

NEXT CONCERT

SIBELIUS SYMPHONY NO. 5



Cherubini: Anacreon Overture

Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1

Barber: Adagio for Strings

Sibelius: Symphony No. 5

Soloist: Emily Sun

Conductor: Gary Stavrou

Sunday June 27th 2010, 2.30pm
Macquarie University Theatre

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

FEATURED ARTIST **Emily Sun**

Emily Sun began playing the violin at the age of 5 under the tutelage of her late father, Dr Daniel Yi Sun, a well-known Australian composer, violinist and conductor.

Emily made her debut with the East-West Philharmonic Orchestra in 1999 at the age of 10, and has since performed with many orchestras such as the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, Queensland Youth Orchestra, and the MLC Symphony Orchestra.

Emily Sun was a finalist in the 2009 Balmain Sinfonia Concerto Competition and won the Perry Hart Memorial Prize, the two-year loan of a superb A E Smith violin. Emily will be playing this instrument on the June 27 concert.

Emily is currently in her first year of a Bachelor of Music Performance at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with a full merit scholarship, studying with Robin Wilson.

FROM THE PODIUM

Gary Stavrou

The winner of our last concerto competition, Sonja Schebeck, has begun to forge a stellar musical career. She was noticed by Nigel Kennedy during his recent performance at the Basement and was invited to play a duet with him at his Opera House concert. He must have been quite impressed because Sonja was then asked to join his orchestra, The Orchestra of Life, on a European concert tour.

Sonja is also having wonderful success here in Australia having reached the string finals of the Young Performers' Award. These will be held in Adelaide in June. Should she be successful there, Sonja will proceed to the open finals in August in Queensland.

Those of you who heard Sonja play the Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 1 with Balmian Sinfonia last December will not be surprised at her well-earned success.

OUR NEXT CONCERT

The Music

Cherubini: Anacreon Overture

Although Cherubini was born and obtained his education in Italy, he lived in Paris from his twenty-eighth year and wrote most of his mature operas and choral works there. The opera-ballet *Anacreon* belongs to his great period of operatic supremacy in the French capital. It is in two acts with a libretto by Mendouze, composed in 1803 and first performed on October 4th of that year at the Paris Opera.

Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1

Why is this concerto so beloved of both violinists and audiences? Like the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, it is perfectly written for the instrument and exploits virtually everything the violin can do in the hands of a master: from dramatic multi-stopped chords to soulful singing in the instrument's chocolate low register all the way to its silvery top. Bruch's greatest gift was for writing haunting, deeply expressive melodies, and here he makes a gorgeous slow second movement the centerpiece of his composition. The orchestral writing, too, fully complements the solo part with its richness and drama.

Barber: Adagio for Strings

This orchestral version, adapted from BARBER'S String Quartet No. 1, was first performed in 1938 by the NBC Symphony Orchestra and Arturo Toscanini. It conveys both tranquility and grief and has frequently marked occasions of public



Luigi Cherubini

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mourning; it was, for instance, played at the funerals of F.D.R., J.F.K., and Princess Grace and has appeared in the scores to a number of poignant films, including *The Elephant Man* and *Platoon*.

Sibelius: Symphony No. 5

The long career of Jean Sibelius is inextricably bound with the recent history of his home country, Finland -- and not simply because he is that country's most famous composer. He was born during increasing Russian repression in the 1870's that led to a Finnish nationalistic movement. In 1913, when Sibelius began work on his fifth symphony, his music was known for its novel groupings of instruments, striking harmonic shifts, and resonant orchestral colors.

FUTURE CONCERT DATES

June 27, Sept 19, Dec 12