

Jurlique founder in tune with hall for Hills

LOUISE NUNN

HER passion for the arts has inspired a South Australian woman to build a concert hall for chamber music in the Adelaide Hills.

Ulrike Klein, the founder of the international Jurlique skin care label, will build the multi-million-dollar, 150-seat venue at her Mt Barker property, Ngeringa.

Construction will begin early next year, with a completion date set for March, 2015.

The extraordinary act of philanthropy follows the \$2 million Klein gave last year towards the purchase of a set of rare instruments for the nation, on loan to the Adelaide-based Australian String Quartet.

Klein also supports the Adelaide Youth Orchestra, the Helpmann Academy and choreographer Leigh Warren.

"I want to do two things with this project - pay artists well and give the community concerts at affordable prices," she said.

"Chamber music is very important to me and with chamber music you have to keep it intimate."

The semicircular design includes an interlinking cellar door for Ngeringa Vineyards, owned and operated by Klein's son, Erinn, and his wife, Janet, conference facilities and a landscaped garden with sites for sculpture.

There will also be exhibition spaces on two levels.

Klein said SA architect Anton Johnson worked with acoustic engineers in Melbourne to produce a building that would provide high-quality concert sound.

Construction will be of rammed earth and corrugated steel, while interior features include a 10m-high ceiling and timber floor.

Klein's showpiece is a 4m-high glass wall behind the



HOST: Ulrike Klein, of Ngeringa Arts, with classical guitarist Aleksandr Tsiboulski and classical singer Rosalind Martin and, below, the planned hall.

Picture: MARK BRAKE

stage with uninterrupted views of Mt Barker Summit. It was the first thing she saw when she woke in Australia after migrating from Germany 30 years ago.

"Jurlique was a big success story," she said.

"Now that I have been living in Australia for 30 years, it's a wonderful way for me to give back to the community."

"It will be a meeting place for culture, as well as a tourist attraction, and I'm glad to be part of that."

The building will replace a 110-seat room Klein has been using to stage her annual Ngeringa Concert Series.

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