

MELBOURNE  
RECITAL  
CENTRE

RISING STAR SINGER-SONGWRITER

# AURORA

31 JANUARY



**JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2017**

Win business class tickets with Etihad Airways  
Music Play Children's Festival makes some noise with **Justine Clarke**  
Irish troubadour **James Vincent McMorrow** swoons into town  
Brazil's bossa nova beats come to life with **Bebel Gilberto**  
Morrissey's greatest songs from Mexico with love by **Mexrrissey**  
The ever-stylish **Paris Combo** returns

**JANUARY**

**FEBRUARY**

**MARCH**

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# WOMINJEKA, WELCOME



Norway, India, the U.S.A., Brazil and Russia are just some of the homes of the musicians visiting Melbourne Recital Centre this summer. Music transcends language and geography, connecting us with diverse people, distant places and other times. Explore the multitude of musical cultures of our northern neighbours during **Asia TOPA**, a unique collaborative triennial of performing arts being presented for the first time in 2017. Melbourne Recital Centre

presents the visceral Japanese drumming and movement of Australia's dynamic **Taiko** with dancer Chieko Kojima in *The Beauty of 8* (Sat 11 Feb), the joyous tumult of the young musicians of *The Manginyar Classroom* (Mon 6 and Tue 7 Mar), while the Salon becomes a Chinese tea-house for an immersive performance by the innovators of Chamber Made Opera in *Between 8 & 9* (Wed 29 Mar – Sat 1 April). There's more of Asia TOPA at the Centre and across the city to discover at [asiatopa.com.au](http://asiatopa.com.au)

If you like your rock with a touch of spice, check out Mexrrissey (Thu 9 Mar), a counterintuitive but brilliantly-conceived blend of the greatest hits of The Smiths and Mexican mariachi, cha cha and mambo, all performed en Español, of course. Continuing our tour of the globe, Irish singer-songwriter James Vincent McMorrow (11 Mar) brings his personal brand of intimate indie pop, and iconic bossa nova artist Bebel Gilberto (17 Mar), make their Melbourne Recital Centre debuts. Swinging gypsy-jazz band Paris Combo returns for another night of their irresistible French élan, a quality shared by their compatriots, Ensemble L'Arpeggiata (13 March). This exquisite Baroque group led by lutenist Christina Pluhar perform the music of Henry Purcell and other masters in a free-flowing, improvisatory style. It's music-making that in the words of one of Purcell's songs 'shall all your cares beguile'. The Centre's *Great Performers* series begins with one of the most exciting pianists on the scene, Daniil Trifonov (14 March). The young Russian virtuoso has it all – phenomenal technique, insight and the ability to communicate profoundly with audiences. We're also delighted to welcome back our acclaimed presenters, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra, Victorian Opera and Musica Viva as they open their 2017 seasons and the many chamber ensembles, our local heroes, who put Melbourne on the artistic map. I look forward to welcoming you to the transformative world of music at Melbourne Recital Centre very soon.

On behalf of the Centre, I wish you and your families a warm and happy festive season.

**EUAN MURDOCH**  
CEO, Melbourne Recital Centre

Ethad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, is proud to be a partner of Melbourne Recital Centre. By bringing internationally acclaimed artists from around the world, Etihad Airways is able to enrich the experience of Centre patrons. With daily A380 services between Melbourne and Abu Dhabi and an award-winning Premium Lounge at Melbourne Airport, Etihad Airways is proud to connect Victorians to the world's cultural centres in more style and luxury than ever. We trust you will enjoy the superior quality of our guest experience and make a stopover to marvel at the wonders of our home, Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates.

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General Manager,  
Australia & New Zealand



## YOUR TICKETS TO FLY

Win Business Class flights on Etihad Airways to an Etihad destination of your choice. See page 16 for details.

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

# music play

11-14 JANUARY 2017

Melbourne Recital Centre is the best place to discover music, play an instrument and make some noise. Join in the fun at a big or mini concert, write a song or bang a bucket in a workshop or enjoy the free foyer fun.

**Big concerts:** Elisabeth Murdoch Hall. **Mini concerts:** Salon

## JUSTINE CLARKE

### LOOK! LOOK! IT'S A GOBBLEDYGOOK

In the premiere of her brand new show *Look! Look! It's a Gobbledygook* ABC TV's *Play School* presenter and popular children's music artist Justine Clarke is joined by a lively band of musicians and a couple of cheeky monsters to explore the magic of books and the art of story-telling. Sing and dance along with Justine and have some 'mon-story' fun these holidays!

Thu 12 Jan 9.30am & 11.30am  
(One hour no interval)  
**Justine Clarke**  
Adult/Child Tickets \$26 (ages 0-6)



## THE RACE FOR THE CHINESE ZODIAC

A long time ago in ancient China, the Jade Emperor, ruler of heaven and earth, held a great race between the animals, declaring the first 12 animals to cross the river would have a year named after them on the Chinese Zodiac. But 13 animals raced for only 12 places on the Zodiac... Gabrielle Wang's picture book comes to life with animation, storytelling and an original score played on traditional Chinese instruments with narrator Lawrence Leung.

Fri 13 Jan 11am (45-mins no interval)  
**Lawrence Leung** narrator  
**Australian Chinese Music Ensemble**  
Adult/Child Tickets \$26 (ages 5-8)  
*Presented in association with Asia TOPA*

## CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

Bob Brown narrates Camille Saint-Saëns' timeless classic, *Carnival of the Animals* with newly written poems by Tasmanian writer Bradley Trevor Greive (*The Blue Day Book*) introducing each of the musical numbers and bringing a fresh and uniquely Australian perspective to this timeless favourite. Dress up as your favourite animal and join the carnival.

Sat 14 Jan 10.30am & 11.45am (45-mins no interval)  
**Bob Brown** narrator  
**Melbourne Youth Orchestra**  
**Brett Kelly** conductor  
Adult/Child Tickets \$26 (ages 5-12)





## Bellbird

Visibility and reality are blurred in an enchanting forest of sound in *Bellbird*. Wander blindfolded among the hundreds of streaming ribbons, ringing the attached brass bells. Come in and enter a dream world for the senses as you play this vast instrument.

Wed 11 & Thu 12 January 9.30am to 12.30pm every half hour (20-mins)  
Child Tickets \$5 (ages 0–12)  
Accompanying adults are free.



## CabHOORAY

Cabaret star Ali McGregor has created a show the whole family can enjoy. With her fabulous jazz band and very special guest comedians, cabaret and circus acts, it's a cabaret show like no other!

Fri 13 Jan 9.30am, 11.30am & 1.30pm  
(One hour no interval)  
Adult/Child Tickets \$20 (ages 2–12)



## All Day Fritz

All Day Fritz is a Melbourne band whose rootsy, swingy, jazzy, rocky, rowdy, mellow, groovy, harmonious music packs the dance floor with kids, adults and grandparents dancing to their four part harmonies, original tunes and great songs.

Sat 14 Jan 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm  
(45-mins)  
Adult/Child Tickets \$20 (ages 2–8)

## WORKSHOPS All children require tickets, bring your adult for free!

### BYO Bucket with Ben Walsh You Can Write a Song

Ben takes a simple household bucket or tub and with two wooden spoons he leads an interactive hour of ensemble drumming. Discover sounds and rhythms while working in a musical ensemble.

Thu 12 Jan 10am, 11.30am & 1pm (45-mins)  
Child Tickets \$30 – incl. instrument (ages 3–12)



Song writing specialist and music therapist Dr. Emma O'Brien takes participants on a creative journey from a blank page to an original song. Come along with your ideas and see and hear your song unfold. No music skills necessary – just a song in your heart.

Fri 13 Jan 9.30am, 11.30am & 1pm (50-mins)  
Child Tickets \$20 (ages 5–12)

### Sensory Sounds

Music therapists Jo Rimmer and Tanya McKenna invite pre-school children with a disability and their siblings to move, listen, play and explore music with their senses. These small groups provide a supportive and creative environment for musical exploration.

Sat 14 Jan 10am & 11.30am (45-mins)  
Child Tickets \$20 (ages 3–5)



DR WANG ZHENG-TING

### Chinese Music Workshop

Following *The Race for the Chinese Zodiac* join composer/musical director Dr. Wang Zheng-Ting for an interactive workshop on Chinese music, instruments and culture. With a range of traditional instruments learn to play well-known Chinese folk tunes.

Fri 13 Jan 12.30pm  
Child Tickets \$10



FREE  
FOYER FUN

The Melbourne Recital Centre Foyers come to life with a range of free, fun and interactive experiences 12 to 14 January from 9.30am. Play the Magic Harp, hit the Gong Wall, snap a pic in the Photo Booth or have your face painted.

Visit [melbournerecital.com.au/musicplay](http://melbournerecital.com.au/musicplay) for a complete program

Melbourne Recital Centre's children's programming is supported by Betty Amsden AO

# AURORA

*Norwegian pop princess and mistress of the dark arts, AURORA, performs in Melbourne for the first time.*

Phenomenally talented songwriter **AURORA** joins us from Bergen, Norway just out of her teens. Her fantastical, assured debut *All My Demons Greeting Me as a Friend* is filled with euphoric pop moments that belie the introspective nature of her thoughtful lyrics. Live, AURORA is a force – it's hard to take your eyes off her – and she has mesmerised TV audiences with performances on Jimmy Fallon, Conan and Colbert amongst others. The songwriter Aurora Aksnes, who has been writing songs since the age of 13, lives in the Norwegian city of Bergen, hometown of such acts as Röyksopp, Erlend Øye and many other pop musicians. Her sound is reminiscent of singers like Agnes Obel or Florence + The Machine. After her performance at the CMJ Music Marathon in 2013, *The New York Times* called her a 'remarkable newcomer'. Three years later, she's about to conquer the world with her beautiful pop gems.

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## INFORMATION

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Tue 31 January 7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall  
(Two hours & 15-mins incl. interval)  
**AURORA** vocals (Norway)  
With Special Guests  
Doors open at 7pm. See the  
website for full set times.  
Tickets \$55  
Presented by Melbourne  
Recital Centre



# Baden Powell's Afro-Sambas

Baden Powell was one of the most important Brazilian musicians of the 20th century. A virtuosic guitarist and genius composer, he combined classical techniques with popular harmony and swing, performing in many different styles, including bossa nova, samba, Brazilian jazz, Latin jazz and música popular brasileira. His album *Os Afro-sambas* is a masterpiece of post-Bossa Nova Brazil. Written with poet/lyricist Vinícius de Moraes, these compositions represent the breadth and beauty of Afro-Brazilian music – music central to the Brazilian identity.

Melbourne band **Panorama Brasil** draws on the diverse musical landscape of Brazil: music with influences from the arid interior, the Amazonian basin, and the streets of Rio and Salvador. Lead by drummer/composer **Alastair Kerr**, a long-time student of Brazilian music, and recognised as one of Australia's best exponents of Brazilian percussion, Panorama Brasil explores the Afro roots that inspired Powell bringing the Afro-Brazilian drumming to the centre of this suite. Joining the band is **Alda Rezende**, a native of Belo Horizonte and one of the most captivating voices to come out of Brazil in recent years.

## INFORMATION

Sat 4 February 7pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**Panorama Brasil**  
**Alda Rezende** vocals  
Tickets \$30 (\$25 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Panorama Brasil



MEOW MEOW

# 'Tis Pity: An Operatic Fantasia on Selling the Skin & the Teeth

**Victorian Opera** presents *'Tis Pity*, an operatic fantasia by **Richard Mills**. This commissioned new work reunites the creative forces of international chanteuse **Meow Meow** and director **Cameron Menzies**, following their acclaimed production of Kurt Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins*. Richard Mills composes a flight of fancy on 'selling the skin and the teeth'. A song cycle on the complexities of sex, pleasure, survival and salvation, trade transactions and razzle dazzle rouge through the ages. Be drawn into a fantastical history of the concubine, the courtesan, the conqueror, the queen and the sing song girl. With texts ancient and modern, old and original.

## INFORMATION

Sat 4, Mon 6, Tue 7 & Wed 8 February  
7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (70-mins no interval)  
**Meow Meow**  
**Kanen Breen**  
**Richard Mills** conductor  
**Cameron Menzies** director

**Jim Atkins** sound designer  
**Orchestra Victoria**  
Premium \$138-\$128  
A reserve \$102-\$92 (\$87-\$77 concession)  
B reserve \$82-\$72 (\$72-\$62 concession)  
C reserve \$72-\$62 (\$57-\$47 concession)  
Presented by Victorian Opera





## ORNETTE BY ORIGAMI

Ornette Coleman was one of jazz's most innovative and contentious figures. He remained somewhat of a maverick throughout his career with various criticisms including his plastic saxophone, unusual tuning, discarding of musical convention and his theory of harmolodics. But Ornette's music was always driven by melody and through his contributions he is responsible for changing the history of jazz and music in general. Led by multi-instrumentalist, **Adam Simmons**, **Origami**'s own focus is on music of a strong melodic and structural nature, which has in part been inspired by Ornette's explorations. Origami presents a range of Ornette's compositions from throughout his career of almost 60 years and celebrates the music of one of music's great innovators.

### INFORMATION

Thu 9 February 7pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**Origami**  
**Noah Simmons** drums  
Tickets \$30 (\$25 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Origami



## Treasures of a Nation Chinese New Year Concert 2017

The prestigious **Chinese Music Orchestra** returns to Australia for the musical event, *Treasures of a Nation, Chinese New Year Concert 2017*. The Orchestra of over 50 musicians is led by conductor Hong Xia and principal GaoHu soloist Bo Miao. *Treasures of a Nation* promises to be a transcendent experience with the Orchestra performing music that merges traditional Chinese style with contemporary music. The concert takes you on a fascinating musical journey, exploring the treasures and rich culture of a nation.

With over 50 years of history, the National Opera & Dance Drama Theatre's renowned Chinese Music Orchestra has created a large number of popular opera and dance dramas. The Orchestra has a unique artistic style and

has fostered a large number of performers with high artistic attainments. The Orchestra has accumulated many transitional and popular instrumental music works and its members have taken part in national and international instrumental music competitions winning many prizes.

### INFORMATION

Thu 9 February 7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl. interval)  
**Chinese Music Orchestra** (China)  
Premium \$89  
A reserve \$69  
B reserve \$49  
Presented by Ausfeng



## Love, Longing & Lullabies

Melbourne-based melody maker **Tamara Kuldin** is all about bringing back the sass and sophistication of that vintage era of music with her own modern, sultry yet playful twist. Her vocal prowess is captivating audiences from as far as New York and Paris as she infuses her stage with warmth, charisma and musicality. A lover of storytelling through song, Tamara Kuldin allures her musical prey with her trademark cheek and coquettish charm. With a passion and flair for various shades of jazz, blues and multilingual affairs of song, *Love, Longing & Lullabies* includes exquisite interpretations of much loved tunes from *The*

*Sound of Music*, Gershwin, Hoagy Carmichael, The Beatles and more, all from her newly released recording featuring an ensemble of renowned jazz musicians. Immerse yourself in an evening's music box of love, longing and lullabies. Miss her... and you're missing out.

### INFORMATION

Fri 10 February 7pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**Tamara Kuldin** vocals  
Tickets \$30 (\$25 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Tamara Kuldin



# Taikoz THE BEAUTY OF 8

For one night only, Australia's internationally acclaimed drumming ensemble Taikoz will leave you breathless as they perform alongside world renowned taiko player and Kodo principal dancer Chieko Kojima and shakuhachi Grandmaster Riley Lee. Infectious rhythms, soaring melodies, lavish costumes, huge drums and Taikoz's legendary power and precision, interwoven with Chieko's graceful yet powerful dance, deliver a spectacular experience in this exclusive Melbourne performance. *The Beauty of 8* explores the many expressive qualities of the taiko, contrasting masculine and feminine, extrovert and introvert, tradition and innovation.

The title refers to the mesmerising shapes and figure of eight movements that are synonymous with the yokouchi style of taiko playing. Guest artist Chieko Kojima's mastery of the style, not to mention her own personal artistry, brings a level of sophistication and expressiveness that is not only beguiling, but also deeply spiritual. Trained as a dancer, Chieko seamlessly combines her love of movement, sound and rhythm into a performance that begs the question: Is it drumming? Is it dance? Framed within a program of new music composed by Taikoz, *The Beauty of 8* is a stunning collaboration that highlights the artists' inner intensity, beauty of expression and synchronicity of sound and movement.

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#### INFORMATION

Sat 11 February 7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (90-mins no interval)

#### Taikoz

Chieko Kojima dance

Riley Lee shakuhachi

A reserve \$65 (\$55 concession)

B reserve \$50 (\$40 concession)

C reserve \$40

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre in association with Asia TOPA



ENSEMBLE GOMBERT

Noted for its pure intonation and historical approach to choral sound and style, **Ensemble Gombert** is Melbourne's outstanding chamber choir. Named after the composer Nicolas Gombert (c.1495–1560), the Ensemble specialises in a cappella performance of Franco-Flemish music of the High Renaissance. For their opening 2017 concert they perform one of the most important works in musical history, Monteverdi's Vespers. Since this great work was rescued from virtual oblivion in the mid-20th century it has become one of the most popular of Baroque choral works. But what is not well known is that Monteverdi wrote it in such a way that it could be performed either in full splendour with combined vocal and instrumental forces, or in a more subdued manner with voices and organ. It is the latter, rarely-heard version that Ensemble Gombert performs on this occasion.

## Claudio Monteverdi, Vespers of 1610, Organ Version

### INFORMATION

Mon 13 February 6pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**MONTEVERDI Vespers of 1610, Organ Version**  
**Ensemble Gombert**

Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Two concert 2017 package \$66 (\$49 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre &  
Ensemble Gombert

## JO QUAIL

*'ONE OF THE MOST AWE-INSPIRING AND  
INVENTIVE CELLISTS OF OUR GENERATION.'*

HEATHEN HARVEST PERIODICAL (USA)

Following a sold out premiere performance of her latest album *Five Incantations* in February 2016, British cellist and composer **Jo Quail** is delighted to return beginning her 2017 concert tour. Jo uses the Boss RC300 and GT100 pedals to bring her incendiary live performances to audiences around the world. Jo will perform works from *Five Incantations*, as well as popular works from her previous albums *Caldera* (2014) and *From the Sea* (2011). Many of Jo's compositions are influenced by her experiences when touring yearly in Australia and this program includes works Jo has written in response to the inspirational energy and evocative landscapes she encounters in her travels.

### INFORMATION

Wed 15 February 7pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**Jo Quail electric cello (U.K.)**

Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital  
Centre & Arelmedia Management



JO QUAIL

### A THOUSAND SOUNDS

## THE RUSSIAN EVOLUTION

**Zulya and The Children of the Underground** performs exquisite original music partly inspired by vocalist Zulya Kamalova's Russian roots. Difficult to label, the music has been described as 'Kurt Weillish, Euro-cabaret jazz colliding with lullabies constructed to tear your heart out'. After 12 years, four albums, one ARIA award and two ARIA nominations, the ensemble's live performances are haunting and nuanced, with Zulya's smouldering vocals supported and enriched by the sounds of the accordion, clarinet, guitar, double bass and percussion.

It's been 100 years since the world was shaken by the October Revolution, and in this concert, Zulya and The Children of the Underground

look back at the last century of Russian song and celebrate the influence it has had on her art – from traditional folk songs to the Soviet pop, jazz and old movie favourites of her childhood, to the great 20th-century Russian composers and her own best original songs from her varied back catalogue.

### INFORMATION

Thu 16 February 6pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**Zulya and The Children of the Underground**  
Tickets \$30 (\$25 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre &  
Zulya Kamalov

ZULYA AND THE CHILDREN  
OF THE UNDERGROUND



## Tango Salon

Take a sultry sojourn into the music and dance forms of Spain and Latin America. From tango to milonga and vals to flamenco, featuring works by Argentine composers Alberto Ginastera, Astor Piazzolla and Carlos Gardel and Spaniards Joaquin Turina and Isaac Albeniz. Merging studied technique with one hot summer night, this is a performance that will smash through classical sensibilities.

**Firebird Trio** welcomes artistic collaborators, Argentine Tango dancers Nadim and Rina from Tango Esencia as they weave this magical dance form into the soulful music of Buenos Aires – a rare treat and specially curated for the intimacy of the Salon.

### INFORMATION

Fri 17 February 7pm  
Salon (90-mins no interval)  
Works by **Alberto Ginastera, Astor Piazzolla, Carlos Gardel, Joaquin Turina and Isaac Albeniz.**  
**Firebird Trio**  
**Curt Thompson** violin  
**Tango Esencia** Argentine tango dancers  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Firebird Trio



**Jen Shyu's** solo performance, that of a woman living simultaneously in multiple cultures and 'projecting her ancestry' through contemporary monologue, reveals a personal journey of loss and redemption made universal through the exploration of hardships that plague our modern world: loss of tradition, habitat and public spaces. Sonic, visual and visceral rites and reflections are discovered by pilgrimage through Taiwan, East Timor, Indonesia, Vietnam and South Korea. These issues will be explored in performance through sound, movement and fieldwork footage, creating a land-sound-landscape which will serve to transport and transform both the performer and audience, leading to shared revelation and recovery from past sorrow. Renowned Indonesian film and stage director Garin Nugroho (*Opera Jawa, Under the Tree, Daun di Atas Bantal*) directed *Solo Rites: Seven Breaths*, infusing his distinctive vision for celebrating the exhilarating and sacred into the work.

Born in Illinois from immigrant parents of Taiwan and East Timor, Jen Shyu is an experimental jazz vocalist, composer, multi-instrumentalist, dancer and educator, having performed internationally as a solo artist, bandleader and collaborator. With songs that could remind you of ancient court music or Joni Mitchell (*The New York Times*), Jen Shyu invites you to join her for a musical pilgrimage through Taiwan, East Timor, Indonesia, Vietnam and South Korea.

### INFORMATION

Sat 18 February 6pm & 8pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**Jen Shyu** vocals/dance/Taiwanese moon lute/piano/gayageum/er hu/East Timorese lakadou  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre in association with Asia TOPA



## St David's Day Celtic Concert 2017

This year the **Victoria Welsh Choir**, with musical director **Faleiry Koczkar OAM** on the conductor's podium, presents a gala matinee concert of Welsh and Celtic music featuring their trademark soaring four-part harmony. A special inclusion in the program will be the world premiere of the choir's commissioned work *Land of my Song*. The composer, Paul Jarman, will personally conduct this work, the themes of which he forged from choristers' own writings about the longing many feel for their old country. Also performing will be the female

Celtic folk quartet **Co-cheòl**, who were adored by the audience at the choir's 2016 concert.

### INFORMATION

Sun 19 February 2.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl. interval)  
**Victoria Welsh Choir**  
**Faleiry Koczkar OAM** director  
A reserve \$50 (\$47 concession)  
B reserve \$40 (\$37 concession)  
Presented by Victoria Welsh Choir



# EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY

*'EXPLOSIONS SET THEMSELVES FOR AN UPHILL BATTLE AND, YET, CONQUERED WITH INCOMPARABLE GRACE.'*

GIGWISE

With a reputation for all-consuming intense live performances, **Explosions in the Sky** were touted early on in their career as the next phenomenon in moody and dynamic instrumental indie rock à la Mogwai and Godspeed You! Black Emperor. They have since become one of the genre's most commercially successful bands, scoring several motion pictures and featured in countless other films, television series and video games.

The quartet of Texas kids, Mark Smith and Munaf Rayani on guitars, Michael James on bass and Christopher Hraskey on drums, are embarking on a world tour to mark their latest release *The Wilderness*, bringing their eclectic mix of shoe-gaze, noise and ambient folk to Elisabeth Murdoch Hall for what promises to be a mesmerising experience. Their latest album is a bold, experimental work combining song craft with a cinematic sensibility mixing the progressive ambience of early Peter Dinklage, the triumphant Romanticism of The Cure, and the more melancholy moments of Fleetwood Mac.

What defines Explosions in the Sky is its rejection of the traditional verse-chorus-verse-chorus pop musical structure. Its long and dramatic works are more like symphonic pieces, with complex narrative arcs, instrumental explorations, interlocking arpeggios, emotional bursts and sudden rhythmic shifts.

Explosions in the Sky plays some of the most passionate, powerful instrumental music you will ever hear. Equal parts romance and tragedy, their beautiful melodies have the tendency to ignite into head-spinning walls of noise. Easily one of the most intense live bands ever, their sound proves to be every bit as triumphant as their name implies.

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#### INFORMATION

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Mon 20 & Tue 21 February 7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours & 20-mins incl. interval)  
Explosions in the Sky (U.S.A.)

With special guests  
Doors open at 7pm. See the website for full set times.

A reserve \$75

B reserve \$65

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre



KEVIN SUHERMAN

# Kevin Suherman plays Chopin, Liszt & Mendelssohn

Winner of the Elisabeth Murdoch Prize at the 2016 Melbourne Recital Centre Great Romantics Competition, 22 year old pianist **Kevin Suherman** returns to perform celebrated Romantic piano works by Mendelssohn, Chopin and Liszt.

### INFORMATION

Tue 21 February 6pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)

#### CHOPIN

Scherzo No.2, Op.31  
Andante Spianato & Grande Polonaise  
Brilliante in E-flat, Op.22

**LISZT** Hungarian Rhapsody No.2

**MENDELSSOHN** Fantasie in F-sharp minor, Op.28

**Kevin Suherman** piano

Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

Supported by Annamila Pty Ltd

### SPOTLIGHT SERIES

# AUSTRALIAN ELECTRIC

Hailed as 'an inspiring example of forward-thinking classical music culture in Australia,' (*CutCommon*), **Three** is a unique Melbourne-based chamber ensemble that explores a variety of musical styles including experimental, traditional and popular music. **Joel Brennan** (trumpet), **Don Immel** (trombone), and **Ken Murray** (guitar), have presented numerous dynamic performances in Australia and abroad that utilise three timbral modes: acoustic, live electronic sound manipulation and the addition of pre-recorded electronic soundscapes. *Australian Electric* features new works written for Three that highlight the combination of their instruments with real-time and pre-recorded soundscapes.



# Top Class Dance 2017

Enjoy the beauty and passion of dance presented by top performing VCE Dance and VCE VET Dance students from 2016. **Top Class Dance 2017** presents a range of VET dance styles and both VCE dance technique and composition solos. Compered by chief assessors, the concerts provide examples of top performing students and insights into preparing for VCE performance examinations.

### INFORMATION

Thu 23 February 10.30am & 2pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (90-mins no interval)

Tickets \$15.90 (\$13.90 regional concession)

Two concerts \$27.90 (\$23.90 regional concession)

Part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2017 presented by Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority

The program includes world premiere performances of two Australian works by James Ledger and Wally Gunn.

### INFORMATION

Thu 23 February 6pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)

**FAY WANG** *Steps to the Unconsciousness*

**WALLY GUNN** *Pinwheel* (world premiere)

**JAMES LEDGER** *Voodoo Sonnets* (world premiere)

**KEN MURRAY** *Three Sketches*

**Three**

Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Three

Supported by The Robert Salzer Foundation



THREE

## THE TRADING ROUTES – The Silk Road & the MoGau Caves



MINDY  
WANG

In this explosive **Speak Percussion** collaboration, **David Shea** combines four virtuosic musicians with a grand video work. Scored for electronics, percussion, guzheng (Chinese zither), singing bowls and voice, this major work is fed by the rich cultural and spiritual history of the Silk Road and MoGau Caves in Dunhuang, China. Sonically underpinned by field recordings and the live sound of the 2500 year-old iconic instrument the guzheng, Shea weaves a contemporary narrative around the ancient trading routes that connected China to the Middle East and into Greek and Roman civilisations. The first time in Melbourne, this project will immerse you within both a ritual as performance and a tribute to the lasting influence of the Silk Road on the modern world.

### INFORMATION

Sat 25 February 4pm & 7pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**David Shea** composer/electronics/  
keyboards  
**Mindy Wang** guzheng  
**Eugene Ughetti & Matthias Schack-Arnott**  
percussion  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre  
& **Speak Percussion** in association with  
Asia TOPA

## Handel's Messiah



AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA

He is out of pocket. Out of sorts. And out of time. A career on the brink of ruin. Then it happens. The words that changed his life forever. He can't sleep, can't eat. The words devour him. Command his soul to create. Day after day for 24 days he doesn't stop, for he has seen 'the very face of God'. These are the words of Handel's most famous oratorio and the music of his soul. This is Handel's *Messiah*. Brace yourself for the **Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's** first ever performance of *Messiah*, a heavenly synthesis of the **Brandenburg Choir**, Orchestra and shining young vocal soloists.

### INFORMATION

Sat 25 February 7pm & Sun 26 February 5pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl. interval)  
**HANDEL** *Messiah* HWV 56  
**Australian Brandenburg Orchestra**  
**Brandenburg Choir**  
Premium \$160  
A reserve \$140  
B reserve \$110 (\$73 concession)  
C reserve \$80 (\$53 concession)  
D reserve \$55  
E reserve \$30  
Presented by Australian Brandenburg Orchestra

SERAPHIM  
TRIO

## The Classical Trio

Over the last two decades, **Seraphim Trio**, **Helen Ayres** (violin), **Anna Goldsworthy** (piano) and **Tim Nankervis** (cello), has remained steadfastly committed to chamber music – from building the contemporary repertoire, to developing new audiences and teaching the next generation of performers. Following its recently acclaimed cycles of Beethoven and Schubert trios, in 2017 Seraphim Trio launches a celebration of the history of the piano trio journeying through time from the Viennese salon of Mozart and Beethoven, to the rich subjectivities of Brahms, the vivid folk imaginings of Dvořák and the colour and majesty of Ravel. The Classical Trio celebrates the music and the composers who established the genre. Haydn's thrilling 'Gypsy Rondo' Trio in G reveals the genre as much more than just an accompanied sonata, while Mozart's Trio in B-flat K.502 rejoices in new textures found with this secure combination of instruments. Schubert's 'Notturmo' for trio, written 40 years later in the same city, comes as if from another world.

### INFORMATION

Mon 27 February 7pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**HAYDN** Piano Trio No.39 in G, Hob.XV:25 'Gypsy'  
**MOZART** Piano Trio in B-flat, K.502  
**SCHUBERT** Piano Trio in E-flat, D.897 'Notturmo'  
**Seraphim Trio**  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Four concert 2017 package \$132 (\$98 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Seraphim Trio



LONDON KLEZMER QUARTET

A klezmer band arrives at dawn in a middle-European country town. **London Klezmer Quartet's** musical journey describes how the musicians find their way around, get to know the locals and lead a rowdy session at the local tavern, before exhaustion sets in as the next day dawns. Traditional klezmer tunes interweave with old laments, a Warsaw Yiddish theatre hit with a hint of jazz ('Goodbye New York') and a love song (about beetroot soup).

### INFORMATION

Tue 28 February 6.30pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**London Klezmer Quartet** (U.K.)  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

## Eighth Blackbird

**Musica Viva** invites you to celebrate the joy of the new with **Eighth Blackbird**. The closest thing classical music has to a rock band, this ensemble – described by the *LA Times* as a collection of 'supermusicians' – revels in the work of living composers, played with love, virtuosity and enjoyment. This performance sees them delving into contemporary gems by Muhly, Dessner, Hearne and Andres and a world premiere by Sydney composer Holly Harrison.

### INFORMATION

Tue 28 February 7pm & Sat 4 March 7pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl. interval)  
**NICO MUHLY** *Doublespeak*  
**BRUCE DESSNER** *Murder Ballades*  
**HOLLY HARRISON** new work (world premiere)\*  
**TED HEARNE** *By-By Huey*  
**TIMO ANDRES** *Checkered Shade*  
**Eighth Blackbird** (U.S.A.)  
Premium \$133 (\$116 concession)  
A reserve \$111 (\$97 concession)  
B reserve \$78 (\$68 concession)  
C reserve \$52 (\$45 concession)  
Under 30 \$30  
Presented by Musica Viva  
*\*commissioned for Musica Viva with support from Geoff Stearn & the Hildegard Project*



**'PROFESSIONALISM AND  
PROFICIENCY AMPLIFIED BY THAT  
INDEFINABLE X FACTOR, CHARISMA.'**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

# Your Business Class tickets to fly



## Book any concert ticket before 31 March to win

Purchase a ticket to any event at Melbourne Recital Centre during January, February and/or March 2017 and automatically be entered into the draw to win two Business Class flights to an Etihad destination of your choice\*, thanks to Etihad Airways, the Centre's International Airline Partner.

The more tickets you book, the more chances you have to win.

PLUS, make a donation of \$10 or more with your ticket purchase and receive an extra entry!

Competition closes 31 March 2017.

\*terms and conditions apply

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**Flying Reimagined**

# Top Class Drama & Theatre Studies 2017



The **Top Class Drama and Theatre Studies** concerts present performances by inspirational students who received outstanding grades for their 2016 VCE performance examinations. Hear tips and advice from the chief assessors as they comere an entertaining and informative 90-minute program. See drama students present inventive original works and theatre studies students present a range of interpretations of existing monologues through direction and acting or design. See examples of acting/directing, sound, make-up, set, props and/or costume design presented live on stage within the two theatre studies concerts.

## INFORMATION

Thu 2 March 10.30am, 2pm & 6pm  
 Fri 3 March 10.30am & 2pm  
 Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (90 mins – no interval)  
 Tickets \$15.90 (\$13.90 regional concession)  
 Two concerts \$27.90 (\$23.90 regional concession)  
 Three concerts \$38 (\$33 regional concession)  
 Part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2017  
 presented by Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority

## SOUTHBANK SERIES



## The Romantics

**Seraphim Trio**, Helen Ayres (violin), Anna Goldsworthy (piano) and Tim Nankervis (cello), continues its journey through time celebrating the history of the piano trio. This second concert in the series of four includes music from the golden age of the piano trio. Beethoven's 'Ghost' Trio reveals the genre as symphonic, yet contains one of the most haunting and beautiful slow movements ever written for a small ensemble. Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in D minor has the precocious brilliance of one of history's greatest prodigies and holds our attention as a deeply moving, unforgettable song without words. Join the Trio on its adventure of sound, emotion and conversation.

## INFORMATION

Wed 1 March 7pm  
 Salon (One hour no interval)  
**BEETHOVEN** Piano Trio No 1 in D, Op.70, 'Ghost'  
**MENDELSSOHN** Piano Trio No.1 in D minor, Op.49  
**Seraphim Trio**  
 Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
 Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Seraphim Trio

## LOCAL HEROES 2017



**The Consort of Melbourne** is a vocal ensemble that champions both historic and contemporary chamber vocal repertoire. Consisting of a core membership of eight of Melbourne's finest chamber singers under the guidance of artistic director Steven Hodgson, the group expands or shrinks as the repertoire demands. Performing mostly a capella with one singer per part, The Consort brings 1000 years of repertoire to life with an intimacy and verve that leaves audiences spellbound.

Like most artists, composers throughout time have sought to use their art to reflect on the world around them. Although there are countless ways to do this in an abstract sense, one of the few real-world sounds that can be recognisably transcribed into notated music is birdsong, so it is no wonder that birds have captivated the imagination of composers the

world over. *Whispers on the Wind* presents a wide variety of composers' depictions of nature's songsters: from Clément Janequin's raucous 'Chant des oiseaux' (Bird Song) to Maurice Ravel's sublime 'Trois beaux oiseaux du Paradis' (Three Beautiful Birds of Paradise), this program flits from moments of delight and laughter to passages of poignant beauty in the blink of an eye.

## INFORMATION

Thu 2 March 6.30pm  
 Salon (One hour no interval)  
 Works by **Ligeti, Ravel, Grandage, Clement, Gibbons, Elgar** and more.  
**The Consort of Melbourne**  
 Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
 Two concert 2017 package \$66 (\$49 concession)  
 Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & The Consort of Melbourne



DAVID JONES

## Drum Space

There's no other drummer like **David Jones**. Australia's very own celebrated drummer is back with an evocative new drum solo experience *Drum Space*. David's performance takes you into worlds of texture, colour and imagination with drums, cymbals and percussion. Underpinning the cascading soundscapes is deep stillness and space. An experience like no other and a tour-de-force of rhythmic magic.

### INFORMATION

Sat 4 March 4pm & 7pm  
 Salon (One hour no interval)  
**David Jones** drums  
 Tickets \$30 (\$25 concession)  
 Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & David Jones

## ROCOCO CELLO



LI-WEI QIN

Opulence, pomp, exuberance and glamour: welcome to the sparkling pleasure domes of the Rococo. Music flourished in the early Classical period as wealthy patrons outdid each other with fabulous private commissions. Some of the most important music of Mozart, Haydn and C.P.E. Bach was brought to life during this time.

**Melbourne Chamber Orchestra** (MCO) is joined by renowned cellist **Li-Wei Qin** for this rich program of the Rococo. Described by *Gramophone* as 'A superbly stylish, raptly intuitive performer,' Li-Wei Qin is a globe-trotting cello virtuoso, in demand worldwide as a concerto and recital artist. Along with the MCO they serve us a double treat, with C.P.E. Bach's scintillating A major concerto and a great tour de force of the cello repertoire, the *Variations on a Rococo Theme* by Tchaikovsky.

### INFORMATION

Sun 5 March 2.30pm  
 Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl. interval)  
**MOZART** *Idomeneo*: Overture & Chaconne  
**C.P.E. BACH** Cello Concerto in A  
**HAYDN** Symphony No.88, 'Letter V'  
**TCHAIKOVSKY** *Variations on a Rococo Theme*, Op.33

**Melbourne Chamber Orchestra**  
**Michael Dahlenburg** conductor  
**William Hennessy** director  
**Li-Wei Qin** cello  
 Premium \$127 (\$117 concession)  
 A reserve \$106 (\$95 concession)  
 B reserve \$85 (\$74 concession)  
 C reserve \$63 (\$52 concession)  
 Under 40 \$40  
 Presented by Melbourne Chamber Orchestra



STEWART KELLY

## The Romantic Soul II

**Stewart Kelly & Friends** continues to feature overlooked corners of the Romantic repertoire. In this recital, they focus on that most romantic of instruments: the clarinet. Marc Delmas' *Fantaisie Italienne* is a lyrical showpiece that is inexplicably ignored in the repertoire. It is paired with the romances for cello and piano of Italian composer Giuseppe Martucci and anchored by two trios – the magnificent masterpiece that is Brahms' late clarinet trio and the 20th-century jazz-inspired work of Muczynski. The friends joining Stewart Kelly for this performance are superb clarinet virtuoso **Justin Beere** and cellist **Rebecca Proietto**.

### INFORMATION

Mon 6 March 6pm  
 Salon (One hour no interval)  
**BRAHMS** Clarinet Trio in A minor, Op.114  
**DELMAS** *Fantaisie Italienne*  
**MARTUCCI** Two Romances  
**MUCZYNSKI** Fantasy Trio for clarinet, cello & piano, Op.26  
**Justin Beere** clarinet  
**Rebecca Proietto** cello  
**Stewart Kelly** piano  
 Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
 Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre and Stewart Kelly & Friends

# THE MANGANIYAR CLASSROOM

Theatre director Roysten Abel, famous for *The Manganiyar Seduction*, returns with *The Manganiyar Classroom*. Those who have heard the songs of the Manganiyars – a tribal community from Rajasthan with a strong musical tradition – would say that Abel is once seduced, forever obsessed. In Abel's *The Manganiyar Seduction* musicians perform in a dramatic set inspired by the red light district of Amsterdam. Abel returned to the Manganiyar strongholds to create *The Manganiyar Classroom*, featuring the youngest members of the community.

With 35 young Manganiyar boys what Abel attempts in this production is not just an introduction to the glorious musical reserves of this community, but a kind of activism. He brings to centre stage an India that is not so shining but left far behind. In this one-hour performance, the Manganiyar kids stun you with their talent – each of them a repository of song, dance and rhythm. However, at the end of the performance, there is a painful recognition of how they are doomed to be carriers of a tradition, forgotten to be included in the programs of 'progress'.

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## INFORMATION

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Mon 6 & Tue 7 March, 7.30pm

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (One hour no interval)

A reserve \$60 (\$40 concession)

B reserve \$40

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre in association with Asia TOPA



# Monteverdi – Love & War

**Ludovico's Band** is one of Australia's most dynamic Baroque bands. Acclaimed for its performances of music from the 16th to the 18th centuries, their combination of multiple plucked string instruments with soaring violins and a rich bowed bass creates a unique and exotic sound world.

This year the Band's Recital Centre series is dedicated to Claudio Monteverdi, marking the 450th anniversary of his birth. Celebrate a wealth of astonishing works by a composer at the cutting edge of the New Music of his time, who composed masterpieces in both the Renaissance and Baroque styles. Framed by his contemporaries and celebrating the astonishing richness of his Eighth Book of

Madrigals, Ludovico's Band traverses the landscape between love and war, with laments, tears, battles and caresses. Featuring favourite madrigals from this later book, including 'Lamento della Ninfa' and 'Chiome d'Oro', as well as works by Castello and Uccellini.

## INFORMATION

Tue 7 March 6pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**Ludovico's Band**  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Three concert 2017 package \$99 (\$72 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Ludovico's Band



## Celebrating International Women's Day

To celebrate International Women's Day, **Ensemble Offspring** performs a showcase of curious, bold and brilliant compositions by women composers from around the world. Bringing together work from renowned Australian composer Liza Lim and acclaimed expats Kate Moore and Melody Eötvös, emerging talent Cassie To and towering international figures such as Finland's Kaija Saariaho and Estonia's Tatjana Kozolva-Johannes, this is chamber music to be seen, heard and felt.

## INFORMATION

Wed 8 March 7pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**KATE MOORE** *Velvet*  
**TATJANA KOZOLVA-JOHANNES** *Horizontalis*  
**LISA LIM** *Turning Dance of the Bee*  
**MELODY EÖTVÖS** new work

**CASSIE TO** *Avialae*  
**KAIJA SAARIAHO** *Cendres*  
**Ensemble Offspring**  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre  
Part of *A Thousand Sounds*



## Nat Bartsch & Luke Howard: solo piano

Following the success of their *Festival of Beautiful Sound* in 2014, contemporary pianist/composers **Nat Bartsch** and **Luke Howard** return for a for a night of solo piano. Both are at the forefront of Melbourne's emerging post classical scene, influenced by contemporaries such as Nils Frahm and Max Richter, along with European and Australian improvised music. Whilst Bartsch and Howard have a unique and recognisable sound of their own, they share a penchant for the reflective, spacious and beautiful. This concert, comprising their own compositions, is not to be missed.

## INFORMATION

Thu 9 March 7pm  
Salon (Two hours incl. interval)  
**Nat Bartsch & Luke Howard** piano  
Tickets \$30 (\$25 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre and Nat Bartsch & Luke Howard

# MEXRRISSEY

## MEXICO GOES MORRISSEY



### *Morrissey's greatest songs from Mexico with love.*

A team of musical gunslingers from Mexico's finest bands reinvent Morrissey's songs south of the border. At first glance, the association might seem surprising: songs from a place English singer/songwriter Morrissey himself bewails as 'silent and grey', being sung by musicians from one of the world's most famously vibrant countries. But actually, Moz's ardent Mexican fan base is a force to be reckoned with, and when you consider the drama, romance and poetry inherent in The Smiths' outsider anthems, it makes perfect sense.

Enter **Mexrrissey** – a glorious six-piece band representing the crème de la crème of Mexico's music scene, who interpret Morrissey's and The Smiths' oeuvre entirely in Spanish via vibrant Latin rhythms of ranchera, mariachi, danzón, mambo, norteño and cha cha cha with arrangements by Calexico's Sergio Mendoza. The Mexrrissey live band is a rotating line-up of Mexican musicians from both sides of the border.

Music knows no boundaries and Mexico's musically talented Mexrrissey proves just that so immerse yourself in the unifying power of music and follow the sound of the mariachi trumpet.

#### INFORMATION

Thu 9 March 7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours & 30-mns incl. interval)  
**Mexrrissey (Mexico)**  
With Special Guests  
Doors open at 7pm. See the website for full set times.  
Tickets \$69  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

**'LATIN-INFUSED VERSIONS OF MORRISSEY SONGS  
AREN'T LOST IN THEIR SPANISH TRANSLATION, BUT  
SMARTLY MANAGE TO HONOUR THE ORIGINALS  
AND TAKE THE AUDIENCE FOR THE RIDE.'**

THE GUARDIAN (AUST)



## SOUTHBANK SERIES



# Epic Fragment

The **Australia Piano Quartet** (APQ) has been Ensemble in Residence at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) since 2012. In addition to their exploration of canonic masterpieces of the piano quartet repertoire, the ensemble is committed to unearthing neglected works of past and present and championing the creation of new work having to date commissioned over 20 new piano quartets from a diverse range of established and emerging Australian composers.

*Epic Fragment* showcases Australia Piano Quartet in its pure form, presenting an early Mahler fragment alongside the colossal edifice of Brahms' A major Quartet.

### INFORMATION

Fri 10 March 6pm

Salon (One hour no interval)

**MAHLER** Piano Quartet in A minor

**BRAHMS** Piano Quartet No.2 in A, Op. 26

**Australia Piano Quartet**

Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)

Two concert 2017 package \$66 (\$49 concession)

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Australia Piano Quartet

HOANG PHAM



# HOANG'S GRAND TRIO

Beethoven is one of history's most revered composers and his music speaks to the very depths of human emotions. In this all piano trio concert, award-winning pianist **Hoang Pham** performs the most famous work in this genre by Beethoven, his 'Archduke' Trio. Joining Hoang are two highly esteemed colleagues, cellist **Chris Howlett** and violinist **William Hennessy**. Two virtuosic and contrasting masterpieces by Rachmaninoff and Smetana provide the appetisers to Beethoven's unsurpassed masterpiece.

### INFORMATION

Sun 12 March 5pm

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl. interval)

**RACHMANINOFF** Piano Trio No.1 in G minor

**SMETANA** Piano Trio in G Minor, Op.15

**BEETHOVEN** Piano Trio in B flat major Op.97 'Archduke'

**William Hennessy** violin

**Chris Howlett** cello

**Hoang Pham** piano

Premium \$79

A reserve \$49 (\$39 concession)

B reserve \$39 (\$29 concession)

Presented by Hoang Pham Productions

## LOCAL HEROES 2017



# The Sunset

**Quartz** shines a light on the standard string quartet repertoire highlighting well-known pieces of beauty and energy. Composed of four highly acclaimed Melbourne musicians Kathryn Taylor and Rachael Beesley (violins), Merewyn Bramble (viola) and Zoe Wallace (cello), the quartet presents a dynamic program focusing on the work of Grieg. Grieg's String Quartet No.1, his only completed quartet, is largely influenced by his love for Norwegian national music and has an earthy energy often found in folk dance with a last movement that finishes in a flurry of cross rhythms and a lyrical frenzy. Quartz are joined by special guest artist **Sally-Anne Russell** (mezzo-soprano) a guest principal with Opera Australia, a recitalist and recording artist. Sally-Ann performs a selection of emotional songs including Sibelius's 'Come away, death', Respighi's lyric poem 'The Sunset' and the exquisite Lament from Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*.

### INFORMATION

Tue 14 March 6pm

Salon (One hour no interval)

**GRIEG** String Quartet No.1 in G Minor Op. 27

**SIBELIUS** *Trettondagsafton*: 'Kom nu hit, död'

**RESPIGHI** 'Il tramonto' (The Sunset)

**PURCELL** Dido's Lament from *Dido and Aeneas*

**Quartz**

**Sally-Anne Russell** mezzo-soprano

Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)

Two concert 2017 package \$66 (\$49 concession)

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Quartz

# James Vincent McMorrow

Irish troubadour **James Vincent McMorrow** has a strong affinity with Australia having toured successfully several times over the past few years building a fan base loyal to his dreamy demeanour. The falsetto-wielding musician returns for a concert that will be both a personal and intimate experience.

The Dublin-born singer/songwriter's debut single 'Higher Love' catapulted him into the charts where he has sporadically reappeared over the course of the past few years. Writing mystical, memorable and melodic little numbers that are just too good to ignore, his success has grown with platinum sales, award nominations, world tours and TV appearances including *Later... With Jools Holland*. His latest album *We Move* is expansive, generous and his most ambitious record to date and the first single 'Rising Water' combines funky synths with his icy vocals, some piano and a danceable backbeat.

When James takes to the stage his voice soars over high notes with a peaceful ease, which is breathtaking to witness firsthand. Often compared to Bon Iver, McMorrow is in fact in a league of his own. Stand up, charge your glasses with something potent and salute Dublin's James Vincent McMorrow.

*'ARMED WITH A DRAMATIC LIGHT SHOW AND A PIERCING FALSETTO, THE IRISHMAN DELIVERS A GIG THAT IS SONICALLY AND VISUALLY COMPELLING.'*

THE GUARDIAN (AUST)

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## INFORMATION

Fri 10 & Sat 11 March 8pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl.  
interval)

**James Vincent McMorrow (Ireland)**

With Special Guests

Doors open at 7.30pm. See the website  
for full set times.

Tickets \$69

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre



# ENSEMBLE L'ARPEGGIATA

CHRISTINA PLUHAR, DIRECTOR/THEORBO

Performing on instruments of the period

## *Music for a While: Henry Purcell & His World*

Christina Pluhar and her ensemble of brilliant musicians recognise no boundaries, blurring the lines between the score and improvisation, classical and folk, and between old and new. L'Arpeggiata performs the Baroque canon with a light touch – lithe readings of Monteverdi or Cavalli – but it is the evenings of ingeniously curated explorations that showcase the ensemble's gift for joyous, spontaneous music-making. An exponent of the gorgeous bass lute called a 'theorbo', Pluhar founded L'Arpeggiata in 2000, creating a flexible group with an immediately distinctive sonority, a beguiling assortment of bass instruments, strings, the mellow trumpet-like cornetto and voice. It's a combination that permits excursions to South America, Mexico, the Mediterranean and jazz, in addition to the familiar sound-world of Baroque Europe.

In this Melbourne Recital Centre exclusive, L'Arpeggiata pays homage to Henry Purcell, the most important English composer of the Baroque. Vivid and dramatic, serene and sacred, rollicking and bawdy, his music is the sound of the Restoration: a melting-pot of French, Italian and German influences with a uniquely English accent. It's the kind of cosmopolitan music that inspires L'Arpeggiata, here joined by two renowned singers who capture the theatrical essence of Purcell's art.

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### INFORMATION

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Mon 13 March 7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (90-mins no interval)  
Airs from the theatre, church and tavern with dances and improvisations by Purcell and his contemporaries.  
L'Arpeggiata (France/Italy)  
Christina Pluhar theorbo/director  
Céline Scheen soprano  
Vinzenco Capezzuto alto  
Premium \$80  
A reserve \$70 (\$60 concession)  
B reserve \$50 (\$40 concession)  
C reserve \$30  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

*'TURNING EVERY CONCERT INTO A PARTY,  
BAROQUE ENSEMBLE L'ARPEGGIATA ARE  
PERFORMERS IN THE TRUEST SENSE.'*

THE ARTS DESK



'SCINTILLATING TECHNIQUE  
AND A VIRTUOSIC FLAIR.'

THE NEW YORK TIMES

# DANIIL TRIFONOV

In the summer of 2011, the then 20-year-old Daniil Trifonov won the pianistic equivalent of a grand slam, taking first prize at the Rubenstein competition and the gold medal and Grand Prix at the most prestigious of them all, the XIV International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Competition winners don't always flourish in the concert hall but 2011 was just the start of Trifonov's brilliant career.

Daniil Trifonov is not your usual firebrand. As *The New York Times* observed, he has 'scintillating technique and a virtuosic flair. He is also a thoughtful artist who can play with soft-spoken delicacy, not what you associate with competition conquerors.' The program for his Melbourne recital debut affirms this. It is as much an emotional journey as it is a dazzling showcase: Schumann's childhood scenes are deceptively simple but their mysterious magic is difficult to capture, a daydream that needs to be coaxed into song by a poet. Similarly, the flighty *Kreisleriana* asks for a musician of intuitive wit and mercurial imagination, while the Toccata is pure breathless showmanship. Shostakovich's elegant and majestic Preludes and Fugues is a 20th-century masterwork of grief, humour and resignation, emblematic of the composer's own story. Stravinsky's *Petrushka* evokes the exoticism and bustling humanity of a bygone Russia in a display of sensational virtuosity that brings puppets, bears and the thrills of the fairground to vivid life.

## DANIIL TRIFONOV MASTER CLASS

Melbourne Recital Centre's Master Class program provides essential artistic development opportunities that benefit young Australian artists and offer insights and learning for patrons as well. Join Daniil Trifonov for a revelatory master class and discover more about the music you love.

Wed 15 March 6.30pm | Tickets \$10

*A dazzling showcase by the brilliant young Russian performing Schumann, Shostakovich and Stravinsky.*

## INFORMATION

Tue 14 March 7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (One hour & 40-mins incl. interval)  
Free pre-concert talk 6.45pm  
SCHUMANN  
*Kinderszenen* Op.15  
Toccata for solo piano Op.7  
*Kreisleriana* Op.16  
SHOSTAKOVICH 24 Preludes & Fugues Op.87 (selection)  
STRAVINSKY Three Movements from *Petrushka*  
Premium \$115  
A reserve \$100 (\$50 concession)  
B reserve \$85 (\$50 concession)  
C reserve \$60 (\$50 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre  
*Series partner: Legal Friends of Melbourne Recital Centre*  
*Program partners: The Langham Melbourne, ABC Classic FM & Great Performers Leadership Circle*



# AN EVENING WITH WILLIE WATSON

Looking like a man from leaner and meaner times, **Willie Watson** steps on stage with a quiet gravitas. But, when he opens his mouth and lets out that high lonesome vocal, you can hear him loud and clear. Like his music, Willie can be murderous, bawdy or lustful, sometimes in the course of a single song, with a sly sense of humour that cuts to the quick. He counters a masterful bravado with the tragic fragility of one who has been wounded.

A singer-songwriter, guitarist and banjo player, Willie Watson was one of the founding members of the Old Crow Medicine Show, a quintet that specialized in a traditional American string band sound and had left-field platinum success with a revamped Bob Dylan song, 'Wagon Wheel', in the late '90s. Watson recorded and toured with the group for some 17 years before leaving to go solo in 2011.

His debut solo album, *Folk Singer Vol. 1* spans 10 songs from the American folk songbook ranging from standards like 'Midnight Special' and 'Mexican Cowboy' to the more obscure, like Memphis Slim's 12-bar blues, 'Mother Earth.' Watson takes the skeletons of these songs and breathes his own life into them, on stage and on record.

Now centre-stage, armed with an acoustic guitar, banjo and the occasional mouth harp, hearing Watson's skilful and subtle banjo and guitar accompaniments and soaring vocals unadorned for the first time is a revelation.

Scandinavian folk duo **My Bubba** makes an opening guest appearance with their soft, soulful, sensual music that's as playful as it is powerful.

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## INFORMATION

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Wed 15 March 7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours & 30-mins  
incl. interval)

**Willie Watson** guitar/banjo/vocals (U.S.A.)  
With special guests **My Bubba** (Sweden/  
Iceland)

Doors open at 7pm. See the website for full  
set times.

Tickets \$50

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre



TAMARA-ANNA CISŁOWSKA

## John Field: Inventing 'Night Music'

Acclaimed pianist **Tamara-Anna Cisłowska** has graced the great concert halls of the world, shared her innate sensitivity and interpretive powers with the finest orchestras and received critical acclaim for her numerous musical recordings. Tamara is joined onstage by Irish diplomat and wit **Richard O'Brien** in this special concert for St Patrick's Day. *John Field: Inventing 'Night Music'* shines a spotlight on the life and music of Irish composer and pianist John Field. One of the most influential composers and innovators of the 19th century, Field's Nocturnes influenced Chopin, Schumann and Liszt among others. He lived the last 30 years of his life in Russia and fostered a whole new school of Russian pianism that can be seen in the future compositions of Tchaikovsky, Scriabin and Rachmaninoff.

### INFORMATION

Fri 17 March 6pm  
Salon (70-mins no interval)  
Music by **Field, Chopin, Liszt, Tchaikovsky**  
and **Rachmaninoff**.

**Tamara-Anna Cisłowska** piano  
**Richard O'Brien** narrator  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

## ANAM 2016 Prize Winners



Each year ANAM's brilliant young musicians compete for a number of awards and prizes, recognising the finest achievements in the Academy's year. This concert showcases the winners of ANAM's Chamber Music Competition, held in December 2016, and the performer deemed by ANAM's Artistic Director and Faculty to be the most outstanding musician of the year. Hear the talents of tomorrow perform live in the intimate surrounds of the Salon.

### INFORMATION

Thu 16 March 6pm  
Salon (One hour & 40-mins incl. interval)  
**ANAM 2016 Prize Winners**  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre



## Membership: get closer to the music that moves you.

Melbourne Recital Centre Members belong to a diverse community of music lovers who receive exclusive access to a range of experiences, benefits and discounts - from backstage meet-and-greets with stellar local and international performers to special ticket offers, waived transaction fees on all bookings and discounts on food and drinks.

Become a Melbourne Recital Centre Member for just \$50 a year, immerse yourself in a world of music and take advantage of the exclusive benefits, including 10% off the bill at popular French-Asian eatery, Blondie Bar. See the show, stay for a drink and share your love of music with us.

For more information, visit [melbournerecital.com.au/membership](http://melbournerecital.com.au/membership) or call 03 9699 3333 during business hours.

\*Terms & conditions apply



An  
intimate  
evening  
with **BEBEL  
GILBERTO**

*'BEBEL GILBERTO HAS TAKEN ON TRADITIONAL BOSSA NOVA RHYTHMS AND INFUSED IT WITH HER TRADEMARK ALLURING VOCALS TO CREATE A HYPNOTIC NEW SOUND.'*

NPR

One of Brazil's top-selling artists and multi Grammy nominee, world-renowned singer-songwriter **Bebel Gilberto** has captivated fans and earned critical acclaim worldwide as the torchbearer of Brazil's bossa nova tradition. Her trademark electronic bossa nova can be heard in clubs around the world and has positioned her as one of the most popular Brazilian artists in the U.S. Gilberto's penchant for sonically transporting listeners to Brazil, with bright, incandescent bossa nova-infused melodies, lyrics about love and a lilting performance style has earned her rave reviews and a strong following among music enthusiasts.

Daughter of Brazilian music icon João Gilberto, one of the artists to first establish the genre of bossa nova in the country, her mother is acclaimed vocalist Miúcha and her uncle the legendary Chico Buarque. Bebel's influences are vast and eclectic, living and breathing all types of Brazilian musical styles as a child, she was also exposed to the greats, from Debussy to Prince; Michel Legrand to Billie Holiday; Björk to Gershwin. She also has a strong love for North American soul discovering Donna Summer, Earth Wind & Fire and Michael Jackson on the dance floor as a budding teenager. 'The whole disco thing plays a big role in my heart,' says Bebel, who still loves to dance.

*An Intimate Evening with Bebel Gilberto* showcases Bebel's ethereal vocals and wistful, dreamy song writing. Bebel's sultry tonality with the warm and playful Brazilian rhythms and gorgeous melodies shaped by touches of electronica transport you to a 21st-century Rio de Janeiro.

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**INFORMATION**

Fri 17 March 8pm

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours & 30-mins incl. interval)

**Bebel Gilberto** vocals (Brazil) & **Trio**

With special guest **Doug de Vries** (Australia)

Doors open at 7pm. See the website for full set times.

Premium \$110

A reserve \$90

B reserve \$70

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

*Tony Gould Duo: Dialogues on the Art of Creative Music* brings together several sublimely talented Melbourne musical colleagues with whom Tony reminisces through some subtle jazz standards and nostalgic folk songs. Piano and vocal improvisations come together with two of Australia's finest jazz musicians. **Tony Gould** is one of Australia's most revered pianists and respected musicians and Australia's first professor of jazz. For five decades he has been involved in an extraordinary number of recording projects both as pianist and composer and has been at the forefront of music education in Australia. He is joined by **Michelle Nicolle** Australia's first lady of jazz, three times winner of the Australian Jazz Vocalist of the Year MO Award who has released nine beautiful albums to great acclaim.

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**INFORMATION**

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Sat 18 March 6pm  
 Salon (One hour no interval)  
**Michelle Nicolle** vocals  
**Tony Gould** piano  
 Tickets \$45 (\$30 concession)  
 Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre &  
 Henk van Leeuwen

# Tony Gould Duo: Dialogues on the Art of Creative Music



TONY GOULD



MICHELLE NICOLLE

## Spring Blossom, Autumn Harvest ——— Beijing Opera Delights ———



As one of the many traditional forms of Chinese Opera, *Jing Ju*, or Beijing Opera, has hundreds of years of history and timeless appeal. Its grand, charming and deep artistic expression quintessentially represent the spirit of Chinese culture, and as such has been designated an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. In this one-time only concert, the **Australian New Goldberg Orchestra** takes to the stage with a breathtaking new experience fusing the artistry and tradition of Beijing Opera with the power and expression of the Western orchestral symphonic format. The centrepiece of the program features selections from Yang Ming's and Jiang Chunyang's *Sister Jiang*, a classic opera from the 1960s, sung by the dazzling **Yu Xiao Ping**. She will be joined by Melbourne's own **Li Na**, in an evening filled with numbers from *The Red Flag*, *Ode to the Dragon River*, *The Azalea Mountain* and many other operatic classics.

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**INFORMATION**

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Sat 18 March 7pm  
 Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl. interval)  
**Yu Xiao Ping**  
**Li Na**  
**Australian New Goldberg Orchestra**  
 A reserve \$50 (\$45 concession)  
 B reserve \$35 (\$27 concession)  
 Presented by Australian New Goldberg Orchestra

CORPUS  
MEDICORUM



## Corpus Medicorum – French Fantasy

Feast on a fabulous late afternoon fare of French fantastical music. The first concert in 2017 from Melbourne's acclaimed Doctors of Sound will not disappoint its fans – Debussy, Chausson and Franck are all on the playlist. Their special guest is none other than **William Hennessy** directed by artistic director and chief conductor **Keith Crellin**. Join **Corpus Medicorum** for their first fun-filled musical frolic of the year through France.

### INFORMATION

Sun 19 March 5pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl. interval)  
**DEBUSSY** Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune  
**CHAUSSON** Poème  
**FRANCK** Symphony in D minor

**William Hennessy** violin  
**A/Prof Keith Crellin** OAM director  
**Corpus Medicorum**  
Tickets \$50 (\$40 concession)  
Presented by The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation

### SPOTLIGHT SERIES



MILES & ZIGGY JOHNSTON

## Classical Latin Grooves

**Ziggy and Miles Johnston** are brothers who share a deep passion for music and their instrument, the classical guitar. *Classical Latin Grooves* takes you on a journey through the world of Argentine tangos, and Cuban and Brazilian classical music. Through their guitar playing, the duo will capture the music of Astor Piazzolla, Sergio Assad, Leo Brouwer and Máximo Diego Pujol.

### INFORMATION

Tue 21 March 6pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
Music by **Astor Piazzolla, Sergio Assad, Leo Brouwer** and **Máximo Diego Pujol**.  
**Ziggy & Miles Johnston** classical guitar  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre and Ziggy & Miles Johnston  
*Supported by The Robert Salzer Foundation*



**Top Class Music** features incredible young students who received very high grades for their VCE performance examinations in 2016. Compered by assessors and the VCAA's curriculum manager for the performing arts, the concerts present a range of instruments, interpretations and styles by soloists and groups. This is an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful concert series suitable for all ages.

### INFORMATION

Wed 22 March 10.30am, 2pm & 6pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (90-mins no interval, 6pm show two hours & 20-mins incl. interval)  
Tickets \$15.90 (\$13.90 regional concession)  
Two concerts \$27.90 (\$23.90 regional concession)  
Three concerts \$38 (\$33 regional concession)  
Part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2017 presented by Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority

## LOCAL HEROES 2017

## The Wild Field

**Latitude 37** is an exciting Baroque trio whose members were drawn together by their passion for historically informed performance of 17th and 18th-century music. The special combination of Baroque violin, viola da gamba and harpsichord opens up a wealth of repertoire that is rarely explored by other Australian ensembles.

Known as *The Wild Field* by the Polish, the sweeping 1200km border between the Holy Roman and Ottoman Empires produced a fascinating blend of musical styles during the Baroque era. Latitude 37 explores music from this fascinating nexus between East and West in this unusual program featuring works from Baroque Poland and some of the best composers you've never heard of such as Adam Jarzebski, Marcin Mielkzewski and Stanisław Sylwester Szarzyński. Exotic scales and melodic ideas found in folk music from Poland, Moldova, Hungary, Wallachia and Slovakia rub shoulders with French- and Italian-style dance suites.

### INFORMATION

Wed 22 March 6pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)

#### Latitude 37

Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Three concert 2017 package \$99 (\$72 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Latitude 37



FLINDERS  
QUARTET

## Schubert in the South

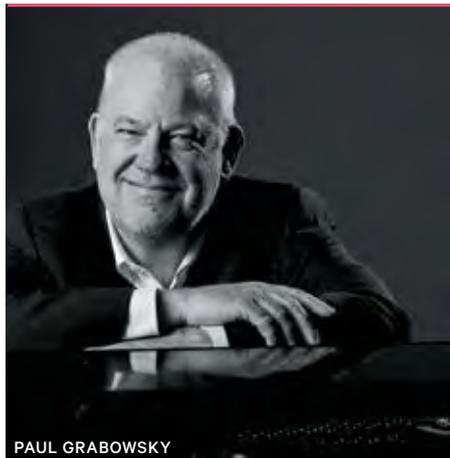
**Flinders Quartet** is instantly recognisable as one of Australia's most loved chamber ensembles. A quartet for the 21st century, Flinders continues its second decade with acknowledged musical skill and maturity. Their dynamic and stirring performances of broad repertoire have earned them high praise from both audiences and critics with the Quartet now a highly respected force in Australian chamber music. In 2017 the Quartet celebrates Schubert's ongoing popularity in 21st-century Australia, premieres new works and arrangements by Calvin Bowman and Iain Grandage, and enjoys repeat performances of Richard Mills' outstanding String Quartet No.4.

Argentinian composer Carlos Guastavino wrote more than 500 works, most of them songs for piano and voice which earned him the title of 'Schubert of the Pampas' and is a fitting composer to open Flinders Quartet's

celebration of Schubert. Australian Calvin Bowman is gaining a reputation as the 'Schubert of the South' and the Quartet premieres his brand new commission, with Schubert's epic Quartet in G filled with energy and sharp contrasts completing the program that showcases three masters of song from across the globe.

### INFORMATION

Thu 23 March 7pm  
Salon (One hour & 45-mins incl. interval)  
**CALVIN BOWMAN** new work  
**GUASTAVINO** (arr. Grandage) songs arranged for string quartet  
**SCHUBERT** String Quartet No.15 in G  
**Flinders Quartet**  
Tickets \$50 (\$40 concession)  
Two concert 2017 package \$85 (\$68 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Flinders Quartet



PAUL GRABOWSKY

## The Well-Tempered Clavier Book 1, Part 1

To launch Melbourne Recital Centre's new series, '48 Ways of Looking at Bach', the Centre has invited **Paul Grabowsky**, as its inaugural Artist in Residence, to start at the beginning with Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier Book 1, Part 1. As a pairing to Bach's Preludes and Fugues No.1 to No.8, Paul responds with his own inventions and reflections on this masterpiece by J.S. Bach.

### INFORMATION

Fri 24 March 6pm  
Salon (70-mins no interval)  
Inventions and reflections on **J.S. Bach's**  
Preludes and Fugues No.1-8 by  
**Paul Grabowsky**  
**Genevieve Lacey** recorders  
**Erkki Veltheim** cello

**Eugene Ughetti** percussion  
**Paul Grabowsky** piano  
Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

## Italian Romance – Beethoven & Mendelssohn

Catch the new wave of historically informed performance musicians as they bring a revitalised spirit and energy to Beethoven and Mendelssohn's masterpieces, conducted by brilliant principal guest conductor **Benjamin Bayl**. From the opening riveting chords of the *Coriolan Overture* to the playful Contredanses and the sublime Romance for violin, performed by concertmaster **Rachael Beesley**, Beethoven will have you swooning in your seats and dancing for joy in the aisles. The **Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra** highlight the gorgeous sound of a full string orchestra playing on pure gut strings, where you'll fall in love with Wolf's 'Italian' Serenade for Strings and be thrilled by Mendelssohn's passion for Italy in his most lively symphony.

### INFORMATION

Fri 24 March 7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl.  
interval)  
**BEETHOVEN**  
*Coriolan Overture* in C minor, Op.62  
Romance for violin & orchestra No.2 in F, Op. 50  
Twelve Contredanses for orchestra, WoO14  
**WOLF** 'Italian' Serenade in G for strings

**MENDELSSOHN** 'Italian' Symphony in A, Op.90  
**Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra**  
**Benjamin Bayl** conductor  
**Rachel Beesley** violin  
Premium \$95  
A reserve \$75 (\$65 concession)  
Presented by Australian Romantic &  
Classical Orchestra

RACHAEL  
BEESLEY

## Sophie Koh – Book of Songs



SOPHIE KOH

For the first time, enigmatic Australian indie-pop singer **Sophie Koh** has delved into her Chinese heritage and her classical piano roots. *Book of Songs* is a splendour of pop songs where East meets West, influenced by Chinese poetry and Western classical music. Produced by the revered J Walker (Machine Translations, Paul Kelly), hear Sophie speak about her journey from her childhood days in Singapore, Malaysia and New Zealand to her Triple J Unearthed days in Darwin. This exquisite new body of work is a revealing look into home and identity, sparked by her recent tour to China. Joining Sophie at this album launch is Melbourne's new enchanting female chorus Ladychoir.

### INFORMATION

Sat 25 March 7pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)  
**Sophie Koh** vocals/grand piano/guitar  
**Caerwen Martin** cello/vocals  
**Louise Woodward** viola/vocals  
**Ladychoir**  
Tickets \$30 (\$25 concession)  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre &  
Sophie Koh



## AN EVENING WITH PARIS COMBO

Paris Combo, as diverse and sophisticated as the city from which they hail, have garnered global acclaim and an immense following for their unique blend of contemporary French chanson, swinging gypsy jazz and sassy alterna-pop. Fronted by the charismatic Belle du Berry, the fun-loving quintet has enthralled audiences for nearly two decades with their Latino and North African influenced grooves.

Six albums and countless tours crisscrossing the globe, playing to enthusiastic audiences from Paris to Sao Paulo and Berlin to Istanbul, have enabled France's Paris Combo to create a unique cosmopolitan sound, establishing the band as one of the most piquant, intriguing groups on the international music scene. The combo have struck a chord with critics and audiences

alike with their fun-loving mix of swinging gypsy jazz, cabaret, French pop and Latino and Middle Eastern rhythms.

Front woman Belle du Berry is a captivating performer who commands the stage with charm and poise, possessing a beautiful and versatile voice well supported by the jaw-dropping talents of the quintet's other members, David Lewis, Potzi, Benoit Dunoyer de Segonzac and François Jeannin.

If you're looking for a terrific evening of globe and genre-stretching music that may well rouse you to your feet then look no further than Paris Combo. Their latest album recorded in June 2016 will drop in early 2017 and coincides with their trek down under bringing their seductive musical cocktail back to Melbourne.

*'IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, THEN PARIS COMBO IS A BANQUET.'*

THE ADELAIDE ADVERTISER

### INFORMATION

Sat 25 March 8pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (One hour  
& 45-mins no interval)  
Paris Combo (France)  
A reserve \$79  
B reserve \$69  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre



## The Gadfly

Melbourne Youth Orchestra presents a thrilling program of drama, revolution and romance, directed by chief conductor Steven Hillinger. The program includes Wagner's exuberant Prelude to *Die Meistersinger*; Elena Kats-Chernin's turbulent *Mythic* and Shostakovich's revolutionary suite *The Gadfly*. Composed as the score to the 1955 movie of the same name, *The Gadfly* includes the exquisite Romance, instantly recognisable as the theme to the TV miniseries *Reilly: Ace of Spies*.

### INFORMATION

Sun 26 March 2.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (90-mins incl. interval)

**WAGNER** *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*: Prelude

**ELENA KATS-CHERNIN** *Mythic*

**SHOSTAKOVICH** *The Gadfly*: Suite, Op.97a

**Melbourne Youth Orchestra**

**Steven Hillinger** conductor

Tickets \$29 (\$22 concession)

Presented by Melbourne Youth Orchestras



THE HOURGLASS ENSEMBLE

## DANZAS AMOROSAS

**The Hourglass Ensemble** features leading soloists and chamber musicians from Sydney who focus on performing commissioned Australian and other contemporary chamber music. The Ensemble specialises in combining woodwind, strings, piano and voice in unique groupings. *Danzas Amorasas*, or 'Dances of Love', is a seminal work by Chilean-Australian composer Daniel Rojas and flavours this dance celebration. The program also includes passionate operatic favourites by Gimenez and Verdi with a miniature orchestral arrangement. A funky new work with a blues and Latin vibe by Brisbane composer Andrew Ball, the wildly passionate and irrepressible 'Tango Fantasia', a fast-paced flamenco commission by wannabe Spaniard Andrew Kennedy and a cheeky anthology inspired by a former prime minister, including Ian Munro's 'The Tango We Had To Have', and the 'Scumbag Tango' by Russell Gilmour, from *The Keating Tangos* top the program of dance inspired music.

### INFORMATION

Sun 26 March 3pm  
Salon (Two hours & 10-mins incl. interval)

**DANIEL ROJAS** *Danzas Amorasas*

**VERDI** 'Pace pace mio dio' from *La Forza del Destino*

*The Keating Tangos*, various Tasmanian composers including **Marcellino**, **Munro**, **Grenfell** and **Gilmour**.

**HOLLAND** Piano Trio

**RAVEL** *Vocalise-etude en forme de Habanera*

**ANDREW KENNEDY** new work

**JACOB GADE** *Tango Fantasia*

**ANDREW BALL** new work

**LORI LAITMAN** *The Butterfly*

**The Hourglass Ensemble**

Tickets \$50 (\$40 concession)

Presented by The Hourglass Ensemble

### LOCAL HEROES 2017

## 'If the sea was milk & boats were made of cinnamon...'

The talented and seductive **Stiletto Sisters** explore the rich and darkly humorous world of yiddish song and the mysterious poetry of medieval Sephardic music. Featuring instrumental works past and present which have taken Jewish music as their inspiration, the program includes Ernest Bloch's beautiful 'From Jewish Life' and 'Baal Shem', influential New York composer/improviser John Zorn's *Bar Kokhba*, music by Viennese violinist Fritz Kreisler and Hungary's György Ligeti as well as songs by Leonard Cohen and Deborah Conway.

### INFORMATION

Mon 27 March 6pm  
Salon (One hour no interval)

**Stiletto Sisters**

Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)

Two concert 2017 package \$66 (\$49 concession)

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Stiletto Sisters



STILETTO SISTERS

# Alexandre Da Costa & Kristian Chong



Musica Viva begins their 2017 Coffee Concert season with the Melbourne debut of Canadian violinist Alexandre Da Costa, in partnership with acclaimed pianist Kristian Chong. The two performers are a natural fit, combining prodigious technique with wonderful artistry – and that certain charisma known as ‘star quality’. Though this is Alex’s first performance in Melbourne, he is no stranger to the great concert halls of the world. Making his home in Perth for part of the year as Head of Strings at WAAPA, he is highly sought after as soloist and director, and maintains a busy international performance schedule.

## INFORMATION

Tue 28 March 11am

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (One hour no interval)

**VITALI** (arr. Chiasson) Chaconne for violin & continuo in G minor

**WAGNER** (arr. Wilhelmj after *Albumblatt*, WWV94) Romanze for violin & piano

**TCHAIKOVSKY** Lensky’s Aria from *Eugene Onegin* (transcr. Auer)

**BRAHMS** Sonata for violin & piano No.3 in D minor, Op.108

Alexandre Da Costa violin

Kristian Chong piano

Tickets \$52 (incl. cake & refreshments from 10am)

Tickets on sale 10 January

Presented by Musica Viva

## Between 8 & 9 (Chengdu Teahouse Project)

*A convening of voices, electronics, instruments and audience.*

A meeting is called to order. Seated around eight tables, with ‘dinner-table turntables’ or ‘Lazy Susans’ the audience is implicated in a protocol of encounters. What unfolds is a negotiation of the unexpected terrain that can lie between our personal, public and professional selves.

*Between 8 & 9* has evolved from a thematic exploration of teahouse culture and notions of sanctuary into a reflexive meditation on the meeting of cultures, generations, languages and artistic practices. The essence of this exists in the space between 8 (referring to notions of prosperity) and 9 (referring to notions of spirituality). From the provocative to the playful, expect this meeting to be ‘hot and lively’.

## INFORMATION

Wed 29 to Fri 31 March 7pm

Sat 1 April 4pm & 7pm

Salon (70-mins no interval)

**Chamber Made Opera**

Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre &

Castlemaine State Festival in association with

Asia TOPA





AUSTRALIAN  
STRING QUARTET

## Melbourne Symphony Orchestra & the Australian String Quartet

Enjoy some personal favourites of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's concertmaster and ASQ violinist Dale Barltrop. Stravinsky's *Dumbarton Oaks* is a private commission to celebrate the 30th wedding anniversary of Robert and Mildred Bliss, an American couple living in a 19th-century mansion in Washington DC called 'Dumbarton Oaks'. With his daughter's terminal tuberculosis weighing heavily on his mind, Stravinsky took inspiration from the gardens of 'Dumbarton Oaks', and Bach's *Brandenburg* Concertos, which the composer loved, to create this commission. Australian composer Matthew Hindson's *The Rave and the Nightingale* takes its inspiration from Schubert's monolithic last string quartet, Quartet No.15 in G, composed in 1826. In this work for string quartet and orchestra, Hindson questions what sort of music would Schubert write, if he had been born in the late 20th century – techno-inspired electronica anthems perhaps? Schubert's own much loved String Quartet No.14 *Death and the Maiden*, played in a version for string orchestra, concludes the program.

### INFORMATION

Thu 30 March 8pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (One hour & 40-mins  
incl. interval)

**STRAVINSKY** *Dumbarton Oaks*

**MATTHEW HINDSON** *The Rave and the  
Nightingale*

**SCHUBERT** String Quartet No.14, *Death and  
the Maiden* (orchestral version)

**Australian String Quartet**

**Dale Barltrop** violin/director

**Members of the Melbourne Symphony  
Orchestra**

Premium \$115 (\$110 concession)\*

A reserve \$99 (\$94 concession)\*

B reserve \$79 (\$74 concession)\*

C reserve \$59\*

\*Prices are subject to change without notice

Presented by Melbourne Symphony Orchestra



## A New World: Intimate Music from Final Fantasy

Back by popular demand the New World Players return for *A New World: intimate Music from Final Fantasy* – celebrating 30 years of the legendary Final Fantasy video game franchise. Following a sold-out run in 2016, the ensemble returns with a freshly updated program of songs from Nobuo Uematsu's critically-acclaimed soundtrack in an intimate, up-close-and-personal setting. Fans can expect to hear their favourite compositions from throughout the entire Final Fantasy series with conductor Eric Roth, piano soloist Benjamin Nuss and the New World Players.

### INFORMATION

Fri 31 March 8pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl. interval)

**New World Players**

**Eric Roth** conductor/music director

**Arnie Roth** music director

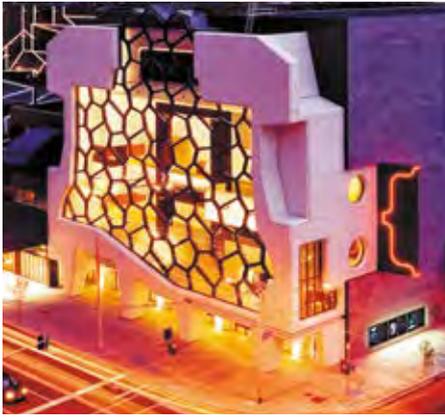
**Benjamin Nuss** piano soloist

Premium \$85

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melbournerecital.com.au

### By Phone

+61 3 9699 3333

(Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm)

### In Person

Melbourne Recital Centre Box Office

(Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm and two hours prior to all performances).

The Box Office is located on the ground floor.

### Mail

Box Office – Mail Bookings

31 Sturt Street, SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

### Concessions

Eligible concessions vary according to performances. Please contact the Box Office for details. Proof of concession is required upon ticket collection.

### Transaction & Delivery Fees

A transaction fee between \$5.50 and \$8 applies to orders made online and by phone. A delivery fee of up to \$5.50 may also apply.

For information on access services please contact 03 9699 3333 or visit the website.

All details correct at time of publication but are subject to change where necessary and without notice. Check the website for updates.



### Babes in Arms

Performances with this symbol have a Babes in Arms policy. Babies under the age of two may attend free of charge and be admitted without a ticket, on the condition that they do not occupy a seat and sit on the lap of a parent or guardian. Everyone else attending these performances must hold a valid ticket.



@MelbRecital

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- Pop & more:** The world's best artists in pop, rock, country, folk, world and alternative.
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The Leadership Circles comprise individual donors whose lead gifts support the Centre's core concert program and its mission to be a singular place of inspiration, creativity, self-expression, learning and enrichment through music.

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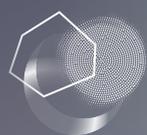


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