

NEXT CONCERT

VIVALDI BASSOON CONCERTO



Bruckner: Symphony No. 3, excerpt
Vivaldi: Bassoon Concerto No. 8
Tchaikovsky: Eugene Onegin Suite

Soloist: Jonas Moham-Wild
Conductor: Gary Stavrou

Sunday March 29th 2009, 2.30pm
Macquarie University Theatre

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

FEATURED ARTIST Jonas Moham-Wild

Jonas Moham-Wild was born in Switzerland and is of Swiss-Australian nationality.

Jonas trained at the Zurich Musikschule, the Basel Conservatorium and the French National Conservatorium in Paris.

He has a long background as bassoonist and contrabassoonist in many orchestras including the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. Jonas has also performed as soloist both in Australia and overseas.

Since 1986 Jonas has specialised in the baroque bassoon. He plays on a replica of a 1720 Prudent instrument made by O. Cottet in Paris in 1984.

The baroque bassoon is tuned a semitone lower (A=415) compared to a modern bassoon (A=440).

FROM THE PODIUM

Gary Stavrou

A new year is upon us with exciting new challenges.

A couple of concerts ago we performed a scherzo from one of Bruckner's symphonies. I asked the audience at the time if they would like to hear more Bruckner from us and the answer was enthusiastically affirmative. So for the next concert we are playing an excerpt from the first movement of that same symphony. I'm not purist enough to insist that the whole symphony

be heard at one sitting. In fact, at home I often play a single movement from my Bruckner CD collection. I am particularly fond of the gravitas of the Celibidache recordings, but the Wand cycle, more middle-of-the-road, is also very fine.

An instrument that is not often heard in concert nowadays, the baroque bassoon, will feature in our next concert together with a world premiere adaptation of Tchaikovsky's opera Eugene Onegin.

OUR NEXT CONCERT

The Music

Bruckner: Symphony No. 3, excerpt

Bruckner's Symphony No. 3 in D minor was written in 1873 and revised in 1877 and 1891. As a music student Bruckner was introduced to the music of Wagner. In 1865 at the premiere of Tristan, Bruckner met Wagner and a strong friendship grew. Bruckner's Third Symphony was in fact dedicated to Wagner and is often known as his 'Wagner Symphony'.

The 'Wagnerian' tag that has often been given to Bruckner's symphonies (specifically this one) has led to the belief that his compositions are huge and ponderous, however they display beautiful melodies and grandeur, not excessiveness. The D minor symphony, like his other symphonies, is over an hour in duration. Balmain Sinfonia will be playing the end of the first movement from the recapitulation.

VIVALDI: Bassoon Concerto No. 8

Vivaldi was born in Venice in 1678 and died in 1741. He was a composer, a virtuosic violinist and a priest. His works, including The Four Seasons, remain highly popular today. In 1703 Vivaldi became maestro di violino at an orphanage in Venice. Vivaldi played an influential part in the orphanage's musical program for girls, where the orphaned girls received a musical education and the most talented were asked to become members of the renowned orchestra of the orphanage. Vivaldi composed many of his concertos, cantatas and sacred pieces for the orphans.



Antonio Vivaldi

This concerto is traditionally played on a baroque bassoon or dulcian, the instrument having the widest range of any baroque woodwind instrument. Like the contemporary bassoon, the baroque bassoon is played with a double reed. Nevertheless it is much simpler in construction, having three to five keys and being made from maple.

TCHAIKOVSKY: Eugene Onegin Suite

Eugene Onegin, an opera in three acts, is based on a novel by Pushkin. It is a 'lyrical opera' where the composer used the original verses of the novel, but only chose scenes that involved the emotional world of the hero (Onegin). It is an episodic opera, without a continuous story, instead relating highlights of Onegin's life. The highly melodic nature of the music prompted Gary Stavrou to arrange an orchestral suite from the opera. This will be premiered at our next concert.