

Jill Downer

Early Music Memorial

Donations are sought for a project to establish scholarships or other support for emerging young musicians and ensembles to further their development as early music performers.

The focus will be on music from the classic and baroque periods.

This project was inaugurated in a concert in September 2012 by Capella Corelli (Cynthia O'Brien, Ruth Wilkinson and John O'Donnell) in collaboration with the Wesley Music Foundation in memory of early music entrepreneur Jill Downer.

Jill Downer

1936-2011

Jill Downer studied at the University of Melbourne from 1952 and moved to Canberra in 1963 with her husband Leslie. She had a long career at the Canberra Girls' Grammar School teaching history and Latin.

She was the founder of Early Music Enterprises and was a tireless and devoted promoter of early music and performers on harpsichord, fortepiano and other early instruments.

She had a huge data base of music-lovers and had outstanding organisational skills in music as communicator and concert manager. She also organised overseas tours for classics-minded Canberrans to Greece and Turkey.

Over many years Jill Downer promoted early music performances by such groups as Capella Corelli. Jill was a great lover of the arts and early music was a particular passion. Her way of living this passion was to bring musicians to Canberra and to make concerts happen for them and her beloved community. There are many who experienced Jill's grand vision, her legendary hospitality and her friendship.

Part of the future of early music performance in Australia is dependent on the support and promotion by people such as Jill Downer. The establishment of a project to award scholarships and support concerts, master classes and other initiatives by a new generation of performers will continue her work into the future.

The Wesley Music Foundation (ACT)

The Wesley Music Foundation, established in 1999, is on the Australian Government's Register of Cultural Organisations with the principal objectives of music promotion and education. It funded the Wesley Music Centre which is the venue for a wide variety of concerts, teaching, master classes, University of the Third Age courses, recordings and other events. Since 2003 it has funded an ACT Organ School with 42 students to date. In 2012 it established an ACT Clavier School to support the teaching of early instruments.

The Foundation operates a Public Fund that can receive tax deductible donations for projects covered by its Constitution. These projects include music scholarships, the commissioning of compositions, awards for piano performance by young performers, support for master classes, recordings and other initiatives.

Current projects funded by the Foundation include scholarships for voice, instrumental and pipe organ students, awards and master classes for young pianists, the commissioning of classical guitar compositions in conjunction with the Canberra Classical Guitar Society, a carillon composition competition in association with the Carillon Society of Australia and a joint venture with The Accompanists' Guild of the ACT.

The Foundation operates the Wesley Music Centre at 20 National Circuit, Forrest, ACT, which currently houses a clavichord, two harpsichords, a fortepiano and three grand pianos. It is contiguous to Wesley Uniting Church which has a large 3-manual organ used for organ recitals by leading international and Australian organists. The Centre celebrated its 10th Anniversary on 8 September 2012. In the 10 years 2002 to 2012 it has organised 1,000 public events in its purpose-built Music Room with a fine variable acoustic suited for early music and other chamber music for soloists and ensembles.

Enquiries: 02 6232 7248. **Email:** wesleymc@bigpond.net.au

Web site: www.wesleycanberra.org.au/music

Postal address: PO Box 3217 Manuka, ACT 2603

Jill Downer Early Music Memorial

Donation Form

I/We would be pleased to make a donation towards the Jill Downer Early Music Memorial.

Anonymous donations may be made, but to receive a tax deduction a donor's name and address must be provided and the donation must be \$2 or more.

Amount of Donation \$.....

Name(s).....

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

Telephone (optional).....

Payment methods (please circle one):

1. **Bank transfer to:**

Wesley Music Foundation Public Account

BSB 634634 Account No. 100023075

Reference (essential): "JDE" and 'Surname'

2. **Cheque/money order** (payable to Wesley Music Foundation)

Please reference "JDE."

3. **Cash** (payment in person with this form.)

4. **Credit Card (Mastercard or Visa)**

Card Number

Card Expiry (MM/YY)/..... Signature.....

Name on Card.....

This form needs to be completed for all payment methods and sent to Wesley Music Foundation PO Box 3217 Manuka, ACT 2603. Forms and cash can be hand delivered to the Wesley Music Centre Office, 20 National Circuit, Forrest, ACT 2603 (open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3pm). Please ensure you include a reference to the "JDE" project.