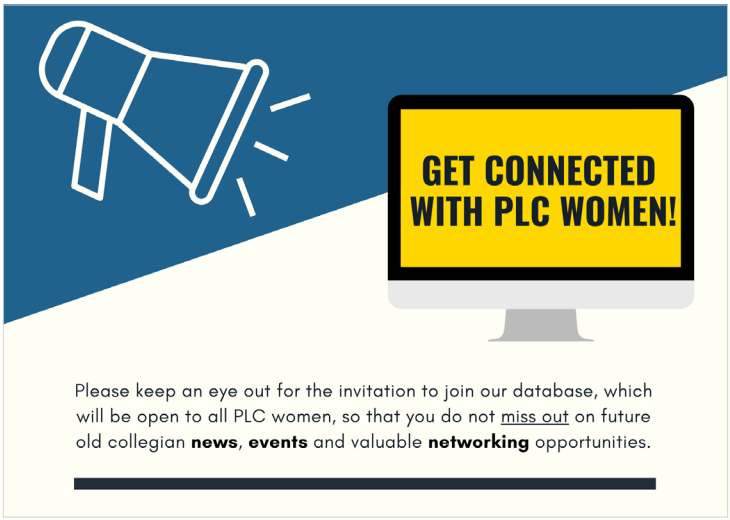
Professor Lim presented with two national awards at the Australian Arts Music Awards.

2018 More than 1200 people attended the three concerts held for the Festival of Music.

2019 PLC Senior School ensembles include: Wind Quintet, Senior Stage Band, Intermediate Band, Concert Band, Senior Percussion Ensemble, Intermediate Percussion, Chamber Strings, Senior Strings, Intermediate Strings, Piano Ensemble, Contemporary Piano Ensemble, String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Pipes and Drums, Licorice Sticks, Brass Ensemble, Barklamb Players, Guitar Group, Harmonics, Latin Band, PLC Flutes, PLC Clarinets, Clarinet Quartet, Year 9 String Quartet, Pied Pipers, Melba Chorale, L'Oiseau Lyre,Vocalease and Glee Choir.

2020 PLC OCA Melba Music Concert held in the PAC on 21 March.

Information collated from materials held in the PLC Archive.



Stage flowers generously donated by Gwen and Peter Sanders, Bena, South Gippsland https://growlightly.com.au/