

NEXT CONCERT



POET AND PEASANT OVERTURE

Suppe: Poet and Peasant Overture

Prokofiev: Violin Concerto No. 1

Grieg: Lyric Suite

Borodin: Symphony No. 2

Soloist: Sonja Schebeck

Conductor: Gary Stavrou

Sunday December 13th 2009, 2.30pm

Macquarie University Theatre

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

FEATURED ARTIST

Sonja Schebeck

Sonja became entranced by the violin at the age of three and began lessons studying Suzuki method with Barbara Hayward.

In 2009 she completed her BMus with Honours, won the Balmain Sinfonia Concerto Competition and Richard Goldner Award, and toured Europe with the Sydney Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra.

She has been a winner of the Marcus Edwards Violin Prize, Gisborne International Music Competition and Kendall National Violin Competition, and a finalist in the Musica Viva Chamber Music Awards and Nelson Meers Outstanding Instrumentalist Awards.

She is currently the holder of a University Postgraduate Award, studying for a Masters degree in violin performance at the Sydney Conservatorium with Christopher Kimber.

FROM THE PODIUM

Gary Stavrou

At the next concert you will have the opportunity to hear violinist Sonja Shebeck, winner of our recent Concerto Competition, play the concerto with which she dazzled us all, the Prokofiev No. 1

After the performance her awards will be presented by our two esteemed Patrons. Charmian Gadd, Chair of the Judging Panel, will present the Richard Goldner Award and Vice-Chancellor Professor Steven Schwartz will present the Macquarie University Con-

certo Prize of \$3000. Please come and celebrate this happy occasion with us.

It is always a pleasure give the principal players in the orchestra a solo performance. At our last concert, Andrew Wilson, who plays with the Opera and Ballet Orchestra, performed the Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 1 to great acclaim. Being the "great trouper" that he is, he took his regular place at the head of the cellos for the second half. Thank you Andrew.

OUR NEXT CONCERT

The Music

Suppe: Poet and Peasant Overture

Franz von Suppé's musical talents were recognised at an early age, after he composed a Mass when he was 15. He was a distant relative of Donizetti, who had a hand in his musical education. The overture Poet and Peasant was used as the introduction to a play staged in Vienna in 1846, before being attached to an opera some years later. Its themes are often quoted for comic effect in animated cartoons, but it is nonetheless an enjoyable piece of music.

Prokofiev: Violin Concerto No. 1

Despite being generally considered Russian, Sergei Prokofiev was actually Ukrainian, like his first teacher Glière. He showed great promise at the piano and in composition at an early age and graduated from the St Petersburg Conservatory in 1914. To avoid military call-up he returned to the Conservatory and began a fruitful period in his career, producing the Classical Symphony and this, his first violin concerto. The work is unusual in that it reverses the normal fast-slow-fast structure of the concerto form. The first movement is a kind of Russian fairy tale, the scherzo more vivacious, and the final movement quite lyrical in parts, before returning to the fairy tale of the first.

Grieg: Lyric Suite

The four items comprising this suite were selected by Grieg from the Six Lyric Pieces, Opus 54, which in turn are just a



Edvard Grieg

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small selection from about 60 so-called "Lyric Pieces" he composed for piano over a long period.

Borodin: Symphony No. 2

Alexander Borodin was born in 1833 "on the wrong side of the blanket" to a Georgian prince and a doctor's wife. Fortunately his wealthy mother ensured that he had both musical and scientific education - in fact composition was more of a hobby for him as he graduated in chemistry and went on to practise pathology and surgery.

The symphony was a long labour, begun in 1869 and not performed until 1877. It is Borodin's most popular symphony and is replete with energy, passion and, above all, Russian themes.

2010 DATES

March 28, June 27, Sept 19, Dec 12