

Superb use of space

Festa dei sensi - Dinner Concert at Childers Square

STORY AND PHOTOS: LYN MILLS

I've written before about the blandness of most theatre foyers in Canberra. A lick of paint, a few bunches of flowers and soft carpet underfoot would help, although people bring the best kind of decoration to any space. They brought the finishing touch to a bold plan last Friday night when the foyer of Childers Square was transformed into an intimate concert space for the Festa dei sensi Dinner Concert.

Imagine any office building's foyer being turned into a concert and dining space and you'd probably turn your nose up at the idea.

This, however, worked brilliantly and was a clever plan by the powers that be at the ANU School of Music to step outside the expected, use a sparkling new foyer and the cafe that's just opened there to collaborate on the project as part of the Musica Antica festival.

Festa dei sensi is a festival of the senses and ours were in tune with

all aspects of the event. The music was a collaborative collection of 19th century guitar music featuring Carlo Barone from Italy, the head of the School of Music, Adrian Walter, and the ANU guitar students for whom this concert is part of their degree program. The food from the Stone Wall cafe was a deliciously Italian-themed, three-course feast.

Well-conceived, planned and realised by Adrian Keenan and Belinda Kelly, what a great idea it was. And for the new building at the corner of Childers Street and University Avenue the best advertisement for the Carrera marble floors that match the geometry of the ceiling and invite you in rather than make you want to get out. Architect Terry Ring visited to see that his creation is not just a foyer but a space to be invaded by all manner of possibilities.

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Tor Fromyhr and his wife Leanne Bear with their children Gabriel, Boronia and Lillian.



Neryda and Michael Ockwell with Tu and Tri Pham.



Caroline and David Chauncy.



Catherine and Mark Warren.



Bradley Kinda and Rebecca MacCallion with the ambassador of Italy Gian Ludovico di Martino de Montegiordano.



Carlo Barone, Adrian Walter, Bill Grose.



Adrian Keenan, Minh Le Hoang and Tim Kain.



Paul James and Carol Clark-James with Ellen and Hugh Gibbon.



Stan and Helen Buckland, Rob and Sharon Buckland and Michael and Jessica Cameron.

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