

MEDIA RELEASE

Would you like Brahms with that?

Musica Viva Coffee Concerts: a feast of cake, company and the finest local music



Alexandre Da Costa & Kristian Chong



Caroline Almonte & Emma Black

On **Tuesday 28 March**, Musica Viva's much loved **Coffee Concerts** return to the **Melbourne Recital Centre**, offering inspiration, great company, tea, coffee and cake on five Tuesday mornings throughout the year. Music lovers are invited to **morning tea from 10am**, followed by an hour of favourite pieces and exciting new discoveries from 11am.

The season opens on **28 March** with the Melbourne debut of Canadian violinist **Alexandre Da Costa**, in partnership with acclaimed pianist **Kristian Chong**. Currently Head of Strings at WAAPA, Da Costa is no stranger to the world's great concert halls. "The two are a natural fit, combining wonderful artistry with that certain charisma known as 'star quality'," says **Carl Vine AO**, Artistic Director of Musica Viva. A program of classic beauty and flair awaits: **Vitali** and **Wagner** alongside the third sonata of **Brahms** and Lensky's searching aria from the **Tchaikovsky** masterwork, *Eugene Onegin*.

"Emma Black is an extraordinary oboist who has lived in Europe for years, is currently Principal Oboe of the Wiener Akademie, and has such an impressive string of international accolades that it's easy to forget that she started out as a graduate of Melbourne's VCA," continues Vine. On **9 May**, Black joins equally remarkable pianist **Caroline Almonte** for an hour of French delights by **Poulenc**, **Dutilleux**, **Saint-Saëns** and **Jolivet**.

The **Consort of Melbourne** is the brilliant choral gem at the heart of the season. On **27 June**, lush reimaginings of music by **Mahler**, **Monteverdi**, **Elgar**, **Haydn**, **Debussy**, **Bach** and **Barber** will resound in the inviting acoustics of the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, bringing to morning coffee what Vine describes as "music for 12 solo voices in extraordinary arrangements that accentuate the orchestral possibilities of the human voice."

Musica Viva's "FutureMakers", **Arcadia Winds**, mark the end of their two-year tenure with a concert of typical Arcadian energy on **29 August**. High spirits abound, from **Ligeti's** quirky 1960s soundworld to **Françaix's** amusing characterisations of each instrument. **Zemlinsky** turns to the glowing 'Harmonie' style of his youth, while young Australian composer **Elizabeth Younan** offers a brilliant glimpse of the future with the support of **Musica Viva's Hildegard Project**.

"The year closes stylishly on **3 October** with the **Streeton Trio**, formed by Australians living in Switzerland and seen here only for a few limited appearances each year," says Vine. The program sets **Beethoven's** mighty 'Archduke' Trio beside the tiny Romantic jewel of **Suk's** haunting *Elegie* and a brand-new work by Melbourne-born composer, **Harry Sdraulig**. At just 25, Sdraulig has already earned prestigious commissions from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, PLEXUS and several other ensembles. "2017 is a year of magnificent performers and marvellous music at Musica Viva," concludes Vine. "Coffee and cake with that?"

Enjoy all five performances at the special rate of \$225 or book individual concerts for \$52 per ticket (\$20 for under-30s). For further information, please visit www.musicaviva.com.au/coffee2017.



The Consort of Melbourne



Arcadia Winds



Streeton Trio

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MUSICA VIVA COFFEE CONCERTS 2017

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre, Cnr Southbank Blvd and Sturt St, Southbank

MORNING TEA FROM 10AM | CONCERTS FROM 11AM

BOOKINGS AND DETAILS: www.musicaviva.com.au/coffee2017

TUESDAY 28 MARCH

ALEXANDRE DA COSTA violin, **KRISTIAN CHONG** piano

PROGRAM: **VITALI** Chaconne for violin and continuo in G minor (arr. Chiasson) **WAGNER** Romanze for violin and piano (arr. Wilhelmj after *Albumblatt*, WWV94) **TCHAIKOVSKY** Lensky's Aria from *Eugene Onegin* (transcr. Auer) **BRAHMS** Sonata for violin and piano no 3 in D minor, op 108

The 2017 Coffee Concert season opens 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.

TUESDAY 9 MAY

EMMA BLACK oboe, **CAROLINE ALMONTE** piano

PROGRAM: Oboe Sonatas by **POULENC**, **DUTILLEUX** and **SAINT-SAËNS**, **JOLIVET** Serenade for oboe and piano

Enjoy the warm, pastoral colours of French music for oboe and piano in this musical partnership from two of Australia's finest artists: Emma Black and Caroline Almonte who bring out all the beauty and wit of these scintillating works.

TUESDAY 27 JUNE

THE CONSORT OF MELBOURNE, **STEVEN HODGSON** director

PROGRAM: **MAHLER** *Urlicht* from Symphony no 2 (arr Clytus Gottwald) **MONTEVERDI** *Pianto della Madonna* (arr Clytus Gottwald) **ELGAR** *Nimrod* from *Enigma Variations* (arr John Cameron) **HAYDN** *Genesis* from *The Creation* (arr Clytus Gottwald) **DEBUSSY** *Nuages* from *Trois Nocturnes* (arr Steven Hodgson) **BACH** *Singet dem Herrn* BWV 225 **BARBER** *Adagio* for strings (arr Samuel Barber)

Melbourne's elite professional vocal ensemble brings 12 voices to the inviting acoustics of the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, in a unique program built around astounding arrangements for choir of symphonic and orchestral favourites. Lush re-imaginings of music by Debussy, Mahler, Barber and Elgar put the precision, power and rich vocal blend of the Consort of Melbourne on vivid display.

TUESDAY 29 AUGUST

ARCADIA WINDS – KIRAN PHATAK flute **DAVID REICHEL** oboe **LLOYD VAN'T HOFF** clarinet **RACHEL SHAW** horn **MATTHEW KNEALE** bassoon

LIGETI Ten Pieces for wind quintet **ZEMLINSKY** *Humoreske* **YOUNAN** *Shoreditch Grind** **FRANÇAIX** Quintet no 1.

**Elizabeth Younan is supported by Musica Viva's Hildegard Project*

As Musica Viva's inaugural FutureMakers, the country's finest young wind ensemble is already beginning to make its mark on Australia's musical landscape, bringing energetic, spontaneous and joyful performances to audiences across the country. In this program, high spirits abound, from Ligeti's cheerful, quirky 1960s soundworld to Françaix's amusing characterisations of each instrument – like a witty conversation in French! And where Zemlinsky turned, in perhaps his last work, to the glowing 'Harmonie' style of his youth, young Australian composer Elizabeth Younan offers a brilliant glimpse of the wind music of the future.

TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER

STREETON TRIO – EMMA JARDINE violin **META WEISS** cello **BENJAMIN KOPP** piano

PROGRAM: **SUK** *Elegie*, op 23 **BEETHOVEN** Piano Trio in B-flat major, op 97 'Archduke' **SDRAULIG** *New Work* (2017)

*In a rare Melbourne appearance, one of Australia's leading piano trios offers an unassailable pillar of the repertoire – Beethoven's mighty 'Archduke' Trio, here set alongside the tiny Romantic jewel of Suk's haunting *Elegie*. Full of gorgeous melodies, this program suits the Streeton Trio beautifully, showcasing their love for these European classics, and their passionate connection to it that reaches beyond the stage to warm all hearts.*

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