During the holidays, Annabelle Bridge travelled to the USA to attend Masterclasses at the National Cello Institute at Pomona College in Claremont Los Angeles, with 9 other teenagers from all over Australia.

The 7 jam-packed days (8:30am-8:30pm) were full of independent study, warmup & technique classes, recitals, concerts, ensembles and a cello orchestra which included 150 senior & 150 junior cellists.

Individual Masterclasses were held with renowned cellists & highly qualified teachers including:

Sarah Koo, (2000 New York debut in a solo recital at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall as the youngest winner of the Artists International Competition. Ms. Koo graduated with her Master and Bachelor of Music degrees from The Juilliard School.)

Anthony Elliott’s studies were with two legendary figures of the cello, Janos Starker and Frank Miller. (Presently he is a Professor of Music at the University of Michigan)

Avi Friedlander (taught Cello at Emory University, Birmingham Southern College and Andrews University in Michigan. He received his Master’s and Bachelor’s of Music performance degrees from The University of Michigan, and pursued his professional studies degree from The Cleveland Institute of Music.)

Carey Cheney, an author/recording artist of the series of books and CD’s (eight volumes), Solos For Young Cellists. She holds the degree of Master of Music in Cello Performance with Highest Honors from University of Texas, Austin, where she studied cello and pedagogy with Phyllis Young. She also studied in Germany for 2 years with Andre Navarra.

Annabelle also had time the following week to visit the Walt Disney concert hall in LA, home of the LA Philharmonic Orchestra, Disneyland, Universal studios & horse riding on Hollywood Hills with her mum & friends.

Fantastic trip with likeminded COOL CELLISTS!!

By Annabelle’s mum