



Victorian College of the Arts
Media Release 2007
Friday 31 August

Head of VCA Music to take up new post of Principal at the Royal Northern College of Music, UK

In July 2008 the VCA will farewell Professor Jonty Stockdale, Head VCA Music and Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching. After three years at the helm, Professor Stockdale will be leaving the VCA to take up the post of Principal at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester succeeding Professor Edward Gregson.

Professor Stockdale is credited with reinforcing VCA Music's reputation as one of the most progressive and successful music training education institutions in Australia. As Head VCA Music he has overseen and established programs and projects of considerable breadth and depth. VCA Music continues to attract outstanding young musicians and postgraduate students and offers the public one of the finest and varied performance programs in the nation.

His leadership, creativity, vision and experience in building progressive and successful music schools will have a lasting effect on VCA Music. Described by Dame Janet Ritterman, former Director of the Royal College of Music in London as a 'visionary educator', Professor Stockdale's contribution towards the professional training of Australia's fine young performers and composers at the VCA has been significant.

VCA Music is one of the college's largest discipline areas, and an integral part of the multi-disciplinary environment for which the VCA is renowned. It offers practical training and education in Performance (Classical Repertoire and Improvisation) and Composition, embracing an eclectic range of musical styles and genre supported by a comprehensive program of workshops, performances, collaborations and master-classes together with special projects.

Professor Andrea Hull AO, Director and Dean of the Victorian College of the Arts, praised Jonty's leadership of VCA Music and thanked him for his contribution.

"Whilst Jonty remains with us for some time yet, I would like to acknowledge his exemplary leadership of VCA Music and his contribution to 'macro' executive issues. As Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching he has also made a significant contribution at University forums on academic and curricula issues. He will be leaving the VCA in the second half of 2008 with the best wishes of the College."

Jonty says that having the opportunity to work at the VCA, now the Faculty of the VCA, University of Melbourne - has been a great privilege. "The VCA is without doubt a very special place and provides a unique immersive arts training and education to all its students. The commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism of both staff and students is quite outstanding. My time at the College, though brief has been deeply enriching and rewarding. The VCA is a place to which I will remain connected for years to come."

Before taking up the post of Head of VCA Music and Associate Dean, Learning & Teaching, Professor Stockdale was Director of Studies at Leeds College of Music in the UK where he was responsible for all academic matters and prior to that was Senior Lecturer and Head of School (Popular Music and Recording) at the University College, Salford UK.

**For further information contact Lisa Montague
03 9685 9371 / montague@unimelb.edu.au**