

ROSS FIDDES

Composer and Conductor

A solicitor with offices in New Lambton, Ross Fiddes practises predominantly in the commercial, small business, property and estates areas of law.

His credits in the musical field include having been the founder and musical director of a number of musical performing groups, including The Sound Construction Company and the Novocastrian Arts Orchestra, for which he was chief conductor from 1991 to 1995, during which time the orchestra performed four main concerts each year. In Newcastle, he has been musical director and conductor for Opera Hunter for *Die Fledermaus*, *Master Peter's Puppet Show*, *Amahl & the Night Visitors*, *Carmen*, *Oliver*, *Les Misérables*, and in 1997, his own *Abelard & Heloise*. For other music theatre companies, he has conducted and/or musically directed *A Hand of Bridge*, *The Unicorn*, *the Gorgon & the Manticore*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Bear*, his own work *The Proposal*, and again - in 1998 - *Abelard & Heloise*. This work was performed in concert on 11 and 12 October 1997, and again in a semi-staged staging on 1 August 1998 (with the composer as conductor) as a preview to its later staging. For the 1997 concert performances, Ross and librettist Paul Kavanagh received Newcastle theatre's highest award, the CONDA (City of Newcastle Drama Award) for Outstanding Achievement in Newcastle Theatre.

Ross's children are also somewhat accomplished musicians. His son Andrew is a professional musician based in Sydney, performing mainly on trumpet, and his daughters Samantha and Jaclyn performed the lead role of Mary Lennox as principal and understudy respectively, in the 1995-96 Australian production of *The Secret Garden* which played to rave reviews and full houses for nine months in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.