From the Principal

Dance Malthouse 2016
My thanks to the dance students and staff for a wonderful season. The school just continues to do great work in partnership with generations of dancers. And young dancers continue to work through the pitfalls and challenges of dance to deliver for their peers, families and school. The daily injury management list was enough for me to appreciate that let alone my experiences daily with dancers.

The audiences were warmly appreciative of the performance and loved every part of the show. ‘Studies’ (and Coda) reflected on everything we love about ballet. Thank you to Maggie Lorraine, Tim Harbour, Janne Blanch, Olga Polyetayeva and John Grayling, along with our students for your parts. Fiona Munroe and the junior dancers did beautiful work in Les Petitles Saisons. I thought by Saturday night the students had really developed and grown over their time on stage with this lovely work.

‘The Wiz’ was fun, with some take way moments. I laughed out loud when the munchkins poked their heads the first time and Kimberley Lamb walked out all sassy. The whole ensemble was strong but Olivia Castagna was so lovely in the solo Home, beautifully lit by our longstanding lighting designer Tim Newman.

I really enjoyed Sela Kiek and Steven McTaggart’s ‘Out of Darkness’ with the dancers. The score so powerful and drawn upon by the dancers with their lights, and stunning and powerful movement - the collectivity of the piece was lovely.

Jonathan Taylors Year 10 work ‘Summers End’ was great and showcased our dancers at this level. Year 10 dancers always feel a bit in between as they wait for the stage in year 11 and 12. Their patience will be rewarded next year. I thought they shine in one of the best pieces of the night. They have Creative Season 7-10 and Creative Season 11 to assure them they will have their time. He is a longstanding mentor of dancers and they are lucky to have worked with him.

The year 11 and 12s were wonderful in ‘Chorale’ and ‘Volante’, and how brilliant it is to have Tim Harbour with us as one of our teachers. I wonder if we can also call him our resident choreographer? I liked ‘Chorale’ very much, the music selection a longstanding joy of mine with beautiful motifs, pauses and signs delivered with energy.

‘Volante’ returned to masthead this season and students did a great job revisiting this work. My thanks to Tim Harbour, Maggie Lorraine and again Olga and John playing Philip Glass – never for the faint hearted.

Rhapsody – Gershwin, Copeland, Moneverdi
I think the music staff and students should be very proud of themselves it was a well-received and triumphant concert on the very last Friday of term 3. Students have told me how much they enjoyed working with Warwick Stengards who is our guest conductor this year. His work with the orchestra on Copeland’s Appalachian Spring – Suite and Rhapsody in Blue was fantastic. One of the marvels in our school is the ability for students to work with and learn from a really interesting range of music professionals. My sincere thanks to him. Of note was the work of Concert Master Kye Yim Loh in the Copeland.

The Choral Selections were lovely and showcased many of our fine voices and created good opportunities for the Associate Artists including 2016 Outstanding Soloist Leo Mares. They hop stepped us through several eras of music and it was highly enjoyable and well received. Dermott Tutty again showing he is one of the best musical Directors in the country.

To work with Marshall McGuire and Ludovicò’s Band in that interesting early music space is a joy, and I thought the music so amazing. We don’t hear enough early music. To have one of the world’s best harpsichords, creative directors, alumni and original Hall of Famer was significant for us. The handing on of music traditions from one generation to another was beautiful to watch, let alone within the VCASS family. Dermott Tutty’s Direction on the choral component was really great as always.

Rhapsody In Blue capped the night; I am not sure the orchestra has sounded better or captured the audience more. We were transported to 1924 New York, Sung Won masterful on the Steinway and Sons Piano, working hand in glove with Warwick and all the performers and Concert Master Ally Cho. I must admit about 11 minutes into the work the music just captured my heart and when that solo violin takes over before the orchestral crescendo I was taken away and deep in the musical experience. My personal thanks for that to our students, like all of us I was tired at the end of the term but that sublime moment gave me a treasured memory and made me very happy.

My sincere thanks must go to our faculty, to our Head of Music Michael Sargeant, Assistant Head of Music Mary Jo Kelly (who looked after the production), Dr Julie Haskell – who imagined this event with staff one year ago, Sue Lyons, Jenny Gillan, Dermott Tutty, Ian Whitehurst, Gabriella Ibbott, Anne Lewitzka, Kim Beissel and Louisa Breen. My thanks for all the work Daniel Holden and Assistant Principal Hilary Bland complete behind the scenes to keep us a professional as we are.

And finally to our music students, who remain the inspiration for our work, with so many performances framed around what you bring to our school, feeding our love of teaching and creating magic with us.

Australian Ballet School Showcase
The Thursday night before the end of term saw Hilary Bland and myself supporting our Australian Ballet School students at their Showcase 2016. It was a technically strong and beautiful show which sees the Director Lisa Pavane’s vision of live music at performances having a huge impact. To see dancers with musicians is always a joy and adds much to performances. We were very proud of the ABS students and excited as many of them are about to commence their careers are dear to us.

COLIN SIMPSON

Accolades: 1st prize, Monash University Concerto and Aria Competition and Chamber Music Prize 2015.

Luke has been busy performing with *Allotropy*, a new experimental string quartet and also at Monash University.

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**Semi-finalists announced for Wallace International Cello Competition**

The semi-finalists have been announced for the inaugural Wallace International Cello Competition, the final rounds of which will be held as part of the Wallace International Cello Festival 2016 at the University of Wollast in August.

Festival Director and Senior Lecturer in Cello, James Teonbai, selected eleven semi-finalists, all under the age of 25, from a strong pool of international candidates. Young cellists will be travelling from England, Switzerland, Singapore, and Australia, among other countries, as they vie for a position in the final and a chance at winning a share of $10,000 donated by the Wallace Foundation. “I was extremely pleased with the calibre of entrants,” says Teonbai. “This bodes well for some excellent performances in the semi-finals and finals. That achievement, so early in their respective careers, is highly impressive.”

The Wallace Foundation is proud to be supporting the Wallace International Cello Festival and in particular the inaugural Wallace International Cello Competition as both of these events give talented young cellists the chance to gain experience and insight from international guests and showcase their talents to audiences from around the world.

The semi-finalists will be held behind closed doors on Saturday 20 August, prior to the official lunch of the festival the following day. Competitors will be required to play a range of works, including Beethoven and Elgar variations, especially for this competition by University of Wollaston Senior Lecturer of Music Michael Williams. The pieces will showcase the borderline musical technique, insights, and talent. The best 3 or 4 cellists will be selected by the highly anticipated finals concert, to be held in the Sir John Golleigh Cello Chamber on Monday 22 August, 7:30pm. Tickets for the concert are now on sale from www.wollast.ac.nz/academy/wollast/cello/music.
BRENDAN YEATES—DANCE ALUMNI

The very versatile and fabulous Brendan Yeates has had a wonderful career thus far (biog below). A big thank you and Brendan for coming ‘home’ to VCASS to impart words of wisdom and give our year 12 dancers a realistic taste of what an audition is really like! Congratulations Brendan VCASS is very proud of your many achievements. Brendan is currently the resident choreographer of Matilda the Musical.
Georgie has developed some very interesting and varied performances. Her versatility and ability to parody is fantastic, and her youtube link is definitely one to visit.

ELI COOPER—DANCE ALUMNI

Eli Cooper is also in Matilda The Musical along with fellow alumni Brendan Yeates. Looking fabulous Eli! Congratulations.
ANGUS RADLEY—MUSIC ALUMNI

A fantastic picture of Angus performing in the Melbourne International Jazz Festival 2016 @ St James Bourke Street - Lunchtime Concert Series.
OSCAR JIANG—MUSIC ALUMNI

On August 22nd Oscar gave a Farewell Piano Recital for The Austral Salon Society. He performed, Ravel - Miroirs, Noctuelle, and La vallée des cloches. Oscar is now at the Juilliard School of Music. Congratulations Oscar from everyone at VCASS.
ROSS HANNAFORD—HALL OF FAMER AND DANCE ALUMNI

Ross has been very busy, just finishing a show season as an Actor, Singer and Puppeteer with the smash hit *Avenue Q*. Ross is also teaching the VCASS year 8 and 9 boys ballet class for term 3 and 4 while Tim Storey is on Long Service Leave.
DOM STITT—MUSIC ALUMNI

Dom Stitt percussionist/drummer performing with Barney McAll ASIO Band at Bennetts and below at MJF.
Luke Forbess—DANCE ALUMNI


What is your occupation?
Dance journalist and researcher

Where and when did you do your full-time studies?
From 2006-2008 at the École-Atelier Rudra-Béjart in Lausanne, Switzerland. Seeing as the European school year started before I completed year 12 I spent the first three months in Lausanne completely overwhelmed and overworked, adjusting to a new course and country, while finishing coursework at the VCA Secondary School by correspondence and preparing for and sitting VCE exams in the middle of the night.

What were your ambitions at the start of your studies?
I didn’t have a clear ambition when I moved to Lausanne, I was just very determined to find work in a ballet company and neither saw myself fitting in at the Australian Ballet School, nor in any Australian ballet companies for that matter. I wasn’t very familiar with Maurice Béjart’s work either, but I was an exchange student in Paris for six weeks in 2004 and coincidentally the Béjart Ballet Lausanne was there on tour during that period. That was my first encounter with his choreography and esteemed reputation (in France, at least) and I got caught up in the excitement surrounding his company. In hindsight I’m amazed by how little I knew about what I was getting myself into before moving overseas. Despite my being very meticulous, platforms like YouTube, for example, had only recently been founded so there weren’t any videos to be found online and I just had to follow my instincts.

Did your ambitions change during the course of your studies?
Only two of my classmates were offered contracts with the Béjart Ballet, which under other circumstances could have been disappointing for many of us. However, Maurice Béjart passed away at the end of 2007 and I think a lot of the dancers from the school and company were looking for a fresh start after the prospect of working with a renowned choreographer was removed from the equation. Also, like many dancers who leave their homes to go to ballet school, I realised shortly before graduating that I had been so busy training that I didn’t have the chance to establish any form of a social life. When it came time to look for my first full-time job I had nothing binding me to Lausanne or Switzerland and that’s how I ended up in Germany.
Ben on *The Creative Method*—10 Questions, 10 Lines.
Ben is currently in New York, USA.

**Ben Eunson - 10 Questions / 10 Lines**

**Ben Eunson**'s angular but melodically focused take on contemporary jazz guitar marks this NYC-based Australian as a player you'll likely be hearing a lot more about.

Already touring with the likes of Grammy award winning drummer Terri Lyne Carrington, Eunson's 2014 debut 'Autumn' suggests the emergence of an improvisational voice with the potential to plot an increasingly singular course.

This week we sat down to discuss, amongst other things, Ben's influences, approach to practice and outlook on developing identity as an improviser. Following the 10 question Q&A below, I've included a short analysis of Eunson’s recent performance on Chick Corea’s ‘Spain’, notating and explaining 10 lines which highlight significant aspects of his high-energy playing style.

So, before we begin, let's take a moment to listen and appreciate exactly why Ben Eunson is a guitarist and improviser worth paying attention to...

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**Autumn (EP)**

by Ben Eunson

Lonely City 00:00 / 07:34

Digital Album
Includes unlimited streaming via the free Bandcamp app, plus high-quality download in MP3, Flac and more.

Buy Now $4 USD or more
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1. Lonely City 07:34
2. Winter Song 07:19
3. The Poet 06:05
4. Autumn 05:57

www.beneunson.com
www.facebook.com/beneunsonmusic

Recorded February 2014, New Jersey
Engineered by Tom Tedesco
Mixed by Sean Wayland
Mastered by Nate Wood at Keneboom Studios
Emilio visited VCASS and spent time with our wonderful year 12 dancers imparting his knowledge and his journey so far. He has worked on the King and I on Broadway in the ‘Big Apple’ and West Side Story productions to name but a few! Thank you Emilio and congratulations on your fabulous achievements!
Congratulations Zoe on becoming an artist with OPERA AUSTRALIA! Fantastic achievement! Congratulations from everyone at VCASS.
After 2 years with West Australian Ballet, Genevieve has started work with the Ballet Theater St. Gallen in Switzerland.

MATTHIAS SCHACK-ARNOTT AND JAMES RUSHFORD—MUSIC ALUMNI

Matthias and James have both recently been involved in the Melbourne Art Foundation Program ART AND THE SONIC. Congratulations to you both.

The Melbourne Art Foundation proudly announces

Autotune Everything: Art and the Sonic – Cosmic – Politic

This free program will bring together dynamic thinkers and performers from across the world during Melbourne Art Week to stage a conversation on contemporary art, sound and public space.

MAF Keynote Event – Thursday 18 August
• Ute Meta Bauer, Founding Director of the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore
• Dennis Del Favero (Australia)

Friday 19 August
• Hou Hanru (Italy)
• Seth Kim-Cohen (USA)
• Johannes Kreidler (Germany)

Saturday 20 August
• Evelyns Joasane (USA)
• Caleb Kelly (Australia)
• Cecilia and C crawl (Kenji Grady and Terumi Narushima, USA)
• Marco Faskato

MAF 2016 Lectures & Forums will also include performances by Chunyi Rainbow Chan (Sydney), Megan Clarke (Sydney), Debbie Follis (Melbourne), Eric Demetriou (Melbourne), (re)source (Melbourne), Matthias Schack-Arnott (Melbourne), James Rushford (Melbourne), Masato Takesaka (Melbourne) and more.

Melbourne Art Foundation
2016 Lectures & Forums
19-20 August 2016, 6pm – 10pm
Greek Centre for Contemporary Culture
188 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Melbourne Art Foundation
24 Carlton St Prahran VIC 3181
T: 03 9521 3300
mail@melbourneartfoundation.com
melbourneartfoundation.com
FROM THE EDITOR.....

It is that time of year—Performances and Exhibitions. So much energy, excitement, anticipation and of course some very tired students, especially as the year 12s face the end of their time at VCASS and their final VCE exams just around the corner.

Every year, I look at the year 12 students and like so many other teachers and staff, remember their first days at VCASS, I also reflect, where does the time go? Oh too soon these wonderful, clever, accomplished young adults take their first steps on their own. Of course families are always there to support and encourage, but primarily the directions and decisions are up to each individual. I look at the Alumni in this current newsletter and I am very positive that the soon to be new Alumni will make their way with the same great personalities, talent, attitudes and work ethic to achieve their dreams—just like their predecessors!

Until next time, remember, please keep in touch, either on FACEBOOK or email me directly—purcell.jenny.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Warmest wishes

Jenn Purcell
The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School presents

**VOLANTE**

featuring works by

Tim Harbour and Jonathan Taylor with full supporting program

Merlyn Theatre
The Coopers Malthouse
Sturt Street, Southbank

Bookings open from 26th July
9625 0111

Thursday 6th September at 7.30pm
Friday 9th September at 7.30pm
Saturday 10th September at 2.00pm
and 7.30pm

Full $80.00  Concession $55.00
Matinee $50.00  Concession $33.00

Photography: Isca McGregor  Design: Andrew Fagan
Picture: Luke Erwin and Dylan (VCASS Student)
The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School presents

**Rhapsody**

**Gershwin Copland Monteverdi**

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Melbourne Recital Centre, Elisabeth Murdoch Hall  
Friday 16th September, 2016 at 7:30pm

**COPLAND**  
Appalachian Spring - Suite

**FAURÉ**  
Cantique de Jean Racine

**RHEINBERGER**  
Abendlied

**MONTEVERDI**  
Selections from L'Orfeo

**GERSHWIN**  
Rhapsody in Blue

Warwick Stengards conductor
Ludovico's Band guest performers
Sung Won Choi piano soloist
Dermot Tutton choral director
Students of the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School

**Tickets**  
$50 / $35 concession

Design  
Andrew Fraser
Photography  
Sophia Nozadera

Picture  
Sung Won Choi, Jessie Collins, Matt Evans  
(VCASS Students)
Visit VCASS Facebook Community page and VCASS Dance Information

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