

# Biographies:

## **Lawrence Jacks**

Born in Melbourne, Lawrence Jacks began violin lessons from Madame Kato Feustureslaben at age 7. At the age of 12, he changed to the viola, subsequently studying with Clare Farmer and John Gould. In 1972, Lawrence was offered a position in the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. Later that year, he moved to Perth to join the WASO, returning to the TSO in 1974 as Principal Viola. In 1978, Lawrence joined the MSO as Associate Principal Viola, becoming Principal in 1982, and was awarded an Australia Council grant in 1981 to study in Britain and Germany, where he worked with Bruno Giurana, Peter Schidloff and Igor Ozim. He returned to England in 1983, working with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestras.

Lawrence has performed as a soloist with several Australian Orchestras and chamber music ensembles, and has made numerous recordings for ABC radio, including works by Telemann, Stamitz and the premiere recording of *Andante Tranquillo*, a work for viola and orchestra by Barry McKimm. Career highlights include performances of *Harold in Italy* with the MSO, Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with Ashley Arbuckle and the WASO, and performances at the prestigious Australian Chamber Music Festival held in Townsville. Lawrence was also an Australian representative at the World Philharmonic in Montreal in 1988. Lawrence is an active teacher for the Ministry of Education teaching viola, chamber music and conducting Perth Modern Senior Orchestra. Lawrence is also a conductor of other various musical groups including Fremantle Symphony and the West Australian Youth Orchestra.

Lawrence is a current Board of member of the Australian Youth Orchestra.

## **Neil Fisenden**

Professional flautist and educator Neil Fisenden is well known throughout Australia for his highly successful career as Principal Flautist of both the Adelaide and West Australian Symphony Orchestras; a career spanning 33 years. Neil's career highlights include appearing as soloist with both orchestras on many occasions, receiving a prestigious Churchill Fellowship in 1980, directing a National Flute Convention in Perth in 1991, performing recitals and conducting Master Classes in cities throughout Australia and in the U.K., being elected to and active on the Board of WASO for 3 years and in 2006 playing Principal Flute for the WASO's celebrated "China Tour." He also ranks his trip to the Sultan of Brunei's Palace to accompany Rod Stewart as very memorable. Since Neil's retirement from WASO in June of this year he and his wife Rae-Helen have launched their own company "Fisenden Music" which is devoted to specialist flute and vocal training and flute sales. The Company is also currently forming Australia's first professional Flute Ensemble.

Neil and Rae-Helen have two sons Simon and Andrew who are both accomplished professional musicians.

## **Marshall McGuire**

Born in Melbourne, Marshall McGuire studied at the Victorian College of the Arts, the Paris Conservatoire and the Royal College of Music, London. His London debut recital was presented at the Purcell Room for the Park Lane Group. He has commissioned more than 20 new works for harp, and in recognition of this received the 1997 Sounds Australian Award for the Most Distinguished Contribution to the Presentation of Australian Music. He has performed as soloist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, English String Orchestra, Les Talens Lyriques, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony and the Australia Ensemble and has appeared at international festivals including Aldeburgh, Melbourne, Milan, Geneva, Brighton, Vienna, Huddersfield, Huntington and Adelaide. From 1988-1992, Marshall was Principal Harpist with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. He has been a member of the ELISION ensemble since 1988, and lecturer in harp at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music since 1990. In 2003 he was appointed Artistic Director of The Seymour Group, and was awarded an inaugural Creative Fellowship from the State Library of Victoria to research the works of Peggy Glanville-Hicks. He received a Churchill Fellowship in 2004 to travel to San Francisco and New York to research baroque performance and contemporary music ensembles. He made his conducting debut in performances of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with Pacific Opera in 1999. From 1996 - 2000 he created a series of chamber music concerts for the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival, the first of their type in the world. From 1999-2001 he was curator of the Twilight Chamber Music Series for Sydney Festival, and in 2003 he was artist-in-residence at the Bundanon Trust. Marshall has released seven CDs, and has received three ARIA award nominations. Marshall is also Founding President of the New Music Network, a member of the Australian Youth Orchestra Artistic Advisory Committee, and Music Director of the AYO's National Music Camp 2006. Marshall was recently appointed Executive Manager, Artistic Planning with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.