Research and Innovation

External research income has grown from $88,000 in 2003 to $764,000 reported for 2007.1

27 performance academics are now undertaking their first research projects across SCM schemes.2

Over 90 per cent of SCM academic staff are now involved in research.3

Professional Standards have been integrated across curriculum.

Host to international music research conferences, including World Shakuhachi Festival, instrumental conferences, Music Education, Library Congress, Electronic Music, Musicology Society; and in the future multi-year Asian Cultural Research Forums.

Investments made in hi-tech methods for documenting performance and enhancing research capabilities, which will see SCM take leadership in music research for the southern hemisphere in this field by 2009.4

Ensured the optimal tools for Faculty and students are available to provide world-class programs by implementing new policies to provide instrument maintenance and repair across all departments.

Ground-breaking $5.2 million program introduced to replace and upgrade the Conservatorium’s large stock of pianos. Expected to provide 24 new concert grand pianos and replace 77 upright pianos over the next five years

Multi-year program in place to purchase quality orchestral instruments.

Donations of a set of four superb violins over four years from former alumni in place.

Post graduate research HDR enrolments have doubled since 2003.

Learning and Teaching

Implementation of revised undergraduate curriculum. Launched nine new degrees in 2008. Since 2004 SCM has introduced the PhD of performance and the DMA.

Review of all post graduate courses to international standards.

Achieved a full quota of students across all units from 2005 to 2008.

Strategic Faculty positions added across the entire performance and music education programs as part of a new multi-year business plan. Next areas to address are research, composition and musicology.

2008-09 will see 27 senior appointments - the largest number of full Professors and Associate Professors in the history of The Con. In 1995 there were 19 senior appointments and in 2004 there were 14. The faculty profile includes some of the finest expertise in the world, including Gerard Willems, Professor Imre Pallo, Associate Professor Dr Alexa Still, Associate Professor Alice Water, Dr Neal Peres Da Costa, Scott Kinmont (SSO), Andrew Bain(QSO); Ben Jacks(SSO), Steve Rosse(SSO), Catherine McCorkill, Frank Celata (SSO), Dr Michael Duke, Ngaire de Korte and Dr Stephen Mould.

Faculty profile is recognized internationally. Includes targeted key international leaders in their fields, particularly Australian and New Zealanders. Key criteria include experience in Europe and the USA as well as Australia, and higher degrees alongside performance portfolios of prominence, recording contracts and publication track records.

Reviewed 780 applicants in 2007 and 2008 to hire some of the finest performers/teachers in the world and leading scholars to join the University of Sydney.

Discussions are continuing with major firms Apple and Cisco for the most advanced installations for music in the southern hemisphere.

New degrees offer four times more performance experience for all students.

There are now 22 major ensemble programs conducted annually by outstanding conductors. All students perform in ensembles including Early Music and the Modern Music Ensembles, which previously didn’t exist. This compares with only 20 per cent of students involved in performance in three orchestral concerts per year in 2004.
A 10-fold increase in funding available to SCM and students through SCM and University scholarship schemes. These funds in excess of $2 million, up from $265,000 in 2005.

Expansion of Opera program from one to four productions per year.

Student enrolments have grown from 515 in 2004 to 865 students in 2008 - the maximum position for space and piano usage.

Distinguished guest artists and scholars provide masterclasses, lectures and short-term residencies in specialist topics each year.

International
The Con was one of only 10 international institutions invited to participate in the major pre-Beijing Olympic Games cultural event called Musicathlon. Other participants included: Yale School of Music, Shanghai Conservatory, Royal Academy of Music (London), Liszt Academy (Budapest), Korean National University of the Arts, The Julliard School (New York), the Beethoven Institute (Vienna), Sibelius Academy (Helsinki) and the Universitat Mozartheum Salzburg.

Projects are underway for finalising 2009-2011 plans for collaboration with several European and US institutions.

SCM continues to internationalise the curriculum in all UG programs. Actively developing, promoting and financially supporting study abroad and exchange opportunities, particularly out bound. International student load has doubled since 2004, including Fulbright Scholars and several award winners.

International targets met in 2008, with outstanding students from 23 countries adding diversity and cultural richness to the 80 per cent of students from Australia.

External Relations
Introduced new strategic program for the Open Academy in 2007. Now inclusive of non-degree professional development courses.

Initiated a project with Office of University Relations for a benefaction database to improve portfolio management, donor stewardship and scholarship award processes.


Monday night series of Cocktail Concerts has doubled in past four years. Increased audience numbers, with staff performing regularly in chamber music and solo recitals.

Students performed 2,000 hours of community service and individually volunteered 1,000 hours across NSW concerts.

Concert Series now numbers around 1,000 free and ticketed events per year - double the size of four years ago.

Regular contact with Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian Youth Orchestra, Opera Australia, ABC.

Economic Performance
Financial position stabilised from $10.4 million in 2004 to current $22 million annual budget.