

BALMAIN SINFONIA

Orchestra-in-Residence at



MOZART PIANO CONCERTO NO. 17



Sunday June 10th 2007, 2.30pm
Macquarie University Theatre

Rossini: Silken Ladder Overture
Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 17, K 453
Wagner: Siegfried Idyll
Haydn: Symphony No. 47

Soloist: Jocelyn Ho
Conductor: Gary Stavrou

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

FEATURED ARTIST **Jocelyn Ho**

Praised for her “imaginative and musical playing” and “colourful pianism”, Jocelyn Ho is an Australian pianist and composer. Recently, she was a recipient of the Australia Day Award from the National Council of Women NSW for 2007. She has won various piano competitions in Sydney and overseas and has performed in the USA and in Europe, including Paris at the “Cortot School”, L’Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris. She has also performed at the Sydney Opera House and the NSW Parliament House. Jocelyn holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of New South Wales, a Diploma of Arts specializing in music from

the University of Sydney, both with high distinction average, A. Mus A and L. Mus A in piano. She has also published a paper in the American Mathematical Monthly in February 2005. She is currently completing a Master of Music, studying piano with Gerard Willems at the Conservatorium of Sydney. Her research interests lie in mathematics in music, and her thesis topic is on geometry in the compositional process. In her spare time, Jocelyn likes to study pure mathematics and theology.

FROM THE PODIUM

Gary Stavrou

Without doubt, the most important announcement that I can make to you, as I did at the last concert, is that the new Vice Chancellor of Macquarie University, Professor Steven Schwartz, has agreed that Balmain Sinfonia be the Orchestra-in-Residence at Macquarie University. This move further cements our relationship with the University and finally gives us a permanent home.

Professor Schwartz is also pleased to accept the position of Patron of Balmain Sinfonia, the baton being passed on from his predecessor.

This year is Concerto Competition time. We will hold this event at the Wesley Institute in Millar Street Drummoyne and would encourage you to come to the finals, which will be held on Wednesday August 22nd at 6.30 pm. Entry is free. The winner of the competition will play their concerto with the orchestra in December and the cash prize, to be now known as the Macquarie University Concerto Prize will be presented by the Vice Chancellor.

OUR NEXT CONCERT

The Music

Rossini: Silken Ladder Overture

The Silken Ladder was the third of Rossini's one-act farces. Although stage performances of this early work are rarely encountered today, its overture has become one of the most popular of all Rossini's contributions to that genre, a lively *perpetuo moto* that anticipates the energy of the comedy to follow.

Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 17 in G

Mozart composed approximately twenty five piano concertos and may well be called the father of the modern concerto. Mozart's genius adapted certain elements of the existing concerto grosso but emphasized the individuality of the virtuoso to create the classical concerto, which may be regarded as one of his greatest achievements.

The Concerto No. 17 is one of the few not originally composed for Mozart himself to play. It was intended for one of his pupils, Barbara von Ployer, for whom he also wrote the Piano Concerto No.14 and who apparently paid him well.

Wagner: Siegfried Idyll

The Siegfried Idyll is one of Wagner's few works written directly for orchestra. It was a birthday gift by the composer to his wife Cosima in 1870. Written in great secrecy and rehearsed at a nearby inn, it was the expression of his love for Cosima and of his gratitude to her for the birth of their son Siegfried, one year earlier.

On the morning of Cosima's birthday, which was also Christmas morning, she was awakened by this tender lullaby performed by a small orchestra, grouped on the stairway leading to her bedroom and conducted by Wagner himself. At the time Wagner was deep in work upon his opera Siegfried and consequently the Idyll contains thematic material from the music drama itself. Nonetheless, Wagner regarded this work as a particularly personal and intimate expression of his sentiments and felt it belonged to his family alone. The children often referred to the work as the "Stairway Music."

Haydn: Symphony No. 47

Haydn composed more than a hundred symphonies and is often referred to as the father of the symphony. His earliest works were simple in form and construction and it was not until after 1770 that his symphonies acquired a definite character and personality. Several important influences were brought to bear on Haydn's development after 1770. He had by then learned about thematic development from his quartet writing and in his application of the sonata form to instrumental music he arrived at a true symphonic style. Mozart was also a big influence on him and from his intimacy with the younger composer's music he developed his own richer and more profound style. The symphony No. 47 was composed in 1772 and demonstrates the new level of emotion and enrichment that Haydn was to bring to his symphonies.