

MEDIA RELEASE

New home, more great music

Musica Viva Coffee Concerts: a feast of cake, company and the best local performers



Virtuoso harpist Alice Giles

On **Wednesday 27 March**, Musica Viva's popular **Coffee Concerts** open for 2019 in a fresh venue with great acoustics and enhanced facilities: the **Concourse in Chatswood**.

Starring local favourites ranging from **harpist Alice Giles** and **pianist Aura Go** to the **Enigma Trio**, the **Sydney Chamber Choir** and the **Goldner String Quartet**, the series offers musical highlights, excellent company, tea, coffee and cake on five Wednesday mornings throughout the year. Music lovers are invited to **morning tea from 10:00am**, followed by a **one-hour performance from 11:00am**.

The year starts with energy and élan in the accomplished hands of virtuoso harpist Alice Giles AM, plucking from thin air a beautiful program of Bach, Britten, Debussy and Salzedo. Celebrated as one of the world's leading harpists, Giles was First Prize winner of the 8th Israel International Harp Contest and has performed extensively as soloist worldwide, earning widespread acclaim in venues from London's Wigmore Hall and New York's 92nd Street 'Y' to the Frankfurt Alte Oper.

A pair of complementary suites opens her program on 27 March: the superb musical architecture of JS Bach's music for lute followed by the pastoral glow of Britten's C major Suite. Music by Debussy and Salzedo – one of Alice's favourite composers – completes a sparkling program of music spanning three centuries.

"Sydney's Coffee Concerts for 2019 are a glittering showcase of superlative performance and consummate content," says Carl Vine AO, Artistic Director of Musica Viva. "A perfect way to indulge both your senses and your spirit."

Enjoy all five performances at the special rate of **\$230** or book individual concerts for **\$54** per ticket. For further information, please visit <https://musicaviva.com.au/coffee-2019/>.



Enigma Trio

Aura Go

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Musica Viva Coffee Concerts 2019 Season Overview



THE CONCOURSE, 409 VICTORIA AVENUE, CHATSWOOD

MORNING TEA FROM 10AM | CONCERTS FROM 11AM

BOOKINGS AND DETAILS: <https://musicaviva.com.au/coffee-2019/>

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH

ALICE GILES harp

PROGRAM: **JS BACH** (arr Giles) Lute Suite in E minor, BWV996, **BRITTEN** Suite for Harp in C major, op 83, **DEBUSSY** *En bateau*, **SALZEDO** *Introspection* from Five Preludes for Solo Harp, Ballade, op 28, *Whirlwind* from Five Preludes for Solo Harp

Shimmering, golden, dreamlike: in the hands of the brilliant Alice Giles, the sound of the harp ignites the imagination and transports listeners to places of exotic beauty. A pair of complementary suites opens the program: the superb musical architecture of JS Bach's music for lute lies beautifully on the harp, as does the pastoral glow of Britten's C major Suite, one of the cornerstones of the solo harp repertoire. Music by Debussy and Salzedo – one of Alice's favourite composers and one of the best-known writers for harp – completes a sparkling program of music spanning three centuries.

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY

ENIGMA TRIO

Marianne Edwards Violin, **Elizabeth Woolnough** Viola, **Rowena Macneish** Cello

PROGRAM: **BEETHOVEN** String Trio in C minor, op 9 no 3, **DOHNÁNYI** Serenade, op 10

More lithe and malleable than a full quartet, the combination of violin, viola and cello makes for a scintillating three-way musical conversation. This concert presents three members of leading Sydney ensemble the Enigma Quartet, making their trio debut for Musica Viva. The three trios of Beethoven's opus 9 were considered by the 28-year-old composer to be his best works thus far. Premiered in 1799 with the great Ignaz Schuppanzigh on violin, the energetic C minor Trio is the most beloved of the set. Ernst von Dohnányi's 1904 Serenade brings the form into the 20th century. Through five satisfying movements the Hungarian composer packs in an array of melodies and moods, from Haydnesque ebullience to a delightfully mischievous scherzo.

WEDNESDAY 10 JULY

AURA GO piano

PROGRAM: **JS BACH** Toccata for keyboard in D major, BWV912, **BEETHOVEN** Piano Sonata no 17, op 31 no 2 'Tempest', **MELARTIN** *Solitude* and *Regen*, **DEBUSSY** *L'Isle joyeuse*

Musica Viva is pleased to introduce pianist Aura Go as one of the company's 2018-19 FutureMakers. This program aims to develop Australia's young artistic leaders, and with a promising international career as a soloist, chamber musician and conductor, Aura was a clear choice. Beethoven's mighty 'Tempest' Sonata, full of tragedy and power, lies at the heart of this program, following the dazzling display of technique that is Bach's D major Toccata. Two icy miniatures by the Finnish composer Erkki Melartin then set the stage for Debussy's Joyous Island, one of his most characterful creations.

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WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST
GOLDNER STRING QUARTET

Dene Olding Violin, **Dimitry Hall** Violin, **Irina Morozova** Viola, **Julian Smiles** Cello

PROGRAM: RACHMANINOFF String Quartet no 1, **BEETHOVEN** String Quartet in F major, op 59 no 1 'Razumovsky'

It wouldn't be a Coffee season without the Goldners, Australia's finest string quartet. Beethoven's three 'Razumovsky' quartets bear the name of their commissioner, the Russian ambassador to Vienna, Andrey Razumovsky, and are dear to the hearts of chamber musicians all over the world. The first of the set is well-loved for the eminently hummable cello melody of its opening movement, and the playful Russian folk theme of its finale. Opening the concert is Rachmaninoff's brief, wistful first quartet, composed while he was still a student at the Moscow Conservatory.

WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER
SYDNEY CHAMBER CHOIR

PROGRAM: BYRD *Ne irascaris – Civitas sancti*, **DOVE** *The Passing of the Year*, **VAUGHAN WILLIAMS** *Five Mystical Songs*

*Since its inception in 1975, Sydney Chamber Choir has been a leading presenter of fine choral music in Australia. The 24-voice mixed choir maintains a busy schedule of touring, performing and recording, excelling in core choral repertoire as well as contemporary music. This program explores three moments of renaissance within the great English choral tradition, from the stark beauty of Tudor doyen William Byrd's *Ne irascaris* to the might of Ralph Vaughan Williams in his song cycle for baritone with choir and piano, and into the 21st century with Jonathan Dove's intensely beautiful and emotionally affecting *The Passing of the Year*.*



Goldner String Quartet



Sydney Chamber Choir