ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE & THE PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT

22 September, 2012, 8pm
Space 28, Performing Arts Building
28 Dodds Street, Southbank
CONCERT PROGRAMME

Jones: Stillness for Solo Flute, Drone and Temple bell

Bach: Prelude and Sarabande from Suite I for Solo Cello

Shakespeare: sonnet read by Olivia Monticciolo

Bach: Sarabande from Partita in A minor for Solo Flute

Shakespeare: sonnets read by Thomas Heath and Aaron Walton

Gabrielli: Ricercar No. 7 for Solo Cello

Shakespeare: sonnet read by Jean Goodwin

Chopin: Nocturne for Piano in E flat, Op. 9, No. 2

Yu: The Little Gecko a musical tale for children for Flute, Clarinet, Cello, Piano and narrated by Olivia Monticciolo (World premiere performance)

INTERVAL 10’

Yu: Silent and Alone, three pieces for clarinet and piano inspired by three poems by Li Yu (937 - 978), the poems read by Jean Goodwin

i. Since We Parted

ii. Silent and Alone

iii. Lingering Thoughts

Conyngham: Flute for Solo Flute

Readings by Jean Goodwin, Thomas Heath and Aaron Walton on Olivier Messiaen’s Quartet for the End of Time

Messiaen: Two pieces from Quartet for the end of time

i. Abîme des oiseaux (Abyss of the Birds) for Solo Clarinet, danced by Rasika Mohan and Raina Peterson, choreographed by Tara Rajkumar

The dance is in five brief movements:

i. Incarceration

ii. Oppression

iii. Hope in the bird calls

iv. Desolation

v. Surrendering to the Divine

The choreography explores the contrasting moods above through Indian imagery including hand gestures- mudras - and facial expressions - abhinaya.

The dance extends the boundary of Indian classical dance to encompass some contemporary movements linking the Western sensibility that the emotionally charged music of Messiaen evokes.

ii. Louange a l’eternite de Jesus (Praise to the Eternity of Jesus) for Cello and Piano
Derek Jones - flute
Derek Jones is one of Australia's leading flutists and flute teachers. His positions include Associate and Guest Principal Flute with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Head of Woodwind at the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne, and more recently Convenor of Woodwind of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Melbourne University.

Derek has performed as soloist at Carnegie Hall, NYC as part of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s tour to the USA in 1998. He has also performed as soloist through Asia, and recorded numerous works as soloist and ensemble member for the Australian Broadcasting Commission. Included in these recordings are numerous live recordings for the ABC and live national radio broadcasts. More recently in 2009 Derek released his innovative CD Sun Don Moon Up of his compositions and improvisations for solo flute which has received acclaim from the media internationally.

Robert Schubert - clarinet
Robert graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1982 and went on to study with soloist James Campbell and Larry Combs, Principal Clarinet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

In 1988 Hiroyuki Iwaki appointed him Principal Clarinet with the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, Japan, a position he held until his return to Australia in 1996. He has appeared in both the Melbourne International Festival and in live broadcast for the ABC. Robert’s CD, China Wind, the clarinet music of Julian Yu, will be released in 2012. Robert had his first Alexander Technique (AT) lesson in 1982 and since then has studied in the USA, Canada and Australia. His principal AT teachers have been David Moore, Ann Shoebridge and Nili Bassan.

Since 1996 Robert has been lecturer in Woodwind at the Victorian College of the Arts (now the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Melbourne University) and VCASS.
Josephine Vains - cello
Since winning 1st prize in the inaugural Australian Chamber Music Competition, Josephine has established herself as a sought-after chamber music partner, and cellist. Her formative studies centred on solo/chamber music with Tilmann Wick (Hannover Musikhochschule), Hatto Beyerle (ECMA/Alban Berg Quartet) and Walter Levin (La Salle Quartet). Josephine has studied the Alexander Technique with cellist Vivien Mackie.

In Melbourne she is a regular guest with the Melbourne Symphony, Orchestra Victoria (Guest Principal) and is an organizer of the Bach Cello series. As a chamber musician she has performed throughout Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France, China and Japan and competed in the Melbourne, Osaka and Trieste International Chamber Music Competitions.

In 2011 she appeared at the Australian Clarinet and Saxophone Festival in Melbourne and performing with cellist Josephine Vains and clarinettists Robert Schubert, Jeremy Reynolds from the USA and David Thomas (Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Principal Clarinet) at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Raina Peterson - dancer
Raina is a senior dancer of Tara Rajkumar’s Natya Sudha Dance Company and School and has danced in several of the Company’s classical and contemporary productions including: Bhumi Tal, a confluence of three different dance disciplines; Kulin Bhumi, an indigenous/classical Indian dance collaboration with Jacob Boehme performed at Archana at the BMW Edge Theatre, Ausdance’s Fresh Dance New Beats at the Victorian Arts Centre and Yalukit William Ngargee at the St Kilda Festival; and Mudra on the Body with indigenous dancers at the FedSquare’s Light in Winter Festival.

Akemi Schubert - piano
Akemi Schubert graduated from the prestigious Musashino Music College in Tokyo and studied further in Chicago with Deborah Sobol of the Chicago Chamber Musicians in 1990. Akemi studied chamber music with clarinettists John Yeh (Chicago Symphony Orchestra), Michel Arrignon (Professor- Paris Conservatoire) and Alexander Technique with Heidi Winderr-Schanz and Nili Bassan.

She has appeared on both the ABC and 3MBS and has performed with distinguished British pianist David Ward, bassoonists John and Lucinda Cran, Peter Neville & Speak Percussion, violinist Isin Cakmakcioglu and with internationally acclaimed Canadian clarinettist James Campbell.

In 2011 she appeared at the Australian Clarinet and Saxophone Festival in Melbourne and performing with cellist Josephine Vains and clarinettists Robert Schubert, Jeremy Reynolds from the USA and David Thomas (Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Principal Clarinet) at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Rasika Mohan - dancer
Rasika has been with Tara Rajkumar’s Natya Sudha Dance Company and School from 2003. An exceptionally talented dancer, she has danced in several traditional, contemporary and culturally collaborative productions of Natya Sudha including performances at the Melbourne International Arts Festival, the Australian Dance Awards and the Commonwealth Games. Rasika has a keen interest in collaborating with artists from other cultures and traditions, seeing dance as a medium to overcome social and cultural divides. She is working to foster social interaction through the performing arts and convey messages on sustainability, social justice and meaningful living.

Tara Rajkumar OAM – choreographer
A graduate of Delhi University, Tara Rajkumar has performed the Indian classical dance forms of Mohiniattam and Kathakali and contemporary productions around the world from India to the South Bank in London, the Sydney Opera House and the Victorian Arts Centre in Melbourne. In 1979 she founded the first National Academy of Indian Dance in England with British government support. The Akadémi, as it is now called, has completed over thirty years of seminal contributions to dance from a South Asian base.

Tara established the Natya Sudha Dance Company and School in Melbourne in 1985. A prolific choreographer, she was awarded a Choreographic Fellowship by the Australia Council. Her works and cross-cultural productions have been toured in Australia, India, the UK, South East Asia and New Zealand.

Tara Rajkumar was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2009 for her service to performing arts.
Jean Goodwin

Jean’s VCA credits include Helen in The Trojan Women, Olga in Three Sisters, Meg in A Lie of the Mind and Sister Aloysius in Doubt. Jean was the 2011 recipient of the Richard Pratt Bursary (for achievements in 1st and 2nd Year)

Tom Heath
Tom has a musical background. In 2002 and 2003 Tom was a member of the children’s chorus of Opera Australia appearing in in Bizet’s Carmen, Offenbach’s Orpheus in the Underworld and Verdi’s Otello. In 2008 Tom completed the Summer Professional Musical Theatre Training Program at the NYU’s Tisch School CAP 21. Tom’s VCA credits include Agamemnon in Agamemnon, Kulygin in Chekhov’s Three Sisters, Hart in Kevin Kerr’s Unity, Father Flynn in John Patrick Shanley’s Doubt, Haemon in Article 1, Oliver, Corin and William in Shakespeare’s As You Like It. Tom Heath is the 2011 recipient of the Richard Pratt bursary (for achievements in 1st and 2nd Year)

Olivia Monticciolo
Olivia began her tertiary education at UNSW completing a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Theatre and Performance Studies. In 2006 she performed in ATYP’S production of Phaedra’s Love and in 2007 completed the year-long Power of Acting course at The Actors Centre Australia.

At VCA, Olivia has appeared as Rosalind in As You Like It, Natasha in The Three Sisters, Lorraine in A Lie of the Mind, and as Mrs Martin in The Bald Soprano.

Olivia is the 2012 recipient of the Lionel Gell Foundation Scholarship.

Aaron Walton
Aaron began acting in The Crucible directed by Matt Scholten in 2008, (after completing a Commerce/Indonesian degree at Melbourne University). He has appeared in The Melbourne Law Revue, Big Sky Town (dir: by Naomi Edwards) and Dead and Deader at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. His film experience includes The Parking Ticket (a VCA short), Impact and Vue/View, (selected for the Melbourne Poetry in Film Festival in 2010).

Aaron’s VCA credits include Vershinin in Three Sisters, Barnette Lloyd in Crimes of the Heart, Peter V in Ontological Proof of My Existence and Antonio, in The Merchant of Venice.

Aaron was the recipient of the VCA’s Beleura John Tallis Award for Excellence in Acting 2011.