

## The annual Supreme Court Concert

The 8th annual Supreme Court Concert was held on 19 October 2009.

It was standing room only at the Banco Court on 19 October 2009 for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Supreme Court Concert, this year styled as 'The Night of Virtuosi'.

Justice George Palmer, Supreme Court judge by day and composer *par excellence* by nights was our compère. Justice Anthony Whealy inaugurated the Supreme Court concerts in 2002 and George has organised them annually since. He presented a varied and most entertaining selection of items for our entertainment this year.

The Banco Court is an ideal venue for these concerts. With the Bar Table removed, a magnificent display of flowers atop the Bench, a candelabra before the Bench, the court lights dimmed and stage lighting imported, the court was transformed from its workaday appearance.

The chief justice and the president of the Court of Appeal and many other members of the judiciary were present, along with members of the bar, accompanying persons and many members of the public.

Special guests were Matt Bailey on trumpet, David Rowden and John Lewis on clarinet, Eva Kong and Anna Yun, both sopranos from Pacific Opera, Andrew Green and Jem Harding on piano and the A Piacere String Quartet. 'Virtuosi' indeed.

Some of the material was familiar, and most welcome for that. We heard *Una voce poco fa* from the 'Barber of Seville' and the wonderful *Seguedille* from 'Carmen' (both beautifully sung by Anna Yun from Pacific Opera accompanied by Pacific Opera's Music Director, Andrew Green) and *Ah! Non credéa ... ah non*



*giunge* from 'La sonnambula' and the *Barcarole* from 'Tales of Hoffman' (also beautifully sung by Eva Kong – joined by Anna Yun for *Barcarole*).

We also enjoyed some less familiar works including the *Trumpet Concerto* by Tartini, performed by Matt Bailey on trumpet with accompanist Jem Harding with the delightful A Piacere String Quartet, and *Depuis le jour* of Charpentier's 'Louise' from Eva Kong, again accompanied Andrew Green.

However for me (and, judging by the rousing reception these works received from the enthusiastic audience, for them too) the highlights of the evening were George Palmer's own compositions.

The concert finished with the 3<sup>rd</sup> movement of George's 'Double Clarinet Concerto', a lively and rollicking piece played beautifully by David Rowden and John Lewis on clarinet, accompanied by Jem Harding.

The 'show-stopper' was the 2<sup>nd</sup> movement

from George's 'Trumpet Sonata' played by Matt Bailey, accompanied by Jem Harding. George asked us to imagine that we were in a New York Jazz Bar with the legendary jazz trumpeter Miles Davis (brought to us by Matt Bailey) meeting, as if a time traveller, the nineteenth century French composer and pianist Erik Satie (Jem Harding). It is a beautiful, moody piece and it brought the house down.

At the conclusion of the concert, an enthusiastic audience member commented that he imagined that few people normally appearing in the Banco Court received applause (and suggested that fewer yet probably deserved it) but asked 'our compère' to introduce himself and proposed he be voted a hearty round of applause.

Our compère modestly introduced himself to universal acclaim.

It was a great night.

**By James Stevenson SC**