

ROSS FIDDES

MUSICAL CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

- ◆ Public Schools at Gunnedah, and Glebe Demonstration School, Newcastle.
- ◆ Leaving Certificate, 1961.
- ◆ Dux of the School, 1961.
- ◆ Completed N.S.W. Solicitors' Admission Board Course, 1968 (Dip. Law)
- ◆ Admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW, 1968.
- ◆ A.Mus.A

USUAL OCCUPATION

Lawyer

- ◆ Partner in Gunnedah N.S.W. legal practice of Walker, Fiddes & Associates, 1970/1987.
- ◆ Partner in leading mid-sized (some 35 employees) Newcastle law firm of Harris Wheeler from 1 July, 1988 to 1 July 1995.
- ◆ Own practice, 1995 –2004
- ◆ Partner/Principal in Fiddes McKenzie Lawyers, 2004 -

EXPERIENCE

Administration

- ◆ *Hamilton Chamber of Commerce* - Board Member/Secretary, 1993-95
- ◆ *Hamilton Business District Committee* - Ratepayer Member, 1995
- ◆ *Wallsend Enterprise Centre* - Board Member 1994-1995
- ◆ *Novocastrian Arts Orchestra, (now Orchestra Nova)* - Founder and Chairman, 1991-1995
- ◆ *Opera Hunter* - Board Member/Artistic Director, 1990-94.
- ◆ *The Sound Construction Company* - Founder and Administrator, 1988-2007
- ◆ *Hunter Association of Performing Arts - Companies*, Officer, 1992-94.
- ◆ *Gunnedah Musical & Dramatic Society* - President, 1983-84
- ◆ *Jaycees*, Secretary & President of Gunnedah Chapter, Area Director of North West Zone, N.S.W. State Secretary, all during the 1970's.
- ◆ *Gunnedah Eisteddfod Society* - Executive Member 1967-87 including Organising Secretary, Massed Choir Convenor, and President. In 1987 this Festival ran for over 10 days and nights and received over 2000 entries in Music, Art of Speech, Drama, Ballet, and Folk Dancing. It was then in its 34th year.
- ◆ *Lake Keepit Sailing Club* - Secretary during mid 1970's.
- ◆ *Tamworth Regional Music Centre* - Member, Board of Governors, from inception, 1983-85.
- ◆ *Gunnedah Music Centre* - Instigator of its establishment in 1987 prior to leaving the town.
- ◆ *Gunnedah Madrigal Choir* - Founder and Administrator, 1973-85.

Musician

- ◆ *Novocastrian Arts Orchestra* - Principal Conductor and Artistic Director, 1991-95. Guest Conductor 2003
- ◆ *Opera Hunter* - Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, 1992-94. Assistant Conductor, 1991. Artistic Consultant/Musical Director 2007
- ◆ *Newcastle Light Opera* - Guest conductor, 1991.
- ◆ *The Sound Construction Company* - Musical & Artistic Director, 1988-94, 2003-04
- ◆ *Music Teacher* - Gunnedah, 1984-87. Piano, Theory, Musicianship, etc.
- ◆ *Gunnedah Musical & Dramatic Society* - Musical Director, 1975-86, for 10 productions.
- ◆ *Gunnedah Madrigal Choir* - Conductor/Musical Director 1973-85. An a capella group of 16 voices. Worked with The Song Company, and recorded for the Australian Broadcasting Commission.
- ◆ *Gunnedah Choral Society* - Accompanist and singer, 1962-70.
- ◆ *Gunnedah Combined Schools - Massed Choirs* - about 500 voices. Accompanist 1967-74. Conductor 1975-86
- ◆ *Gunnedah Eisteddfod Society* - Accompanist & performer for many years from the age of 7.
- ◆ *Pianist* - Various solo works, and as accompanist for various vocalists and instrumentalists.
Includes as soloist in performances of: Grieg - *Piano Concerto*, Gershwin - *Rhapsody in Blue* (in 2 versions – with symphony orchestra and with original jazz band), Brahms - *Concerto No. 1*

Conductor

A list of major works conducted and/or musically directed is set out in **Appendix 1**

Composer

A list of works and major performances is contained in **Appendix 2**.

Invited participant in the 1995 *June in Buffalo* - a week-long international composers' festival at the State University of New York.

SPONSOR ACTIVITY

Responsible for seeking and gathering some sponsorships for The Sound Construction Company, Novocastrian Arts Orchestra and most successfully, Opera Hunter.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Honorary legal advisor to various organisations.
- Member of
 - ◆ Newcastle Business Club
 - ◆ Australian Music Centre
 - ◆ APRA
 - ◆ Musical Council of Australia
 - ◆ Fellowship of Australian Composers
 - ◆ Orchestralist – internet forum for conductors & composers

ASSOCIATED MATTERS

- As part of former duties with Novocastrian Arts Orchestra, settled an agreement with the Musicians Union of Australia, Newcastle & Coalfields Branch, enabling amateur and professional musicians to work together on a regular basis, with the support and protection of the union for all players. This is believed to be a unique agreement in Australia for its time.
- Computers
 - ◆ Have reasonable or better competency in the following programs:
 - Various specialist legal programs
 - Microsoft *Word & Excel*
 - *Finale* music notation
 - *Sibelius* music notation
 - *Overture* music notation & sound production
 - Garritan Personal Orchestra
 - *Notion* music composition and performance software
- Arts Management/Administration
 - ◆ For **Novocastrian Arts Orchestra** and **The Sound Construction Company**
Engagement of all personnel; drafting/proofing of publicity & programs; choice of repertoire, venues; booking venues & setting up of same; financial controller including budgeting & costing; orchestra manager; administration secretary; drafting documentation & including player newsletter;
 - ◆ For **Opera Hunter, The Sound Construction Company, Shakespeare et al**
Calling & heading auditions; drafting/proofing of publicity & programs; settling rehearsal calls; drafting performance contracts; some secretariat work.
- Past Interests/Involvements
 - ◆ **Sailing** Owned 505 and Fireball dinghies, racing competitively.
 - ◆ **Lecturer** Business law for evening classes at Gunnedah College of Technical & Further Education.
 - ◆ **Accounting** As an Articled Clerk, was responsible for writing up and maintaining the law firm's complete accounting records. Responsible for installing & maintenance of various legal accounting software packages allied to practice.

- Supplemental Matters:
 - ◆ *Children's Vocational Successes*
 - ◆ Son Andrew Fiddes holds a B.Mus (*Sydney University*), and a B.Mus (Jazz) (*Sydney Conservatorium*). He performs on trumpet and composes in the medium of jazz. He is a member of The Australian Army Band, Sydney. He has released two CD albums with his groups *Survival of the Fiddes* and *Livewire* to much critical acclaim.
 - ◆ Daughters Samantha (then 13) and Jaclyn (then 11) were selected from auditions of some 2500 children to play the lead role of Mary, as principal and understudy (later made alternate performer) respectively, in the 1995/96 Australian production of the Broadway hit musical, *The Secret Garden*. This co-production by John Frost / The Lyric Opera of Queensland / Queensland Performing Arts Trust toured Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. The cast included Anthony Warlow, Marina Prior, Philip Quast and June Salter. Samantha has contributed to a cast recording of show highlights for CD and cassette release. In 1994 Samantha and Jaclyn shared the role of Little Cosette in the Opera Hunter production of *Les Miserables*.
 - ◆ Samantha achieved the 2002 CONDA (City of Newcastle Drama Award) for Best Professional Actress in Carl Caulfield's *Confusion of Tongues* & has since performed on stage in Newcastle & Sydney as well as directing and/or choreographing for productions including the 2007 Opera Hunter production of *CATS*.
 - ◆ As a dancer, at age 15 Jaclyn achieved the McDonald Performing Arts Challenge Senior Scholarship, the RAD Solo Seal and a full scholarship to the Royal Ballet School, London.

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APPENDIX 1

WORKS CONDUCTED AND/OR MUSICALLY DIRECTED
1988 - 2007

- 1988 ● *THE BEAR* Walton Chamber operas
THE PROPOSAL Fiddes after Chekhov
For **The Sound Construction Company**
Toured Newcastle, Maitland, Tamworth, Sydney
- 1989 ● *THE LITTLE SWEEP* Britten Children's Opera
For **Newcastle Children's Opera**
Toured various schools in the Hunter.
- 1990 ● *A HAND OF BRIDGE* Barber Chamber opera
POINTS ON JAZZ Brubeck Jazz Ballet
THE UNICORN, THE GORGON
& *THE MANTICORE* Menotti Ballet chante
Triple Bill for - **Newcastle University Drama Dept. & Dance**
Nouveau & The Sound Construction Company
CONDA for excellence in professional production
- *DIE FLEDERMAUS* Strauss Operetta
For **Opera Hunter**
- 1991 ● *THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO* Mozart Opera
For **Opera Hunter**
- *MY FAIR LADY* Learner/Lowe Musical
For **Newcastle Light Opera**
- 1992 ● *Ov-The Marriage of Figaro* Mozart Symphony Concert
L'Arlesienne Suite 1 Bizet
Leonora Ov. 3 Beethoven
Slaughter on 10th Avenue Rodgers
Puttin' on the Ritz Berlin
For **Novocastrian Arts Orchestra**
- *Symphony No. 55* Haydn Symphony Concert
Haydn Variations Brahms
A German Requiem Brahms
For **Newcastle City Choir/Novocastrian Arts Orch**
- *DIE FLEDERMAUS* Strauss Operetta
As **Opera by the Lake**, Speers Point Park
Sponsored by Lake Macquarie City Council
For **Opera Hunter/Novocastrian Arts Orch**
- *Die Fledermaus Overture* Strauss Symphony Concert
Essay No. 1 Barber
Adagio for Strings Barber
Five Songs of the Auvergne Canteloube
Karelia Suite Sibelius
For **Novocastrian Arts Orchestra**
- *AM AHL & THE NIGHT VISITORS* Menotti Chamber Opera
For **Opera Hunter/Novocastrian Arts Orch**

- 1993 ● **MASTER PETER'S PUPPET SHOW** de Falla Chamber Opera
For **Opera Hunter/Novocastrian Arts Orch**
- **SAMSON** Handel Oratorio (complete)
For **Newcastle City Choir/Novocastrian Arts Orch**
- **Carmen - Prelude Act 1**
Ent'acte Act 3 Bizet Symphony Concert
Piano Concerto Grieg
Ritual Fire Dance de Falla
Montagues & Capulets Prokofiev
Sabre Dance Katchachurian
Pomp & Circumstance
March No. 1 Elgar
Proms Concert For **Novocastrian Arts Orchestra**
- **CARMEN** Bizet Opera (Complete)
For **Opera Hunter/Novocastrian Arts Orch**
Season of 6 performances Sold Out.
- 1994 ● **Fingal's Cave Overture** Mendelssohn Symphony Concert
Trumpet Concerto Haydn
Polovtsian Dances Borodin
Rienzi Overture Wagner
Peer Gynt Suite No. 1 Grieg
Polonaise & Waltz
from **Eugene Onegin** Tchaikovski
Proms Concert For **Novocastrian Arts Orchestra**
- **LOVE, LUST & TREACHERY** Opera excerpts
Opera Gala featuring arias, ensembles and choruses
For **Opera Hunter/Novocastrian Arts Orchestra**
- **PROMSKA** Symphony Concert
Featuring popular classics by Katchachurian, Kodaly,
Shostakovitch, Prokofiev, and Tchaikovski (including
Piano Concerto No. 1 - with Bulgarian virtuoso Nikolai
Evrov - and **Marche Slav**)
For **Novocastrian Arts Orchestra**
- **LES MISERABLES** Musical
A production departing from the usual stage
direction/design and with augmented orchestra (46 players)
and orchestration and having a cast exceeding 50.
For **Hunter Opera/Novocastrian Arts Orch**
12 performances. Sold out.
- 1997-2002 ● **ABELARD AND HELOISE** Musical Drama
1997 Opera Hunter workshop concert performances (2).
Winner of 1997 CONDA* for Outstanding Achievement in Newcastle
Theatre for this composition.
1998 CTN Productions. Moved Concert Performance
in Civic Theatre Newcastle. Cast 36, orchestra 8.
2002 Shakespeare et al Production. Six performances
in Newcastle's Christchurch Cathedral. Cast 36,
orchestra 25. Winner of 2002 CONDA* for
Professional Achievement in Light & Sound for
the musical direction of this production.
Various companies

- 2003 ● *FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE* Symphony Concert
Featuring Russian & Slavic works, including Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5.
For **Orchestra Nova**
- 2004 ● *THE SECRET GARDEN* Musical
The musical by Lucy Simon & Marsha Norman based on the well-loved book by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Produced by Ross & Jill Fiddes for The Sound Construction Company, this staging attracted a mammoth 12 CONDA nominations, winning 4.
For **The Sound Construction Company**
- 2005 ● *FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE RIDICULOUS* Choral Concert
Choral concert (80 voices) including Brahms - *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, Fiddes - *Wedding Chorus* from "Abelard & Heloise", Britten - *Choral Dances* from "Gloriana", Alkan - *Funeral March on the Death of a Parrott*, P D Q Bach - *Liebeslieder Polkas*
For **The Newcastle University Choir**
- 2007 ● *CATS* Musical
The musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber based on 'The Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats' by T S Eliot..
For **Opera Hunter**

* CONDA = City of Newcastle Drama Award

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APPENDIX 2

LIST OF MAJOR COMPOSITIONS

PIANO

- *Ceremonies* (1983) 4 Virtuoso pieces.
- *Kids Bits* 10 little pieces for beginners.
- *Jaclyn's Doll Dance* Advanced beginner piece.
- *Burlesque* About 6/7 Grade AMEB
- *Combination Permutations* Piano Duet. A.Mus.A. level.

VOCAL/OPERA

- *The Proposal*

A comic chamber opera in one act,
libretto after Chekhov, by David Goddard

	Cast	Chubukov: a landowner	Bs.Bar
		Natalya: his daughter	Lyr. Sop
		Lomov: a landowner, & neighbour.	
		An healthy hypochondriac	Lyr. Ten
	Instrumentation	Fl/picc, ob/c.a., cl/b.cl., bsn,	F.Hn, Tpt, Tbn,
		String quintet (5 string d/bass)	
		Pno, Hp, Perc (2), timp.	
		OR	
		Piano solo	

Performance time about 50 minutes.
- *Abelard and Heloise*

A musical drama in two acts based on the letters
of the lovers and the autobiography by Abelard.,
Libretto by Paul Kavanagh

	Cast	7 Principals, 7 supports, chorus	
	Instrumentation	Fl/picc, ob/c.a, cl/bs.cl/sop.sax, bsn, 2 F.Hn., 2Tpt.,	
		2 Tbn., Pno, 2 Perc., Strings	

Performance time about 145 minutes plus interval.
- *Two Songs*

For Soprano or Mezzo with Piano

	<i>As Children Play</i>	Wds	K M Corrigan
	<i>I Had No Human Speech</i>	Wds	Roland Robinson
- *Bird Song*

A Song Cycle For Soprano and Clarinet

	<i>Because I Wakened</i>]	
	<i>Swallow</i>]	
	<i>The Tumult of the Swans</i>]	Wds Roland Robinson
	<i>Desert Quail</i>]	
	<i>Black Cockatoos</i>]	
	<i>The Curlew</i>]	
- *Three Negro Spirituals*

Arrangements for amplified female vocalist and
symphony orchestra (also with piano reduction)

Ride On, King Jesus
Sin
The Crucifixion

CHORAL

- *Stony Town* SSATB a cap. Wds John Shaw Nielson
- *Children* SSAATTBB a cap. " Anne Bell
- *White Birds Flying* SSAA a cap. " Anne Bell
- *Never Again* TTBB a cap. " Hugh McRae
- *Hear the Bird of Day* SSAA a cap. " David Campbell

CHAMBER

- *Image & Refraction* (Octet) Cl, Bsn, F.Hn, String Quintet
- *Sonata for Bb Trumpet & Piano*
- *Two Concert Pieces for Bb Trumpet* 1. Dance
(or Cornet) & Piano 2. Caprice
NB These same works have been transcribed for both F & Eb Horns by the composer.
- *Suite for Saxophone or Brass Quartet* 1. Prelude
2. Chorale
3. Dance
4. Romance
5. Finale - Alla Turk
- *Romeo & Juliet* - Incidental Music for the play for String Quartet and soprano

LARGE ENSEMBLE

- *Ceremony* For Symphonic Wind Band.
- *Metamorphosis* For Brass Band
- *St Louis Blues* For Brass Band (arr)
- *O, For a Thousand Tongues* For Brass Band (Hymn - arr)

MAJOR PERFORMANCE LISTING

THE PROPOSAL

1. **The Australian Opera**, Sydney Opera House, October/November 1986
As part of the 1986 National Opera Workshop.
Cast: Peta Blyth, Christopher Dawes, Gregory Yurisich
Conductor: David Stanhope. Director: Mark Gaal. Pianist: Angela Sleeman.
2. **Opera Mode**, Elizabethan Theatre, Sydney, June 1987
As part of a workshop of 3 contemporary Australian operas.
Cast: Julia Poole, Brian Evans, Peter Binning
Conductor: Antony Walker. Director: Philip Parr. Pianist: Edward McDonald.
3. **The Sound Construction Company**, Newcastle, Maitland, Tamworth, and Sydney, July/August 1988. Ten performances.
Cast: Jennifer Barnes, Andrew Coombes, Michael Saunders
Conductor: John Kellaway. Director: Brenda White. Pianist: Ross Fiddes.
4. **Shakespeare et al**, Rothbury Estate & Newcastle.
2000. Eight performances.
Cast: Jennifer Barnes, Michael Saunders, John Campbell
Conductor: Ross Fiddes. Director: Christiana O'Sullivan. Pianist: Brett Pajnic.

ABELARD AND HELOISE

- 1997 – **Opera Hunter** workshop concert performances (2). Newcastle University Conservatorium Hall. October 1997. Winner of 1997 CONDA for Outstanding Achievement in Newcastle Theatre.
- 1998 – **CTN Productions**. Moved Concert Performance in Civic Theatre Newcastle. August 1998. Cast 36, orchestra 8.
- 2002 – **Shakespeare et al** Production. Six performances in Newcastle's Christchurch Cathedral. October 2002. Cast 36, orchestra 25. Winner of 2002 CONDA for Excellence in Professional Achievement in Light & Sound – Musical Direction

IMAGE & REFRACTION

1. The W.A. Arts Orchestra, Cond. Gerald Krug. March 1987.
2. The Hunter Orchestra, Cond. Roland Peelman. May 1990.

STONY TOWN (Vocal Ensemble)

The Song Company, Cond. Ross Fiddes. NSW country tour, 1984.

TWO CONCERT PIECES (Brass solo & piano)

1. John Kellaway/Ross Fiddes, Tamworth Regional Music Centre recital, 1986.
2. Bi-centennial National Band Championships, Easter, 1988
Chosen as test pieces for Eb Horn Championship contest.

CEREMONY for Wind Orchestra

1. The Benelong Wind & Brass, Sydney, February 1988. Cond. Robert Miller.
2. The NSW Youth Concert Band, NSW Tour, 1986. Cond. Major Frank Rugers
3. Third Military District Band, Victoria, 1985.

SONATA FOR TRUMPET & PIANO

John Kellaway/Ross Fiddes, Newcastle Conservatorium of Music. 1990.
Andrew Fiddes/Ross Fiddes Sydney University Great Hall, September, 1995
Chosen by the A.M.E.B. as a test piece for the A.Mus.A for Trumpet

THREE SPIRITUALS

Francine Bell/Novocastrian Arts Orchestra	Cond. John Kellaway.	March 1995
Francine Bell/Newcastle University Orchestra	Cond. David Banney	2002

SAXOPHONE QUARTET

Amherst Saxophone Quartet

June in Buffalo Festival

June 1995

CEREMONY 1 (Piano Solo)**BURLESQUE** (Piano Solo)

Ross Fiddes (piano)

Piano Recital Australia, Sydney Town Hall

August 12, 1995

RECORDINGS

Kids Bits (Complete)	Jeanelle Carrigan, piano	"Piano Games" Vox Australis CD VAST026-2
Kids Bits (Excerpts)	Elpis Liossatos, piano	"Lift Off" - Tall Poppies CD TP143
Romeo & Juliet	(Incidental Music for the play by Shakespeare)	
	Camerata Musicale	Ferndale Studios
Abelard and Heloise	Live 2002 OCR (complete)	Taslig Records – 2 CDs
Abelard and Heloise	Live 2002 OCR (highlights)	Taslig Records – 1 CD