

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS
Festival of Bands

Community Workshops

Saturday 15th July, 2017

Calvary Church, Gladstone St, Emerald



Barega Saxophone Quartet

The Barega Saxophone Quartet was formed in 2007 and is one of Australia's premier single reed ensembles, performing across the country and internationally. The group enjoys a versatile and wide-ranging programme of music from French and classical repertoire to minimalism and contemporary works, in addition to specializing in compositions of a crossover classical/jazz nature. A primary goal of the BSQ is to perform and promote original repertoire and Australian works; they have premiered new music composed by Michael Bakrnčev, Louise Denson, Thomas Green, Catherine Likhuta, Andrew Garton, Nathan Lam, Andrew Kennedy, and Andrew Ball, at events including 'SaxOpen', Strasbourg, 2015, the Australasian Saxophone and Clarinet Conference, Sydney, 2013; XVI World Saxophone Congress in St Andrews, Scotland, 2012; the Crossbows Festival, Brisbane, 2012; and the Australian Clarinet and Saxophone Festival, Melbourne, 2011. Barega's debut album "Three Serpents" is the first volume in a series of recordings capturing their proud tradition of championing new music by Australian composers and arrangers.



Player Profiles



Emma Di Marco (*Soprano Saxophone*)

Dr Emma Di Marco is a talented young saxophonist hailing from Brisbane, Australia and a rising star in the Australian classical saxophone community. Emma maintains a fulfilling portfolio career as a saxophonist, chamber musician, educator, adjudicator, artistic director, and events manager. She is also a D'Addario Woodwind Artist and proud advocate for Rico Reeds and Accessories. Praised for her impressive musicality and superb tone, Emma balances an active performance schedule both as a soloist and as a chamber musician. She has performed recitals in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Hobart domestically as well as various cities in the UK and France. Emma engages regularly with Australian composers in the development of new Australian solo classical saxophone repertoire, particularly with fellow young composers to support the next generation of Australian classical music. Emma is a founding member of acclaimed ensemble the Barega Saxophone Quartet and has performed across Australia and Europe with the group. The ensemble has garnered an international reputation for excellence in Australian music following a performance at the XVI World Saxophone Congress in Scotland in July, 2012. As an educator, Emma is a sessional lecturer in saxophone at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music; the saxophone specialist in residence at Somerville House; and a Woodwind Instructor at Grace Academy. Following a successful solo debut at 'SaxOpen' the World Saxophone Congress and Festival in Strasbourg in 2015, Emma will toured domestically in Australia in 2016 with a new program entitled 'Shimmer' celebrating both new Australian music and the classics of the saxophone repertoire.



Samantha Mason (*Alto Saxophone*)

A graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium with a Bachelor of Music in performance, Samantha's focus lies in the commission and performance of contemporary saxophone repertoire. Samantha was the 2012 concertmaster for the Queensland Conservatorium Saxophone Orchestra, performing with the group in England, Scotland, and Greece. Also in Scotland, Samantha made her debut with the Brisbane based Barega saxophone quartet at the 16th

World Saxophone Congress. She has been extremely active with the group since, with concerts in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Strasbourg, France at the 2015 "SaxOpen" World Saxophone Congress and Festival. Barega recently released an album of new, commissioned works from Australian composers and in 2016, performed an Australian premiere concerto with Queensland Wind Orchestra.

In 2013 Samantha participated in the international contemporary music course Impuls in Graz, Austria studying under Marcus Weiss and Lars Mlekusch. She was featured performer with Brisbane contemporary music ensemble Kupka's Piano during their



residence at the Judith Wright Centre in 2014. Samantha also gave five world premieres in her solo, duo, and quartet concerts at the Australasian Clarinet and Saxophone Society Conference in Sydney in 2014. She performs and tours regularly with gypsy band Greshka in many Brisbane venues and festivals and performed with the group at Woodford Folk Festival in 2016.

Samantha also is involved in musical theatre productions playing woodwinds in 10+ shows since 2010. She has taught woodwinds to students of all ages both privately and in schools for 8 years, and has had the opportunity to tutor small and large ensembles. Her involvement in the Queensland Clarinet and Saxophone Society as a member, adjudicator, and secretary for 4 years has provided Samantha with experience in event planning and fostering a strong musical community in Brisbane. Samantha's Masters degree in Audiology has taken her to a new profession in hearing health where she plans to pursue her special interest of hearing care for musicians.





Andrew Ball (*Tenor Saxophone*)

Andrew Ball enjoys a diverse career performing, composing and educating. He graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium in 2012 with a Bachelor of Music (First Class Honours in Advanced Performance). Andrew is currently tenor saxophonist and resident composer with Barega Saxophone Quartet, and performs and tours regularly with nu-wave brass band Bullhorn, His Merry Men, and the Enthusiastic Musicians Orchestra (E.M.O) big band. Internationally, he has performed and premiered compositions with various groups at 'SaxOpen' in Strasbourg, France 2015, the World Saxophone Congress XVI in St Andrews, Scotland, 2012, and participated in the 22nd annual Université Européenne de Saxophone in Gap, France.

In 2011, Andrew was a featured soloist with Divertimenti string orchestra, performing Richard Rodney Bennett's 'Concerto for Stan Getz'. As a composer, he has premiered a variety of works; with recent commissions from ensembles including The Australia Ensemble, Hourglass Ensemble, Collusion, Australian Saxophone Orchestra, Con Artists big band, and Queensland Youth Orchestras. Internationally, Andrew has premiered and performed his compositions in France, Scotland, Italy and Greece. With a uniquely kinetic, intricate and colourful compositional voice, Andrew draws inspiration from an eclectic variety of contemporary classical, avant-garde, improvised, and electronic musics. His compositional approach consistently extends the limits of instruments and their performers, and aims to challenge attitudes and ideologies surrounding all aspects of context and genre.





Melissa Baldwin (*Baritone Saxophone*)

Melissa Baldwin enjoys an active and diverse career as a clarinetist, saxophonist and music educator in Brisbane. A graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Melissa completed her Bachelor of Music majoring in Advanced Performance (Clarinet) in 2009, receiving the Robert S. Alva Award for academic excellence in her final year of study. Melissa went on to complete her Graduate Diploma of Education at the University of Queensland in 2010.

Melissa is the Clarinet and Saxophone Specialist Tutor at Loreto College Coorparoo and has held this position for nearly 10 years. Over this period, she has worked tirelessly to develop a strong clarinet and saxophone program at the school. Melissa is also a passionate ensemble director and currently conducts two Loreto College Clarinet Ensembles, the contemporary ensemble Exit Stage Left as well as the combined Villanova and Loreto Colleges Symphony Orchestra.

In her spare time, Melissa maintains a busy performance schedule with a number of ensembles in the wider Brisbane community. She enjoys all musical styles and genres, performing as the Principal Bass Clarinetist with the Brisbane Philharmonic Orchestra as well as playing alto saxophone in the Pepperazzi Big Band. She can also be found performing regularly as a reed player in pit orchestras around Brisbane for theatre companies such as Savoyards and Gateway Theatre Productions.

Always looking for ways to give back to the Brisbane musical community which has given her so many opportunities, Melissa dedicates her time as a committee member of the Queensland Clarinet & Saxophone Society. Melissa is very excited to be playing baritone saxophone in the Barega Quartet for their Emerald tour.



Choir 1 - *Conducted by Alicia Cush*

Title

The Water is Wide

How far I'll Go from Moana

Composer / Arranger

Jewel and Sarah McLachlan

Arr. Alicia Cush

Lin-Manuel Miranda

Arr. Ed Lojeski

Choir 2 - *Conducted by Alicia Cush*

The River Sleeps Beneath the Sky

Niska Banja

Mad World

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Nick Page

Gary Jules and Michael Adrews

Arr. Alicia Cush

Concert Band 1 - *Conducted by Russell Gray*

Mighty Towers

Snooze Alarm

Matt Conway

Mekel Rogers

Concert Band 2 - *Conducted by Russell Gray*

Vivo

Song Without Words

Douglas E. Wagner

Gustav Holst

Arr. Michael Story

Tim Ferrier

Sci-Fi

Concert Band 3 - *Conducted by Russell Gray*

Celebration

Nimrod

Randall D. Standridge

Edward Elgar

Arr. Alfred Reed

Karl Jenkins

Arr. Robert Longfield

The Armed Man

Intermission

Barega Saxophone Quartet Repertoire *includes:*

Grand Quatuor Concertant

Jean-Baptiste Singelee

Pondside

Louise Denson

Adriana

Miguel Astor

Arr. Jan Thalman

Simpler Times

Andrew Garton

Selected Movements from

Modest Mussorgsky

Pictures at an Exhibition

arr. by J. van der Linden

A Gozar Con mi Combo

Israel Lopez "Cahao"

Arr. Jan Thalman

Yakety Sax

Arr. Philippe Marillia

*Please be advised
that for legal
reasons the video
taping or
photographing
of any part of
this performance
is strictly
prohibited.*





Alicia Cush (*Conductor—Choirs*)

Alicia Cush is a Brisbane-based performer, musical director, arranger and independent producer. She commenced musical training at an early age studying violin, flute, piano and voice, following by formal tertiary study at The University of Queensland, The Victorian College of Arts and The Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

Currently, Alicia is a touring vocalist/instrumentalist with Circa Contemporary Circus and the Creative Director of Little Black Dress Creatives, directing and performing with cabaret collective Babushka and operatic ensemble Belladiva. These ensembles have performed at many prestigious events, including Brisbane Festival, the nationally televised Carols in the City, The New Year's Eve Spectacular with The Queensland Pops Orchestra, Queensland Cabaret Festival, Wonderland Festival, The Adelaide Fringe Festival, The Noosa Long Weekend, The Woodford Folk Festival and The Anywhere Theatre Festival.

As a chorus member of Opera Q, Alicia has performed in the company's productions of Carmen, Tosca, Turandot, La

Traviata, Aida and ABC Classic's recording of Opera's Greatest Choruses. In 2009, she completed her Master of Music Studies Opera Performance degree at The Queensland Conservatorium of Music. Her performance experience in the main stage productions included the roles of Euridice in Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice and Helena in Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Also during her studies, Alicia was the soprano soloist in the QGCM's 50th year Choral Celebration performance of Orff's Catulli Carmina and won several prestigious competitions, including the Nickson Prize for Voice, The Dr Francesco Castellano Italian Operatic Award and The Linda Allen Postgraduate Prize.

As a choral conductor, Alicia has conducted the major works Cavalleria Rusticana and Handel's Messiah and directed many community choirs, including the madrigal ensemble Pro Musica Singers, the Brisbane Birralees Voices and all choirs at Brisbane Girls Grammar School. Alicia has also been a chorister with St Stephen's Cathedral Schola, Canticum, Concentus and The National Youth Choir of Australia and tutored singing at various secondary schools for twelve years. Recently, Alicia has been a Music Producer with 2high Festival, toured internationally with Circa Contemporary Circus' Helpmann Award-winning production Il Ritorno and finished an 18-month Fresh Ground Artist-in-Residence program at the Judith Wright Centre Contemporary Arts with her production company Little Black Dress Creatives and major production Doll. This year saw Alicia touring nationally to major venues with Il Ritorno, a Queensland state tour of Babushka's Doll, feature in the iconic concert series Women in Voice and in development for major projects and touring in 2017 and 2018. The next year will include a Queensland state tour with Belladiva, producing various shows for major venues and festivals, training at Brisbane Academy of Musical Theatre and in creative development for a new project, The Owl & the Pussycat – An opera for children, in association with Queensland Theatre and Arts Centre Gold Coast.





Russell Gray (*Conductor—Bands*)

Russell Gray's career as a conductor began in 1998, when he was appointed as the resident musical director of the Stavanger Brass Band (Norway). Since then his reputation as an authoritative interpreter of brass band music has been acknowledged at home and abroad. Since 2008, he has been principal conductor of Molde Brass Band (Norway) and is Adjunct Professor of brass at Queensland University (Australia). Russell has enjoyed considerable success within the world of brass band competitions with leading ensembles in Norway, Denmark, Finland, France, Switzerland, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia. Russell enjoyed periods as the principal conductor of Foden's, Fairey and Leyland brass bands and since 2012 has been principal conductor of Reg Vardy Brass Band, the leading band in the North of England.

A proud Scot, Russell was born near Glasgow, and came to prominence within the world of brass bands as a cornet virtuoso. During his student years, he was a member of the world famous Black Dyke Band and went on to enjoy a number of years as principal cornet of the Leyland Band. He has also produced six solo albums, including two acclaimed releases featuring historic cornet repertoire from the celebrated Arban collection of solos and studies. Russell is a Yamaha endorsed artist and is much in demand as a leader of workshops, clinics and seminars. He also leads Yamaha's star-studded NEO Brass Ensemble. He has appeared to great acclaim at the Royal Albert Hall (London) and Symphony Hall (Birmingham) to the Grieg Hall (Bergen), Stravinsky Hall (Montreux) and the Sydney Opera House. Russell dedicates much of his time to the development of young musicians. He has conducted the National Youth Brass Bands of Switzerland and Queensland (Australia) and in 2014 was appointed artistic director of the National Youth Brass Band of Scotland. He is a recipient of the prestigious Iles Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians in acknowledgment of his outstanding services to the brass bands.

Following post-graduate study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Russell's career also embraces the worlds of orchestral and wind band music. In 2015, he conducted the Danish premiere of Gavin Higgins BBC Proms commission *Velocity* with the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared as guest conductor with the Cambrian Philharmonic (Wales), the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic (Czech Republic), Queensland Pops Orchestra (Australia), Her Majesty's Band of the Coldstream Guards (London), the Royal Life Guards Band (Denmark), the Norwegian Navy Band (Bergen).





Special thanks to



Queensland Government

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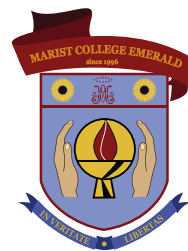
Rio Tinto



Rotary
Club of Emerald



Emerald Town Band
Roberts Street Emerald
Intermediate Band: Mondays 5:30pm
Town Band: Mondays 7:00pm
Jazz Band: Wednesdays 7:00pm



*Should you be interested in becoming a sponsor
of this event please email James Raschle on
James_Raschle@rok.catholic.edu.au*

