Hailed by John Amis as a “tremendous talent”, and warmly praised by Martha Argerich and Sir Mark Elder, pianist Jayson Gillham seems assured of a brilliant future. He has won numerous prizes, including the Royal Over-Seas League Gold Medal and the Australian National Piano Award. He has also achieved outstanding results at major international piano competitions such as Cliburn 2013, Leeds 2012, and Chopin 2011. Indeed, he is the only Australian ever to reach the semi-finals of the Chopin International Piano Competition. Now living in London, Jayson returns to Melbourne in 2014 to perform a program focusing on Beethoven, Chopin and Scriabin. Not only will his concert be a celebration of the piano, it will demonstrate the combination of musicianship, sensitivity and technical prowess that make him such a commanding and unforgettable pianist.

Experience a memorable evening of music for harp and flute performed by Marshall McGuire and Paula Rae. They will delight with works by Ravel, Mozart, Bach, Hasselmans and Ibert, as well as collaborating with Pro Musica, conducted by John Ferguson, in a performance of Mozart’s Concerto for Flute and Harp. Marshall McGuire has been acclaimed as one of the world’s leading harpists in contemporary and baroque repertoire. He has commissioned and premiered over 100 new works for harp, performed as soloist in Australia and abroad, and appear regularly at festivals. Paula Rae, formerly Associate Principal Flute with Orchestra Victoria, has toured nationally and internationally as a member of Ilusion Ensemble. She has been involved in the premiere of many major chamber works, as well as having worked with the Melbourne and Sydney Symphony Orchestras.

Featuring highlights from operatic masterpieces such as La Bohème, Tosca and The Marriage of Figaro, as well as favourites from light opera and operetta, Jacqueline Porter and Samuel Sakker will present a rich and diverse program of duets and arias from Puccini, Verdi, Mozart, Bellini and more. Both artists are rising stars on the Australian opera scene. Equally at home on the operatic stage or concert platform, Jacqueline performs regularly with Victorian Opera and as soloist with major orchestras and choral societies. Samuel performs with Opera Australia and other opera companies and has featured as soloist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Joining these talented singers is Amir Farid, a pianist whose experience, sensitivity, and knowledge of vocal repertoire make him the perfect partner.

The Ian Roach Hall is the jewel in the crown of the James Forbes Academy, home for the schools of music and drama at Scotch College. A 500-seat auditorium, the Ian Roach Hall is used by students and visiting guest musicians. It is capable of hosting symphony orchestras and intimate chamber concerts. The auditorium features outstanding acoustics. It produces an extremely well balanced sound, exhibiting warm reverberance across all frequencies and a particularly rich bass. The sound is clear yet enveloping, with a perfect balance between orchestra and soloist. Close integration of the acoustic and architectural requirements in the auditorium created a heavily diffused finish to the walls and ceiling. The seats are well-designed, with the comfort of the audience in mind. In addition, the auditorium is now home to a new Steinway Model D Concert Grand.
Welcome

I am delighted to announce the Scotch-Arts Visiting Performers Series Concert Season for 2014. Now in its eighth year, the series has become a significant part of Melbourne’s musical life.

The 2014 season opens with a celebration of the piano. And who better to do this than exciting young Australian pianist Jayson Gillham? Jayson now lives in London, but in March 2014 he will return to Melbourne with a magnificent program of piano works, including Chopin’s Études and one of Beethoven’s great ‘late period’ sonatas. For the second concert we present well-known harpist Marshall McGuire and flautist Paula Rae, collaborating with Pro Musica in a performance of Mozart’s Concerto for Flute and Harp. Also featuring a selection of chamber works for flute and harp, this concert promises to be a beautiful and unusual experience. The final concert in the series introduces tenor Samuel Sakker and soprano Jacqueline Porter. Together with pianist Amir Farid, they will showcase much-loved moments from opera and operetta and delight you with a rich and varied program.

I invite you to join us for our 2014 season. Come to a venue that is easily accessible, with convenient free parking! Meet up with friends and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine before the concert or during interval. And, most important of all, enjoy the experience of listening to great music in the comfortable and acoustically superb Ian Roach Hall.

John Ferguson
Artistic Director