

## LETTER OF THANKS FROM DEFYING GRAVITY

Dear Friends,

I have some lovely news to share with you. The Defying Gravity players have had a thrilling year, taking part in some fabulous projects:

- Tegan LeBrun, Katie Thomas and Laura Harris spent July touring Europe and China with the Australian Youth Orchestra. They performed in the world's best concert halls, and had a sensationally good time. Three of the AYO's five percussionists came from Defying Gravity - a great result for Western Australia!
- Tom Robertson won WAAPA's 'Warana Prize' concerto competition last weekend, performing Per Norgard's 'Percussion Concerto' with the WAAPA Orchestra. And Tom spent all of July touring Canada with the 'Orchestra Francophonie' - Canada's leading youth orchestra.
- Defying Gravity has made a film recording of the music we performed recently on the 'Leaning Tower of Gingin' - the nine-story-high leaning steel tower at the Gravity Discovery Centre north of Perth. The film footage looks fabulous!
- Mercedes Slack-Smith won the 2016 'Luigi Paolino Award for Excellence in Percussion', Ben Albert won the 2016 'Norman Archibald Percussion Scholarship', and Tom Robertson won WAAPA's 2016 'Helen Court Award'.
- All twenty members of Defying Gravity toured to Brisbane in July, to participate in the 2016 'Australian Percussion Gathering'. We had an absolutely inspirational time in Brisbane, learning from some of the world's best players, and meeting percussion teachers and students from all over Australia... and Defying Gravity received great feedback for our public performances of Kaboom Percussion's 'Doomsday' and Tao Issaro's 'Trikaal'.

Many thanks to the **Friends of the Academy** for making our tour possible.

What a great year it's been for Defying Gravity!

Tim White

Senior Lecturer in Music | Co-ordinator of Classical Ensembles | Head of Percussion