

# NEXT CONCERT

## CHOPIN Piano Concerto No.



**Beethoven:** Egmont Overture  
**Chopin:** Piano Concerto No. 1  
**Dvorak:** Symphony No. 8

**Soloist:** Wojciech Wisniewski  
**Conductor:** Gary Stavrou

Sunday June 28th 2009, 2.30pm  
Macquarie University Theatre

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

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## FEATURED ARTIST **Wojciech Wisniewski**

Wojciech Wisniewski was born in 1981 in Nowa Sól in Poland, where he started playing the piano at the age of seven.

After his arrival in Australia in 2004, he obtained Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours (2007) at The Australian Institute of Music, studying as a full scholarship student with Phillip Shovk. At present he is a student of Natalia Sheludiakova at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (Doctor of Musical Arts).

In February 2009 Wojciech was invited by Professor Jack Richards to give a recital in New Zealand and to record music of New Zealand-based composer Helen Bowater.

Last year he was selected out of 240 competitors to participate in the 2008 Sydney International Piano Competition.

# FROM THE PODIUM

## Gary Stavrou

The closing date for the 2009 Balmain Sinfonia Concerto Competition for Strings is fast approaching. If you know of a talented string player under 24 years of age who may not be aware of this competition, could you please bring it to their attention. This year, for the first time, we will be holding the competition at Macquarie University. The heats are open to the public without charge, and Macquarie students, in particular, are encouraged to attend. Further details are on our website.

Although a prolific composer of solo piano pieces, Chopin did not write much for orchestra. He did, however, leave us two wonderful piano concertos.

For our next concert we perform the first of his two concertos by his compatriot, young Polish pianist Wojciech Wisniewski.

Those of you who followed last year's Sydney International Piano Competition may recall that Wojciech was one of the participants.

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## OUR NEXT CONCERT

### The Music

#### **Beethoven: Egmont Overture**

Beethoven's composition, although based on the play by Goethe, also expresses his own political commentary and beliefs. The play relates to the fight between Count Egmont and the Duke of Albe. Egmont, a Flemish warrior, refuses to give up his land to the Duke and is imprisoned and sentenced to death. Egmont longs for fair justice and liberty and this is opposed to Albe's tyrannical authority.

Beethoven's incidental music combines the subject matter of Goethe's play with his own political preoccupations with justice and national liberty, which he also explores in his Leonora and Coriolan overtures.

#### **Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 1**

Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor was composed in 1830 and was first performed by Chopin himself in his farewell concert before leaving Warsaw and moving to France. The concerto was received very well by the audience at the time and was by all accounts a success.

Chopin composed two piano concertos. Both were large-scale compositions that required immense skill from the soloist, drawing on the soloist's technical skills and musicality. Chopin worked on both concertos simultaneously and although the Concerto No 1 was performed first, his Concerto No 2 was in fact completed earlier.



*Frederic Chopin*

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Chopin makes significant reference to Polish folk music in his piano concertos. His Concerto No. 1 draws greatly on traditional Polish dances including the Mazurka.

#### **Dvorak: Symphony No. 8**

Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 in G major was composed between 26 August and 8 November 1889 in Bohemia and was premiered in Prague on 2 February 1890.

Unlike the Seventh Symphony which is stormy and romantic, Dvorak's Eighth Symphony is cheery and draws heavily on Bohemian folk music as inspiration. The symphony has a warm and optimistic tone and although it is not as widely known or as frequently played as the Ninth Symphony, it is a beautiful work that highlights Dvorak's great skill as a composer.