

## **BOLD CONSERVATORIUM PROJECT TO DELIVER 100 NEW MUSICAL WORKS**

A new work based on the poetry of Bob Dylan entitled *Mr Tambourine Man* will be the inaugural composition to launch an ambitious project to help mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (The Con).

The musical creation by leading American composer **John Corigliano** will have its world premiere in Australia in September next year as the first in a long line of fresh new compositions by 100 national and international marquee composers.

The project, initiated by the Dean and Principal of The Con, **Professor Kim Walker**, and the patron of the project, **Fr. Arthur Bridge**, will commission the new works every year through to the Conservatorium's centenary year of 2015.

The unprecedented scheme, titled "100 Compositions for 100 years" will deliver new works spanning all genres - orchestra, chamber music, choirs, opera, solo instrumentals, jazz combos and big bands - and involving all 43 musical instruments and voice types taught at the Conservatorium.

The spread of composers being sought – from the high art to popular music genres – will embrace a mix of overseas and local names - those who have shaped music in the past 100 years and those most likely to shape music in the next 100 years.

Works for the project are being negotiated from some of the world's biggest names in music composition, such as US composer John Corigliano. He has won several Grammys, the Pulitzer Prize and an Academy Award for his score for the 1997 film "The Red Violin". His works have been performed by some of the most prominent orchestras, soloists and chamber musicians in the world; and he even has a string quartet named after him.

The orchestral version of *Mr Tambourine Man* has been nominated for two 2008 Grammy Awards.

As part of his commission, Corigliano will spend several weeks in Sydney and give masterclasses and guest lectures to students at The Con, which will be open to the broadest possible Australian audience.

The scheme's initial Australian featured composer is **Carl Vine**, one of the country's most respected and original composers, with an expansive catalogue spanning orchestral, chamber and dance music and works for film, television and theatre, complemented by his roles as Artistic Director of Musica Viva Australia and of the Huntington Estate Music Festival.

Vine has been commissioned to write a new Sonata for Piano Four Hands, which Conservatorium pianists Paul Rickard-Ford and Natalia Sheludiakova will premiere on 22 November next year as part of a concert showcasing Vine's internationally renowned piano music.



Vine will also be in residence at The Con as a visiting lecturer throughout 2009.

“I am thrilled to be a part of this very exciting project, and very honoured to be part of the inaugural year,” said Mr Vine.

“The idea of generating 100 new compositions is, in itself, a marvellous concept that is sure to inspire composers to extend their boundaries towards outstanding and enduring contributions to such a noteworthy endeavour.”

Professor Walker said: “Through this project we want to reinforce The Con, the University of Sydney, Sydney and Australia as centres of excellence and innovation in the world of contemporary music.

“It is an audacious and bold project that will bring into the world a rich blend of important compositions certain to generate inspiration, innovation and a tangible bridge to the forthcoming century of music-making.

“This musical dialogue at The Con will be a joy and a profound experience for music lovers everywhere for hopefully 100 years into the future.

“Our Patrons, the Faculty Taskforce and I believe it is a fabulous and meaningful way of celebrating The Con’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but rather than wait for seven years we want to bring it on annually from next year.

“We want the excitement, the challenge and the engagement to start now.”

Co-Patron, Father Arthur Bridge, the founder Ars Musica Australis, believes the project reflects the important place Australia’s men and women of music have in the world.

“The commissioning of these new works will resonate to all parts of the globe and across performance structures and education, and reach countless numbers of people,” said Father Bridge, who has commissioned hundreds of new Australian compositions over many years. He has been appointed a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia and received the Premier’s Award for his achievements.

“Implementation is well underway because many of the world’s best composers, both here and overseas, are normally tied-up for the next four to five years, so to get them happily involved we are commissioning them now.

“The beautiful thing is that the new works in all genres are not one-off performances...such very strong and significant works will have a long and fulfilling life that will please audiences for many decades.”

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