This is the time of year where I am inspired to think about our school as if a spectator. As they say ‘on the balcony’ watching the dance below. This is because I am spending a lot of time speaking about our school to prospective parents and students. This enables me to reflect on our purpose, but also some of the elements that make us a unique school.

Young people are drawn to our school because of their passions and our world best programs. Parents are often drawn to us, if their children do not find us, in the normal search for a great school for their children. These important programs are VCASS Dance, VCASS Music, VCASS Visual Arts, VCASS Theatre Arts, Australian Ballet School Program, Gymnastics Victoria Program and (for one last year with us sadly) the National Institute of Circus Arts Program. The programs are important in, and of, themselves and the lens by which all those programs see our school. Academic Program teachers are rightly proud of their success in building and fashioning one of the most successful academic programs in the state. I call this the ‘second hook’ after the attraction to our Specialist Programs or the ‘first hook’. This reminds us that we are a School and Programs, a make us a unique school.

It was special to have Sydney Dance Company with us last week. A reminder we should open our doors and studios if we can to key dance companies like SDC. The excitement from the children was lovely and the conversations I heard amongst our students while they watched were powerful. Of course we also get a buzz from it. I finally met Hall of Famer David Mack, I was reminded how much I have enjoyed Hall of Famer Daniel Roberts dance pathway since teaching him in year 7 and how much of it we have shared with him, and to have Latisha Sparks with us at the start of her career. Very special for a lot of us. David Mack announced his retirement from SDC on Saturday night, what a stellar career so far. Here is David’s biography from the Sydney Dance Company.

‘David began his training at the Victorian College of Arts in 1998 finishing his secondary school education and completing a Bachelor of Arts in Dance. After briefly freelancing while studying, he joined West Australian Ballet in 2002 and stayed with the Company until the end of 2003. In June 2004 David joined the Rambert Dance Company in London where he spent two years performing as a Principal and Soloist in works by Christopher Bruce, Rafael Bonachela, Wayne McGregor, Fredrick Ashton, Kim Branstrup and Michael Clark. In 2006 David was invited to work with Javier de Frutos at Phoenix Dance Theatre. The Company toured extensively performing at the Venice Biennale and all over the UK. In 2008 he returned to West Australian Ballet as a soloist and choreographed his first work Papillon in the 2009 Genesis season. Since joining Sydney Dance Company in 2014, David has performed in numerous productions including Interplay (2014), 2 One Another (2014), Louder Than Words (2014), New Breed (2014 and 2015), Frame of Mind (2015), Triptych (2015) and Illuminated (2015). David was also part of Mira Calix’s Inside There Falls installation for Sydney Festival (2015). David was recently awarded the 2015 Green Room Award for ‘Best Male Dancer’ for Quintett & Frame of Mind.’

We celebrate David and his work. A little known fact is the male dancer, represented in our large bronze sculpture in the light court is David! This reminds us how important our alumni connections are and the great work Jenny Purcell is completing in this area. David Mack told me he loved the way the school showed interest in their alumni and it meant a lot to be followed and welcomed back. Daniel Roberts essentially told Hilary Bland and me the same.

That VCASS is not only one of the key dance trainers in Australia, that 7 years after leaving the VCA our program seems stronger and more confident than ever, as well as respected and is a credit to our Dance Program. I want to offer my sincere thanks to our Head of Dance Tim Storey for his central role in all of this.

In 2016 I plan to lead a review of the Hall of Fame to continue the dance and music celebrations and make a framework to welcome Academic, Visual Arts, Theatre Arts and Community Leadership to our categories. Once this final format is agreed we will make a major call out for the awarding of these categories to our alumni. We will of course welcome them to our school as often as we can. I would welcome any of our alumni’s thoughts on this.

COLIN SIMPSON
Nick has recently toured Europe with the Affinity Collective Quartet.

Affinity Collective Quartet has returned from an amazing time in Europe. We have come back incredibly inspired to keep building and developing our chamber music programs here in Australia and hopefully again overseas. We hope you enjoy browsing our tour blog and photos: http://www.affinitycollective.com/news

VISIONS OF PARADISE is our next Melbourne performance, 7pm Wednesday June 22nd at ANAM Hall - www.affinitycollective.com/concerts

We look forward to seeing you on June 22nd.

I hope some of the VCASS community can get along to support Nicholas and the collective at ANAM.

Nicholas completed a Bachelor of Music in 2012 at Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and commenced studies at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) with Adam Chalabi in 2013 whilst also participating in Sydney Symphony Sinfonia, where he was awarded the inaugural Joan McKenzie Emerging Artist Award. As a 2014 Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellow, Nicholas toured China, performed chamber music concerts throughout New South Wales and was featured in SSO’s Digital Masterclass Series with Andrew Haveron on YouTube. Also during 2014 Nicholas performed at Melbourne Recital Centre as a guest artist with Wilma and Friends. Nicholas has performed as a casual musician with Orchestra Victoria and the Sydney Symphony and in masterclasses with Dale Barltrop, Stanley Dodds, Stefan Jackiw, James Elnes, Anthony Marwood, and Tokyo and Tin Alley String Quartets. He is currently studying at ANAM with Robin Wilson and Sophie Rowell. In 2015 Nicholas won the Ebach Prize in the Kendall National Violin Competition and with Affinity Collective, won first prize in the ANAM Chamber Music Competition. In 2016 Nicholas will be an Australian Chamber Orchestra Emerging Artist and Second Violinist with Flinders Quartet.
VCE PREMIERS AWARDS 2015 RECIPIENTS —DANCE AND MUSIC

Congratulations to Andre Sasalu, Danielle Whitfort, Robbie Belchamber and Moses Carr on being Recipients of the VCE Premier’s Awards for 2015. Go VCASS!
ALISDAIR MCINDOE—DANCE ALUMNI

The very clever Alisdair’s ground-breaking dance film ‘KNOCK’. Congratulations Alisdair, it is overdue you were praised on this achievement! You can find this film on Dance Australia web page and Dance Informa and also on YouTube!
Duo Vela: Across the Seas Tour

Flute and Guitar ensemble Duo Vela will be performing around Melbourne this June-July. Please see attached flyer for more details.

Duo Vela performs enchanting music from across the seas, giving audiences a taste of the sounds, rhythms and cultures of different lands. Formed in 2014, the duo has brought their exciting programs to venues in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and China.

Visit www.duovela.net for more information.

From America on their Across the Seas Tour of China, Australia, and New Zealand!

Australian born guitarist Daniel Nistico has performed in numerous countries across the globe including New Zealand, Chile, Serbia and the USA, establishing himself as a guitarist of high calibre. Daniel has regularly featured on radio stations ABC Classic FM and 3MBS Fine Music Radio and has performed at prominent venues across Melbourne including the National Gallery of Victoria, Government House, the Arts Centre and Iwaki Auditorium.

Daniel was first taught by his father at the age of twelve and soon afterwards studied at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS), a specialist music and dance school. Daniel completed his undergraduate degree at the Victorian College of the Arts, studying with guitarist Tonié Field and pianist Dr. Donna Coleman. Daniel completed his Master of Music Performance at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music in 2013. In the same year Daniel recorded his debut album “Un Viaje Místico... A Mystical Journey,” containing both familiar works and hidden gems of the guitar repertoire.

Daniel is currently undertaking a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Nicholas Goluses and Paul O’Dette.

03 8644 8644    03 8644 8699    57 Miles Street, Southbank 3006 Victoria Australia    victorianarts.ss@edumail.vic.gov.au
RICHARD HOUSE—DANCE ALUMNI

Our warmest congratulations to Richard House on being the 3rd VCASS alumni to have been commissioned by The Australian Ballet to create a world premiere work on the company. You now join Tim Harbour and Alice Topp. We are so very proud of all of you! Richard is still dancing with The Australian Ballet as evident by the fantastic recent images of him. Below are images of his new choreographic work for The AB—‘Scent of Love’. Visually stunning. Congrats.
We've well and truly entered the vortex where you feel like you've been away for 2 seconds and 2 months all at once, but it's been about 2 and a bit weeks. Already had three bucket loads of 'pinch me' moments. Here's another one:

We're going on tour with The Mountain Goats this September.

SEP 18  Baltimore MD  Rams Head Live
SEP 19  Richmond VA  The National
SEP 20  Charlottesville VA  Jefferson Theater
SEP 22  Bloomington IN  Buskirk-Chumley Theatre
SEP 23  Bloomington IL  The Castle Theatre
SEP 26  Iowa City IA  The Englert Theatre
SEP 27  Milwaukee WI  Pabst Theater
SEP 28  Madison WI  Majestic Theater
SEP 30  Omaha NE  The Waiting Room
OCT 01  Kansas City MO  Madrid Theater
OCT 02  Columbia MO  The Blue Note
OCT 03  Maquoketa IA  Codfish Hollow Barnstormers

We're opening for Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats and Lord Huron this June, as well. Then we begin our very own headline tour of the USA. Tickets are right here.

Meanwhile, we've just entered the charts on CBC2 in Canada for our single Doctor Doctor. A vote would be much appreciated, if you feel so inclined. Here it is. Spread the word. We've been getting a bit of love of late.

'This is pop at it's most kinetic'  Consequence of Sound
'Dark hearts buried in breezy melodies'  CBC Music
'Faultless folk-rock'  Rolling Stone (Australia)

Back on the Canada front, we've also just been announced for Vancouver Folk Festival and Calgary Folk Festival. It's gonna be a good time. That debut album of ours comes out on June 24 in North America and July 1 for the rest of the world. It's called Stadium Cake. We're all about the pre-orders, get amongst it here.

The London show on May 18 is almost SOLD OUT. Only a few left. Tell yer friends.

Right now we're hanging out in Ireland, bound for the UK again. So far it's looked like this: Paris - Brighton - London - Dublin - Stockholm - Tollered - Oslo - Lund - Cloankilty - Ballybebog - Galway - Clifden... to Devon tomorrow and then onwards we go...

Liv & Pep!
Congratulations Yo Yo on your recent graduation from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam!

A great achievement!
REUBEN BLUNDELL—MUSIC ALUMNI and HALL OF FAMER

Just to recap—Reuben is now living in Manhattan, where he teaches and conducts the orchestra at Hunter College, part of the City University of New York. Outside Hunter, he conducts a few community orchestras - the Riverside Orchestra on the Upper West Side (Principal Conductor), the Chelsea Symphony (violin and conductor), and in Philadelphia, the Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra (Music Director). He is married and his wife Karen, a Connecticut-born oboist, they have a daughter, Elizabeth, who's now 4 1/2 years old.

Reuben has just released a CD, of (almost all) previously unrecorded American String Orchestra music, on New Focus Records, and will be distributed by Naxos worldwide.

Congratulations Reuben from all at VCASS, a fabulous achievement.
Congratulations Louis on your most recent achievement as a new conductor for the Australian World Orchestra this coming September. WOW—fabulous Louis!

LOUIS SHARPE—MUSIC ALUMNI

Louis Sharpe was born and raised in Newcastle on the coast of NSW. His passion for music began at a very young age learning to play the violin and piano whilst participating in performances with the Newcastle Grammar School orchestra and string ensembles.

At the age of 8 Louis commenced lessons primarily on drum kit and in 2007 moved to Melbourne to attend the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School. It was here that he fell in love with the allure of classical music ignited through his studies of percussion and timpani.

In Year Ten, Louis took his first conducting lessons lead by the tutors at the Victorian College of the Arts and participated in the first Melbourne Youth Music Conducting Summer Camp with Fabian Russell in 2010.

Consequently, this experience launched Louis’ public performances as a conductor including guest conductor with the Melbourne ensemble Forest Collective 2011-12, musical director of the University of Melbourne Musical Theatre Association (UMMTA) in 2011 and guest conductor at the Australian National Academy of Music recital series in 2012.

Louis is currently studying a Bachelor of Music Performance at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and hopes to further his studies abroad.
DAVID MACK, DANIEL ROBERTS—HALL OF FAMERS, DANCE ALUMNI

VCASS recently had the great pleasure of hosting the Sydney Dance Company who used our facilities and Studio One to have their company classes prior to their evening performances for the most recent Melbourne season at the Arts Centre of ‘CounterMove’. This was fabulous but also bittersweet, as this was the last opportunity that we would have to see David Mack perform as he retired from dancing (as pictured below with his family) shortly after the season concluded. David, Daniel and Latisha were a wonderful inspiration for our current students to watch they were excited and inspired. Congrats to all and especially our own Alumni and Head of Contemporary
It was fantastic to catch up with Josh Rogan last week. He dropped into VCASS on his way to rehearsal with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Josh will return to the USA and embark on more scholarships and also working in USA and Canada. Well done Josh, amazing journey so far.

6. Josh Rogan (Australia)

Okay, this was supposed to be international but it'd be rude not to include a little slice of home here. Who better to represent the 'land down under' than Josh Rogan, 25-year-old trumpeter extraordinaire from Melbourne? Josh has worked casually with the symphony orchestras of Melbourne, Adelaide and Tasmania, and completed a short contract with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2015. Josh is currently making his international mark in the United States, studying on full scholarship at the Colburn School of Music in Los Angeles. Josh's orchestral future looks bright; it's still early in the year and he has already been invited to work with the LA Philharmonic (they are conducted by Dudamel, FYI).
MILES DE CARTERET — MUSIC ALUMNI

Miles has been bus. A fantastic debut single, congratulations from all at VCASS!

MILES DE CARTERET
DEBUT SINGLE - HONEY - OUT NOW!

Miles de Carteret is the Melbourne-based collaboration between singer/songwriter Miles de Carteret and producer/drummer Donny Barwick.

The pair are excited to announce their debut single ‘Honey’ along with a pair of live shows, in both Sydney and Melbourne in June.

After five years of touring with other projects, the pair came together in 2016 with a shared vision of creating their own beautiful and evocative music by blending electronic elements with organic performance.

‘Honey’ explores the concept of loving someone for their flaws and failures. Constructed on a bed of muted guitar playing, and fleshed with soft synthesiser pads, the song is surreal and hypnotic. As Barwick says, ‘we wanted to recreate the feeling of a diary entry, to try our best to connect directly with people and move them from place of honesty. His beat-making exists in both the analog and the digital world, using claps, symbols and shakers alongside programming and glitches.

The pair began the production in their studio in Melbourne’s South-East, before bringing the composition to producer Oscar Dawson (HOLY HOLY, AF Barter, Ben Wright-Smith) at his studio in Abbotsford. The instrumentation was shared by Barwick and de Carteret, with the final touches recorded by a three-part female choir.

Says de Carteret, ‘more than ever, I really felt the need to create music that I could really call my own, something purely meant to express where I had been over the last year’. And with that in mind, he and co-writer Donny Barwick bring you the debut Miles de Carteret single, ‘Honey’.

INNOVATION INDIE

Miles de Carteret manages to innovate in a world of recycled ideas. We caught up with him to find out how

In a world of nostalgia and recycled, old ideas, modernity can seem forced and irrelevant when it comes to music. At times, artists have attempted an unheard sound and fallen flat thanks to the inability to connect to an emotional thread within their audience. One artist,

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FROM THE EDITOR…..

Just a short note from me this time. I consider it a wonderful part of my job at VCASS that I get to make contact with our alumni, mostly by catching up on Facebook seeing what you are all up to, some come and visit, and some come back and visit at our performances. Wherever you are, remember you are always welcome at VCASS, this is your home away from home, your achievements are something we all take great pride in and wish to celebrate each and everyone of you.

Next year is our 40th Anniversary, and below are some of the very first photographs taken in the very first term of VCATS (VCASS), a bit of a reminder of the incredible journey that VCASS has had so far and the continuing one for all of us.

On the next few pages are snapshots of our new web page (in development). It is a sneak peak for our alumni as the launch is not until Term 3.

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

Warmest wishes
Jenn Purcell

[Images clockwise from top left—the Original site, aerial view - The first portables arrive Jack Pitt our first Principal in his office 1st term— and the first assembly of students and staff]
OUR NEW WEBSITE WILL BE LAUNCHED IN TERM 3—IT IS LOOKING GOOD

Our new web page is in development process and in the early weeks of Term 3 we will be launching it. The following pages are a snapshot of what is to come, we hope you like.
OUR NEW WEBSITE - Continued

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School provides a nationally and internationally recognised specialist program for the training of talented young dancers, musicians, theatre and visual artists.

Integral to this program is the provision of a high quality academic education that is also offered to other elite training organisations. Within our school community students will be encouraged to develop a passion for learning and a sense of respect for themselves and others.

We believe that children benefit from close association with similarly gifted children who provide the stimulus of competition and example.

- by having access to an extended teaching day and to practice, classroom and studio facilities within the environment of the school
- school organization can take account of the individual requirements of the pupil and the need for orchestras, choirs, exhibitions and performances to be integrated with other parts of the school curriculum
- distinguished practitioners can be attracted to teach and/or take master classes and mentor students.

The school is committed to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment that recognises and caters for the different academic, artistic, cultural, health and pastoral needs of students.

"If I think about our school as achieving many things, leading by example...offering a quality education and training package, well, that might be enough. For me though, that is never enough. I remain committed to this profession and the impact of schools on the lives of young people.

Trained adults, values driven, with expertise, and intellect, working in a caring and demanding way with young people who have stars in their eyes, hope in their hearts and the desire to give it a go. I can think of nothing better to do each day.

Thank you for your interest in the VCASS Community!"

Colin Simpson
The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School

DANCE AUDITIONS
FOR ENTRY 2017
For ages 7 to 12

Professional training in dance
Integrated with a full academic education for secondary students

Victoria (E3) 366-368
1st Floor Southbank Victoria 3006

For detailed information about open mornings, dates and the audition process go to our website
www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/auditions

Image: Eugene Taylor (right) student Daniel and photograph by Tung

Audition online application available Monday 16 April
Open morning Victoria 19 May
Auditions applications close Monday 22 May
Auditions and interviews during August
Contact to offer made Friday 16 September

The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School

MUSIC AUDITIONS
FOR ENTRY 2017
For ages 7 to 12

Professional training in music
Integrated with a full academic education for secondary students

Telephones (E3) 366-368
1st Floor Southbank Victoria 3006

For detailed information about open mornings, dates and the audition process go to our website
www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/auditions

Student image 197 Kim Photographer Kim Shutter

Audition online application available Monday 16 April
Open morning Wednesday 18 May
Auditions applications close Monday 22 May
Auditions and interviews during August
Contact to offer made Friday 16 September

The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School

THEATRE ARTS AUDITIONS
FOR ENTRY 2017
For ages 11 and 12

Professional training in theatre arts
Integrated with a full academic education for secondary students

Neville H S 72-76
1st Floor Southbank Victoria 3006

For detailed information about open mornings, dates and the audition process go to our website
www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/auditions

Express your interest in this postgraduate course program to the Pre-Entry Office at: Theatre Arts (Pre-Entry) 03 9658 7711

Audition online application available Monday 16 April
Open morning Wednesday 16 May
Auditions applications close Monday 22 May
Auditions and interviews during August
Contact to offer made Friday 16 September

The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School

VISUAL ARTS INTERVIEWS
FOR ENTRY 2017
For ages 11 and 12

Professional training in visual arts
Integrated with a full academic education for secondary students

Telephone (E3) 366-368
1st Floor Southbank Victoria 3006

For detailed information about open mornings, dates and the audition process go to our website
www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/auditions

Image: Emma Hart (right) student Nick Campbell Photograph by Emma Hart

Audition online application available Monday 16 April
Open morning Wednesday 18 May
Auditions applications close Monday 22 May
Auditions and interviews during August
Contact to offer made Friday 16 September
Visit VCSS Facebook Community page and VCSS Dance Information

https://www.facebook.com/groups/103962046306147/ VCASS Community Page
https://www.facebook.com/groups/487249558045877/ VCASS Dance Information Page

VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS SECONDARY SCHOOL
A LEADING VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL—EDUCATOR AND TRAINER OF SECONDARY AGE GIFTED THEATRE ARTISTS, VISUAL ARTISTS, DANCERS AND MUSICIANS
THE ACADEMIC SCHOOL FOR THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET SCHOOL, GYMNASTICS VICTORIA, NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CIRCUS ARTS

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