DAVID PEREIRA

Biography

David Pereira (b. 21 September 1953 in Macksville, NSW) is an Australian cellist of huge experience and achievement. His professional career now spans about 53 years and he shows no signs of tiring. He says he would like to die suddenly one far-off day, new running shoes still warm… maybe walking on his hands! Recently he has returned to the ANU School of Music as Senior Lecturer, a position he first took up in 1991 after working for 11 years as cellist of the Australia Ensemble, 7 as principal in the ACO, and 3 years as principal in the SSO. He is passionate about the ANU SoM’s future, one in which he plans to continue to play a key role.

His early training was at Sydney Conservatorium (Student of the Year) and then at Indiana University (Fulbright Scholar). It was traditional and conventional in excellent ways.

Returned to Australia in 1980 David based himself in Sydney for 11 years and then in Canberra ever since. He has enjoyed making many cd recordings both as soloist and chamber musician, mostly for the Tall Poppies label, meanwhile championing new Australian music (Sculthorpe, Vine, Edwards, Kats-Chernin, Lumsdaine, for example). Gradually he became a composer. Lately there is a Tall Poppies cd – David Pereira Cello Works (with Edward Neeman and Lianah Jaensch).

David is distinctive for his holistic approach to cello. He combines the practices of playing, teaching, composing, improvising, conducting and research, with those of Yoga, Running, and Strength and Conditioning Training. His musical tastes are broad, and he finds it slightly embarrassing if he is called a Classical Cellist. Listening, and playing cello, are bigger than any limited style of music-making, after all!

His handful of books on cello playing and on musicianship attest to his persistent efforts to increase his expertise by finding ever better methodology, skill and insight. The most recent publication (2017-18) – Pereira Cello Technique – presents his finest perceptions so far, in a concise literary form and with demonstration videos for each section (Volume 1 only). Volume 1: Postures and Movements; Volume 2: Interpretation and Expression. Volume 1 was praised by THE STRAD late 2017 for its depth and usefulness.

These volumes truly are unique, even as they contain much advice for the player that is familiar. The language is first-person, as often it is when a cello teacher addresses a student, and every short section has several ‘teachings’. These are couched in unpretentious adult language that doesn’t exclude children. Everything is ‘practical’ and demonstrable with cello, otherwise it doesn’t get written in the books. David says the obvious goal is to marry comfort with utility, and with ever-increasing cleverness.

These and more useful information are found at his website – [www.davidpereira.com.au](http://www.davidpereira.com.au)

His latest good news is to have signed a MOU with The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture that, amongst other treasures, allows him there to present recitals often and with generous freedom. These recitals then are toured elsewhere, including a new favourite venue of his - the Epping Uniting Church, in Sydney – where also is located his Sydney teaching facility.