

NEXT CONCERT

HUMMEL TRUMPET CONCERTO



Sunday July 6th 2008, 2.30pm
Macquarie University Theatre

Strauss: Die Fledermaus Overture

Hummel: Trumpet Concerto

Bizet: Carmen Suites 1 & 2

Soloist: Paul Goodchild

Conductor: Gary Stavrou

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

FEATURED ARTIST **Paul Goodchild**

Paul Goodchild began playing the trumpet at the age of three. He completed his early studies with Gordon Webb and Ernest Llewellyn in Canberra, and after two years of freelance work with Opera Australia and the visiting Bolshoi Ballet as Principal Trumpet, he joined the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 1979.

In 1991, he visited Japan with the Australian Philharmonic Orchestra for performances of Aida and gave a recital tour in Brisbane and throughout NSW. Paul accompanied the

Sydney Symphony on its 1988 tour of the United States as Co-Principal Trumpet.

Now Associate Principal Trumpet with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Paul has toured Europe (1995), Japan (1996) and again to America (1998) with the orchestra.

This is Paul's second appearance as soloist with Balmain Sinfonia, having performed the Haydn Trumpet Concerto in June 1999.

FROM THE PODIUM

Gary Stavrou

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have established the Balmain Sinfonia Prize for Winds at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. The 2008 prize was awarded to clarinettist Peter Smith. I shall endeavour to program a short piece for clarinet and orchestra in the near future to introduce this talented young man to our audience.

If you were at our last concert, you probably thoroughly enjoyed the performance of

the Mozart Clarinet Concerto by Frank Cella. We are delighted to report that Frank has agreed to be the wind tutor to Balmain Sinfonia. This is a wonderful addition to the orchestra's musical resources. I believe that we already have a strong wind section and it can only improve with Frank's input.

Hummel was a very fine composer who had the misfortune to be a contemporary of Beethoven. It is said that his self-confidence was destroyed when Beethoven arrived in Vienna. Come to our next concert and judge for yourself if history has treated Hummel fairly.

OUR NEXT CONCERT

The Music

Strauss: Die Fledermaus Overture

Johann Strauss II is the most famous member of his musical family, recognised especially for his composition of waltzes (he is referred to as the 'Waltz King'). He is credited with developing the waltz into a popular music form in Vienna in the 19th century. In 1871, after making his name composing waltzes, he turned to composing operettas, the most famous being *Die Fledermaus*. Strauss's compositions are masterful works that display elegance and wit.

Hummel: Trumpet Concerto

Hummel composed works for a large range of instruments including piano, bassoon, mandolin, trumpet, various chamber combinations and voice. His writing is graceful and displays a high level of composition craftsmanship. His peers recognised this, Schubert dedicating his last three piano sonatas to him. Hummel's skill in composition is often overlooked. He lived and composed at the time of Beethoven (who is regarded as being one of the greatest composers of all time). As a result, Hummel's writing is often only heard in the shadow of Beethoven's work, not giving Hummel the credit he deserves as a gifted composer in his own right.



Georges Bizet

Bizet: Carmen Suites 1 & 2

In 1875 Bizet undertook the composition of *Carmen*, based on a novella by Merimee. *Carmen* was not well received, was considered a failure after its premiere and was denounced by critics as immoral and superficial. It nevertheless received praise from contemporaries such as Debussy, Saint-Saens, Brahms and Tchaikovsky. Brahms even stated that *Carmen* was one of the greatest operas produced in Europe since the Franco-Prussian war. *Carmen* has since become one of the most popular works in the opera genre. Bizet never enjoyed its success, having suffered a fatal heart attack only a few months after its premiere.

The *Carmen Suites* are a brilliant orchestral adaptation of the opera's best-loved melodies.

2008 DATES

September 21, December 7