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## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 November 2019

### ***2019 – our best Sponsors' Concert yet***

Sponsors of the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music were treated to a showcase of amazing musical talent at a special concert held in their honour on Friday, 25th October.

Close to 100 members of the Central Coast Conservatorium community gathered in the historic Courthouse Cell Courtyard for drinks and nibbles before moving into the Robert Knox Hall for the annual Sponsors' Concert.

The concert was an opportunity for Conservatorium scholarship students to perform to a live audience and to meet the sponsors that contribute to their music education.

For many, such as the four recipients of the Romaine Rutnam ATSI Scholarships for violin students, it was their first concert.

"Nervous and excited" replied Charlese Ball, Gabriella Willoughby, Jett Savage and Amber Forbes, to "how are you feeling", before stepping on the stage.

Artistic Director, Patrick Brennan said, "the standard of performances of our students was outstanding." The feedback from the attendees indicated it was the best Sponsors' Concert to date.

Adam Crouch MP, Member for Terrigal, who opened the concert, said he was delighted to be back at the Con again, only three weeks after he announced \$2 million from the NSW Government for the refurbishment and development of the Conservatorium site. He reaffirmed his commitment and that of the Government to the Conservatorium and its students.

The 20 young girls and boys who had received Rotary Club of Woy Woy Strings Scholarships commenced the evening performance. The group is just 12 months into a 5-year program and presented an impressive repertoire of *Hoe Down* by Paul Rolland. "It's a lot of hard work, but very satisfying", said violin teacher Marina Hopcroft after the concert.

Lyndall Foldvary-Khoury, wife of virtuoso clarinet player, the late Murray Khouri, drove from Bowral in the Southern Highlands to attend the concert and to meet with the Murray Khouri Memorial Woodwind Scholarship students Kaitlyn Walker and Kai'zen Leggett. She was impressed with the high standard of performance.

Young guitarist Jerome Drobot, accompanied by Dr. Guy Strazz, brought the house down with Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven*, throwing in a few 'cool moves' to the delight of the audience

Allen Family scholarship holder Bradley Tham came straight to the Concert after finishing an HSC exam to play *Habanera* by Pablo de Sarasate. Bradley is Concert Master for the Central Coast Youth Orchestra and a much-lauded young talent on the Central Coast.

Nick Bartley, recipient of the John L. Drummond Bassoon Scholarship was absent as he was playing in the orchestra for the stage musical of Roald Dahl's *Matilda* in Newcastle.

Congratulations to Patrick Fang, winner of the Irvine Family Piano scholarship.

Congratulations to Conservatorium Scholarship holders Pascale Tod, Conor Magill, Jasmine Bridgland and Emily Bang; and to Kayla Lush for her captivating solo flute performance of *Syrinx* by Claude Debussy; and to Kaito Deed, Chris Chen and Sophie Kelly for their performances. These three fine musicians are finalists in the Allen Family Scholarship which will be adjudicated on Sunday 17 November.

Recipient of three scholarships, Bee Haslam, raised the ceiling of the Robert Knox Hall, closing the concert with Edith Piaf's *La Vie en Rose*. The Conservatorium thanks the Pearl Beach Progress Association, the Central Coast Philharmonia and the Allen Family for their contribution to Bee's vocal coaching.

Vice President of the Central Coast Conservatorium Board, Claire Braund, who opened and closed the concert, said the 2019 Sponsors Concert was a wonderful showcase of the talents of our award-winning students.

*"The enthusiasm of the performers was infectious and their talents obvious to all who attended the event. Thank you to our generous sponsors, talented teachers and dedicated Conservatorium staff who make the gift of music possible for so many."*

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact

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**Files are available until Friday 8 November**





