

## BRIDGES COLLECTIVE: ENCOUNTERS: MALAYSIAN LIAISONS 24 March 2012

A chamber ensemble that promotes cross-cultural dialogue between Australia and the Asia-Pacific region

**MELBOURNE, January 20, 2012** – The recently formed chamber ensemble **Bridges Collective**, is quickly proving to be a leader in presenting and performing contemporary Australian and Asia-Pacific composers. Their first concert for 2012 *Encounters: Malaysian Liaisons* on 24 March 2012 at Gryphon Gallery, University of Melbourne, is a colourful showcase of Bridges Collective's unique programming.

Malaysian-born pianist and Artistic Director of Bridges Collective, **Brenna Wee**, describes the ensemble as one that provides a new mode of engagement with other cultures through music, thus promoting cross-cultural dialogue and awareness. She says *"Bridges Collective tries to present a variety of composers, instruments and techniques from around the world; allowing us to reflect on our own musical heritage and how it intersects with others."*

Inspired by her own experiences of growing up Malaysian in Singapore, followed by coming to Australia to study and now reside, Wee looks to composers whose music conveys their shared experience of changing environments and feeling 'in between' places.

*"I want to give audiences the opportunity to hear how composers have expressed their multi-cultural experiences and journeys through their music. It is no surprise that migration, cultural exchange and our globalised world influence contemporary composers. Their music naturally resonated with my personal experience of having lived in between cultures and geographical places,"* Wee concluded.

*Encounters: Malaysian Liaisons* will feature the world premieres of two pieces commissioned by Bridges Collective from Malaysian composers **Johan Othman** and **Tazul Tajuddin**. Performed by **Brenna Wee**, soprano **Sally-Anne Russell**, cellist **Blair Harris** and clarinettist **Andrew Gordon Boyle**, the concert program is made up of quartets as well as smaller arrangements and solo works. The concert will also tour Malaysia through the support of the Australia-Malaysian Institute. Along with performances at the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) (Shah Alam), the Classical Music Society (KL), the Perak Society of Performing Arts (Ipoh), each member of Bridges Collective will also conduct master-classes at UiTM.

Program details below. To learn more about Bridges Collective, see: [www.bridgescollectiveensemble.com](http://www.bridgescollectiveensemble.com)

On Bridges Collective launch concert *Diversity 2011*-

***"I loved the principle behind the programming. Most of all I enjoyed the complete unexpectedness of it all - the different influences and backgrounds, the mix of new and old, of less well-known composers and more established ones. What a great thing for new composers to have a group like this so willing to play their music!"***

- Margaret Crawford (MMus Melbourne, DipMus Vienna), Artist in Residence, Australian National Academy of Music; Lecturer (Flute), Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne.

### PROGRAM:

#### ENCOUNTERS: MALAYSIAN LIAISONS

\*Johan Othman: **the dancing mouse** (World Premiere)  
Sutherland: **The Orange Tree**  
Ross Carey: **A Sentimental Waltz**  
**Melbourne Notebook:**  
III. Quiet Thoughts  
VII. Ghostly Murmurs  
VIII. Upbeat in August (Brunswick Boogie)  
Tony Gould: **Crossroads**  
Yii Kah Hoe: **My Spirit is Dancing**  
\*Tazul Tajuddin: **Sebuah Pantun V** (World Premiere)  
Frank Bridge: **Three Songs**  
Mozart: **Clemenza di Tito, Parto parto**  
\*Stuart Greenbaum: **Columns of Rain**

\*Works for quartet

### EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
Time: 6:00 – 7:45pm  
Venue: Gryphon Gallery, University of Melbourne  
(Cnr Swanston and Grattan Sts, Parkville)  
Tickets: Adults \$24.00 // Concession: \$18.00 //  
Family (2 adults & 2 teens): \$66  
Children under 12: Free admission  
Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/BCRV>

The Bridges Collective Ensemble - 'Encounters' Project is supported by the Commonwealth through the Australia-Malaysia Institute of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

