

NEXT CONCERT

RACHMANINOV SYMPHONY NO. 2

Glinka: Ruslan and Ludmila Overture
Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 1
Rachmaninov: Symphony No. 2

Soloist: Andrew Wilson
Conductor: Gary Stavrou



Sunday September 20th 2009, 2.30pm
Macquarie University Theatre

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

FEATURED ARTIST

Andrew Wilson

While studying geophysics at Macquarie University, Andrew toured in Australia and internationally with the Australian Youth Orchestra and decided to change to a career in music. He undertook further undergraduate cello studies with Susan Blake at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, during which time he performed the world premiere of Colin Brumby's Cello Concerto.

Andrew has performed with orchestras both in Australia and abroad, including the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Halle Orchestra and the BBC Philharmonic. He currently plays with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. Andrew also plays chamber music with various groups including the Kammer Ensemble. For the last two years Andrew has been a regular guest principal and tutor with the Balmain Sinfonia.

FROM THE PODIUM

Gary Stavrou

The 2009 Balmain Sinfonia Concerto Competition for Strings was held recently. From a strong field of fifteen players the judges chose four finalists.

The standard was, as usual, very high. The judges awarded first prize to violinist Sonja Shebeck who won with an extraordinary performance of Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1. Sonja will perform this concerto with Balmain Sinfonia on December 13, when she will be presented with the Richard Goldner

Award and the Macquarie University Concerto Prize of \$3000. This is a concert not to be missed.

The other finalists also gave us wonderful performances. Violinists Jonathan Mui and Emily Sun played Bruch's Scottish Fantasy and his first concerto respectively, while Muhamed Mehmedbasic dazzled us with the Dittersdorf Concerto for Double Bass.

OUR NEXT CONCERT

The Music

Glinka: Ruslan and Ludmila Overture

Glinka composed the opera Ruslan and Ludmila between 1837 and 1842. The work consists of five movements, of which the Overture is the best known. The opera is based on the poem, Ruslan and Ludmila, written by Aleksandr Pushkin. Glinka had wanted to work with the poet during the composition of the opera, but during the five years of writing, Pushkin died. Glinka called on his friend, the poet Valerian Shirkov, to write the libretto.

Ruslan and Ludmila is based on a fairy tale of love, with dwarfs, giants and heroes all featuring in the opera.

Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 1

Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 in E flat Major was composed in 1959 and was written for the famous cellist Rostropovich. The first movement introduces an aggressive four note theme which is altered and distorted throughout the movement. This theme is related to Shostakovich's score for the film The Young Guard (1948) which tells the story of young Soviet soldiers being marched to their death by Nazis.

The complete third movement consists of a challenging cadenza. The final movement quotes a number of fellow composers and satirizes Stalin and the Soviet system. The movement ends with the timpani, a reference to Prokofiev's work.



Dmitri Shostakovich
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Rachmaninov: Symphony No. 2

This symphony was composed in 1906 - 07 and in 1908 Rachmaninov conducted its premiere performance in St Petersburg. Throughout the symphony emphasis is placed on a series of motifs, the first introduced by the cellos and basses in the first Largo movement. This motif is serious and mysterious, and is slow and dense in texture.

A feature of the second movement is a chilling brass chorale which derives from a Gregorian chant. This chant appears in some of Rachmaninov's other compositions including Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini and Symphony No. 1.

2009 DATES

December 13