



BEETHOVEN FIVE

Sunday December 9th,
2007, 2.30pm
Macquarie Theatre

Macquarie University, Balaclava Rd, North Ryde

Mozart: Impresario Overture
Dvorak: Cello Concerto
Beethoven: Symphony No. 5

Soloist: Richard Narroway
Conductor: Gary Stavrou

FREE PARKING FOR CONCERT-GOERS IN CARPARKS W4 AND X3 ONLY

FEATURED ARTIST **Richard Narroway**

Richard Narroway, 16, began his cello lessons at the age of five and is now studying with Susan Blake. He currently attends St Andrew's Cathedral School on a full music scholarship.

Richard has won many awards and prizes, including the Junior award for the NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition in 2004 and the Multiple section award in 2006. He was awarded his L.Mus.A. in 2005 and now regularly performs both as a soloist and chamber musician.

IN MEMORY OF **Winifred Durie**

We learned with deep sorrow of the passing of Winifred Durie. Winifred was among the most respected and gifted viola players and teachers of her generation.

Winifred was a friend to Balmain Sinfonia since its inception 15 years ago. She served

as an honorary adjudicator at all our competitions except for our most recent as she was unable to do so due to ill health.

We have decided to honour Winifred by dedicating our next concert to her memory. The passionate and uplifting music of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony somehow seems a fitting tribute to Winifred's rich and satisfying life. She will be missed by so many.

FROM THE PODIUM

Gary Stavrou

We recently held our Biennial Concerto Competition, which is open to all fine string players under the age of 24. The winner was Richard Narroway, a very talented sixteen-year-old cellist who impressed us all with the maturity of his playing. Richard will be the soloist at our December 9 concert playing the Dvorak Cello Concerto. After his performance he will be presented with the Richard Goldner Award and also the Macquarie University Concerto Competition Prize.

It is not often that the orchestra is in a position to perform any extra concerts other than the scheduled four per year. However, the timing was such that we could participate in a British Pomp and Circumstance Concert at the Sydney Town Hall on October 20th.

For this concert, the orchestra was paid a substantial fee. The players of Balmain Sinfonia agreed to put the fee towards a music scholarship to be offered to the Conservatorium of Sydney over the next five years. We are very proud of the generosity of our great band.

OUR NEXT CONCERT

The Music

Mozart: Impresario Overture

This opera overture was first performed in Vienna on February 7th 1786. The opera is a short composition in the tradition of a German Singspiel (a German language music drama). The story of the opera is based upon an audition held by a theatre director. It features jealousy (between the participants of the audition, two sopranos and a tenor), rivalry and humour. Although the opera is not one of Mozart's most famous works it is a precursor to his masterpiece *The Marriage of Figaro*. The overture is now frequently performed in orchestral concerts.

Dvorak: Cello Concerto

This work is Dvorak's last solo concerto and was written in 1894-95, nine years before the composer's death. He was originally opposed to composing a cello concerto, stating that the cello was a fine orchestral instrument, but was unsuitable as a solo instrument. Nevertheless after pressure from his close friend Hanus Wihan (a cellist) and his colleague Victor Herbert (a teacher at the National Conservatory, New York) Dvorak relented.

Wihan had great input into the composition of the concerto, influencing the form of the cadenza at the end of the final movement and making slight changes throughout the composition. Dvorak was hesitant about carrying out many of the suggested changes, specifically those in the third movement,



Antonin Dvorak

as this movement was composed in memory of his recently deceased sister-in-law. The slow, melancholy section in this movement before the glorious ending in B major, quotes his song *Leave me alone* which was a favourite of his sister-in-law, Josefina Kaunitzova.

Beethoven: Symphony No. 5

The first movement opens with the famous four note theme that has become one of the most recognisable motifs of western music. Beethoven's process of composition was lengthy and frequently interrupted by the composition of other works including *Fidelio*, and the three Razumovsky quartets. Both Beethoven's fifth and sixth symphonies premiered at the same time in 1808.

At the work's premiere there was little response to it, however the symphony soon acquired critical acclaim as being ground-breaking in terms of the emotions it conveyed and the technical skill Beethoven displayed in composing it. The symphony has inspired many composers including Brahms and Tchaikovsky and along with Beethoven's third and ninth symphonies is one of his most ground-breaking compositions.

2008 DATES

Not yet confirmed