

# Series to give chamber music traditional setting

By Krystal Hansen



*Art Director Brieley Cutting and Director Greg Thompson*

CHAMBER music is to go back to its roots when the inaugural Commercial Road Chamber Music Series begins at Teneriffe later this month.

Several concerts and workshops are to make up the series which is to run throughout the year and showcase young Brisbane musicians performing pieces ranging from classical to Romany gypsy music.

The first concert in the series is to be performed on Friday, March 11, from 7pm followed by a workshop on Saturday, March 12, from 2pm. The concert is to feature former Brisbane cellist Simon Cobcroft who is the sub-principal cellist of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

Each concert and workshop is to be hosted in the showroom of Themes and Variations on Commercial Road, Teneriffe. Drinks and nibbles are to be served following each concert.

Artistic director Brieley Cutting and director Greg Thompson are the driving force behind the series which they hope will be a source of pride for the community.

"We are both very aware that, especially compared to Melbourne and Sydney, Brisbane lacks in the classical music scene which is why we lose everyone. They graduate and leave," Brieley said.

"We got very excited about the idea of actually creating something where Brisbane artists and Australian artists can come together and be paid professional rates in a professional environment. That opportunity doesn't exist in Brisbane," she said.

Greg said the concerts would showcase chamber music as it traditionally was performed – in more intimate surrounds where the audience could interact with the performers.

"To experience chamber music as it was 'in the day' is quite enjoyable.

It offers an alternative to what is happening over at South Bank so it has a unique feel," Greg said.

"It's something that the area can be proud of and can offer to other people. One of the strengths is how the musicians will offer their time in the workshop series," he said.

Brieley said it performing in a smaller environment was "how chamber music is supposed to be played".

"This will be unique for its intimacy because you can actually see people and interact with the people on stage," she said.

The workshops are ideal for college students looking for career guidance as well as people who learnt an instrument years ago and want to refine their skills.

Greg is the Queensland manager Themes and Variations and has supported local musicians by allowing many to rehearse in the showroom space for many years. It is also where Brieley, a classically trained pianist, often can be found.

Brieley completed her undergraduate at the Queensland Conservatorium before having furthered her studies in Melbourne and London. She is to perform several times during the series.

"There's something about Brisbane and it's been quite notable as well that, each time I come back, Brisbane's growing – especially culturally," she said.

The series is scheduled to run until the end of the year with performances and workshops planned until July.

About 100 tickets are to be sold for each concert, therefore bookings are recommended. The start times for each event are expected to vary throughout the series.

*To book and for further information, telephone 3666 0650.*