

Australian Festival of Chamber Music

MEDIA INFORMATION: April 20, 2006



~ Backgrounds & Biographies

The world class Australian Festival of Chamber Music is a 10-day program featuring 80 different works performed by the world's best artists, including 20 premiere presentations. Internationally renowned, the Festival is held in Townsville from June 30 to July 9. It is the only national music festival held in Queensland, and the largest festival dedicated to chamber music in Australia.

The people behind the music for this year's Festival include:

THEODORE KUCHAR ~ International Artistic Director and Viola

Artistic Director of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music since 1990, Theodore (Ted) Kuchar is the most widely recorded conductor of the past decade. He is currently Principal Conductor of the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra, Czech Republic and Conductor Laureate for Life of the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine. Theodore is also the Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Fresno Philharmonic, Boulder Philharmonic and Reno Chamber Orchestras in the USA.

CHRISTOPHER LATHAM ~ Australian Artistic Director and Violin

Sydney-based Christopher Latham is passionate about music. A former violinist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, he works with renowned Australian composers as an editor, as well as a repertoire advisor and curator. He is also Artistic Director of the Four Winds Festival and was the Music Director of the spectacular 90th Anniversary Gallipoli commemorations.

ROSS EDWARDS ~ Composer-in-Residence

Often referred to as the "poet of Australian music", Ross Edwards is one of the country's most distinguished composers. He will present three premiere works at the Festival - *Arafura Dances*; *The Water Circle*; and *Incantations*. In addition, three of his best loved works will be performed including the chamber version of his *Oboe Dancing* with Diana Doherty, which she is now playing around the world, most recently with the New York Philharmonic. His music will also be featured throughout the Xstrata Outback Tour.

PETER GARRETT, AM, MP ~ Reef Talk Special Guest ~ Voice of the Whale

An Australian music icon and individual who has successfully fused the power of music with environmental and political issues, Peter Garrett is, and always has been a force to be reckoned with. For 26 groundbreaking years he fronted the Australian rock band, Midnight Oil before leading the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF). Under Garrett's stewardship the ACF developed partnerships with non-government organisations, progressive business groups, and expanded its campaigning into marine conservation and northern Australia. In 2003 his passionate works were acknowledged with the Order of Australia (Member General Division) for his contribution to the environment and the music industry.

JANACEK PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ~ Czech Republic

The Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra Ostrava, formerly known as the Czech Radio Orchestra, has been regarded as one of the Czech Republic's most distinguished orchestras for over half a century. The orchestra has toured widely in Europe, Asia and the USA and in addition to its Principal Conductor, Theodore Kuchar, has worked under conductors including Charles Mackerras, Zdenek Macal, Vaclav Neumann and Libor Pesek.

For press images and further information please contact:
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VIOLIN

IAN SWENSEN ~ USA

World renowned classical musician and soloist, Ian Swensen is a winner of the prestigious Naumburg Chamber Music Competition in New York (acknowledged as the forum for the best in the world to compete and perform) with the Meliora String Quartet. He is currently Head of Strings at the San Francisco Conservatory.

COREY CEROVSEK ~ CANADA

Corey Cerovsek has toured as a soloist throughout the world, performing with orchestras across America, Canada and Europe, including the Israel Philharmonic, Prague Symphony and Berlin Symphony. A child musical prodigy, Corey received a Doctorate in Maths and Music at 18 years of age.

GRAEME JENNINGS ~ AUSTRALIA

Graeme Jennings now lives and works in America. A former member of the famous Arditti Quartet, he has toured the world and performed over 300 premieres. Graeme was raised in Mt Isa in regional Queensland where he was taught by John Curro, who is leading this year's AFCM Secondary Students' Winterschool.

DENE OLDING ~ AUSTRALIA

Another founding member of the Goldner Quartet, Dene is currently the Concertmaster of the Sydney Symphony. He has appeared as Leader of the Australian Chamber Orchestra and was Artistic Director of the Mostly Mozart Festival at the Sydney Opera House.

DIMITY HALL ~ AUSTRALIA

A founding member of the renowned Goldner Quartet, Dimity has held the position of Principal Second Violin of the Australian Chamber Orchestra. She has also appeared as Guest Concertmaster for both the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra.

LARA ST JOHN ~ CANADA

Described as "something of a phenomenon" by *The Strad* magazine and a "high-powered soloist" by the *New York Times*, Canadian-born violinist Lara St. John is extraordinary. She has performed as soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony, the National Arts Center Orchestra, the Montreal Symphony, the NDR Symphony Orchestra (Hanover), the Zurich Chamber Orchestra and the Boston Pops, among many others. The *Los Angeles Times* has written, "St. John brings to the stage personal charisma, an unflagging musical imagination and genuine passion."

MIKI TSUNODA ~ JAPAN/AUSTRALIA

As part of the Australian ensemble Duo Sol, Miki has toured the world. She is a regular soloist with the Melbourne and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and is currently teaching at Monash University.

VIOLA

CAROLINE HENBEST ~ AUSTRALIA

Currently guest Principal Viola with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony. She also teaches at ANAM and Melbourne Conservatorium.

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IRINA MOROZOVA ~ AUSTRALIA

Irina Morozova has held the position of Principal Viola of the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. She has performed in over 30 countries with the Australia Ensemble and since 1995 with the Goldner Quartet.

ALENA ONDRISIKOVA ~ CZECH REPUBLIC

Alena Ondrisikova, presently Solo Violist of the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra and Janáček Chamber Orchestra of the Czech Republic, has frequently performed as Guest Principal Violist of various leading Czech orchestras.

CELLO

JIRI BARTA ~ CZECH REPUBLIC

Previously Professor of Music at the Prague Conservatory, Jiri Bárta has appeared with orchestras and festivals across Europe, including the Janáček Philharmonic.

CATHERINE HEWGILL ~ AUSTRALIA

Catherine Hewgill has been Principal Cello for the Sydney Symphony since 1990. Catherine has performed solo recitals around the world and last year featured as a soloist with violinist Nigel Kennedy.

ALEXANDER IVASHKIN ~ RUSSIA

With an international reputation as an interpreter of both classical and contemporary music, Alexander Ivashkin is currently Professor of Music and Head of Performance Studies at Goldsmiths College, London.

PETER REJTO ~ USA

Peter Rejto is currently Emeritus Professor of Cello at Oberlin College Music Conservatory, and is Founder and Artistic Director of the Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival, Arizona.

JULIAN SMILES ~ AUSTRALIA

Julian Smiles is currently a member of the Goldner Quartet and the Australia Ensemble. He has held the position of Principal Cello with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and has performed as Guest Principal with a number of Australian Orchestras.

DOUBLE BASS

MAX MCBRIDE ~ AUSTRALIA

Max McBride is a celebrated conductor and member of the Sydney Symphony. Whilst studying in Europe he was invited to perform with the Vienna State Opera Orchestra and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Daniel Barenboim.

PIANO

SERGEI BABAYAN ~ USA

Sergei Babayan has won several major international competitions including the Cleveland International, Hamamtsu, Japan and Scottish International. Sergei has appeared as soloists for several American and European Orchestras.

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MARK GASSER ~ ENGLAND

Mark Gasser has recently taken the post of Head of Piano at the Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music. Solo appearances include Ronald Stevenson's *Passacaglia* at Wigmore Hall and Carnegie Hall, NY.

AMI HAKUNO ~ JAPAN

Ami Hakuno studied at Juilliard School and Mannes College. Her teachers include Shu Hao Pao, Oxana Yablonskaya, Leon Pommers, Sophia Rosoff, and Arthur Haas on harpsichord. She has performed all over the world including a recital in Carnegie Hall, NY.

MENG-CHIEH LIU ~ USA

Since 1993, Meng-Chieh Liu has had an international career as a highly acclaimed pianist. In 2002 he won the Avery Fisher Career Grant and has since toured Japan, Taiwan, Spain, and the UK.

PASCAL ROGE ~ FRANCE

Pascal Rogé has toured across America and Europe, and performed over 20 times in Japan. Solo performances include appearances with the Philadelphia Orchestra, L'Orchestre de Paris, NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

FLUTE

VIRGINIA TAYLOR ~ AUSTRALIA

Virginia Taylor has toured with the Australian Chamber Orchestra as Principal Flute for over ten years. She is currently Head of Woodwind at The School of Music, Australian National University.

OBOE

DIANA DOHERTY ~ AUSTRALIA

Diana Doherty was Principal Oboe in the Symphony Orchestra of Lucerne for seven years. Since 1997, she has been Principal Oboe of the Sydney Symphony and performs regularly as a guest soloist throughout the world.

CLARINET

CATHERINE MCCORKILL ~ AUSTRALIA

Catherine McCorkill has toured internationally with the Australia Ensemble and is resident of the University of NSW. She has performed as soloist and Principal Clarinetist with many Australian orchestras.

HARP

MARSHALL MCGUIRE - AUSTRALIA

Marshall McGuire is currently Artistic Director of The Seymour Group. He has performed with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, English String Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Les Talens Lyriques.

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PERCUSSION

CLAIRE EDWARDES ~ AUSTRALIA

Claire Edwardes has performed throughout the world and has recently been featured as soloist at the Huddersfield Festival, Adelaide Festival of Arts, The London Birtwistle Festival and the Lichfield Festival.

IAN BRUNSKILL ~ CANADA / AUSTRALIA

Now based in Townsville, Ian Brunskill studied at the University of Calgary and University of Toronto. He currently teaches percussion and performs in several ensembles.

SHAKUHACHI

RILEY LEE ~ USA/AUSTRALIA

In 1980, Riley Lee became the first non-Japanese shakuhachi dai shihan (Grand Master). He performs and teaches extensively worldwide. Riley recently performed as soloist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and WA Symphony Orchestra.

DIDJERIDU

WILLIAM BARTON ~ AUSTRALIA

William Barton has appeared as a soloist with European, Australian and US orchestras including the London Philharmonic and Sydney Symphony.

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