

AUSTA Stringendo 2019 Annual Report - Susan Pierotti, Editor

April 2019 issue, Vol. 41, no. 1

In keeping with the theme of AUSTA Makers and Suppliers, The Australian Violin Makers Association (AVMA) contributed the feature article. Another four articles on the theme were on the upcoming Australian Luthiers and Archetiers Congress in Bathurst with AUSTA as a sponsor; bows, instruments and natural resources; the two-fold process of filming violin technique and transferring to CD; and one of Australia's oldest music retailers.

The Living Treasure article featured violinist Don Scotts. The featured Meet the Staff person was Catherine Hughes, AUSTA's Social Media Coordinator.

This issue inaugurated the Makers and Suppliers page, an outcome from the 2018 conference. It also included articles on an update on what is happening in Alice Springs and Geraldton, the Young Performers Award (AUSTA contributing to the author's travel costs), the Paul McDermott Scholarship, Part 1 of a two-part article on Lyndall Hendrickson, sight-reading, Zen approaches to performance, early music and tablature, a comparison between the AMEB and Chinese music exam systems and an interview with cellist Dr Benjamin Whitcomb.

This issue was 88 pages. There were 42 advertisers.

October 2019 issue, Vol. 41, no. 2

The theme for October was The Double Bass. The front cover and feature article were from Atelier Puglisi. There were another 15 articles that addressed this theme written about orchestral leading, amateur playing, bass and bass bow making, bass camp, teaching students, reviews and a bas scholarship.

There was no Living Treasure article. The Meet the Staff page featured National Secretary Cara Taggart and incoming National Administrator Karen Kyriakou. Outgoing Administrator Gina de Francesco gave an overview of her time with AUSTA.

Other articles included Musicians Linkage in Malaysia, Thomastik 100-year anniversary, Musica Viva's new Nation; Chamber Music competition, Part 2 about Lyndall Hendrickson, One Day in January (an Indigenous music ensemble), the Young Performers Award (AUSTA contributing to this author's travel costs also), arts inspiring music, 2019 Zhang Summer School, playing-related health, Glanville and Co. (one of AUSTA's advertisers), an overview of performances of the Bach Cello Suites and the new Canberra School of Music.

This issue was the biggest yet, at 96 pages. Concerns were raised by the new Advertising Manager as to the number of pages, affecting printing costs, compared to the number of advertisers (30). In conjunction with the new Advertising Manager, I will now reduce the number of words per article, from a maximum of 2000 to a maximum of 1500. This will allow space for last-minute articles (a few) and from contributors who fail to remain within the set word count, involving much editing (many!)

The AUSTA Makers and Supplies page continues to be responded to by a number of our regular advertising members.

I would like to thank Mary Nemet (Reviews Editor), Luci McArthur (Advertising Manager) and Louise Booth (graphic designer and newly appointed Advertising Manager), my colleagues in producing another two fine issues. As always, it has been a great joy and privilege being the editor of such a fine and respected publication.

