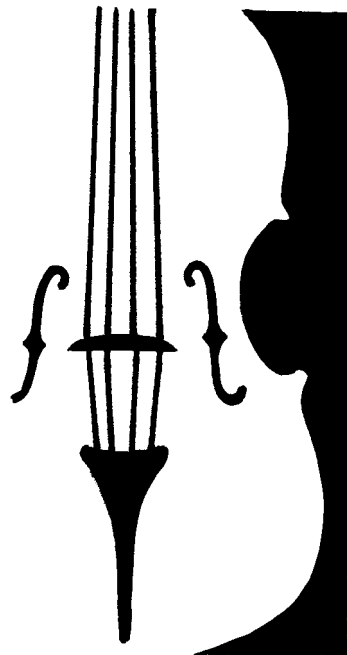


BALMAIN SINFONIA

PAGANINI VIOLIN CONCERTO No. 2



Sunday December 10th 2006, 2.30pm
Macquarie University Theatre

Nicolai: Merry Wives of Windsor Ov.
Paganini: Violin Concerto No. 2
Dvorak: Symphony No. 9 (New World)

Soloist: Attila Sautov
Conductor: Gary Stavrou

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

FEATURED ARTIST **Attila Sautov**

Violinist Attila Sautov was born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on May 28th 1977.

He began playing the violin, under the tuition of his father, at the age of four, completing his studies at the Tashkent State Music School under Vladimir Yudenitch.

Attila has been successful in many international competitions. In 1987 he was winner of the Pan-Soviet violin competition held in Andijan, followed by a 3rd prize in the Dvarionas competition in Latvia and 1st prize in the 1994 Chiva International Competition.

Attila has performed as soloist with many orchestras, playing the mainstream violin concertos at the International Music Festival in Kiev and abroad in Germany, France, Spain, Norway and Canada.

After relocating to Germany, he became concertmaster of the Cologne New Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. In 2005, after several performances of Vivaldi's Four Seasons at venues around Australia, including the Sydney Opera House, he decided to make Australia his home. Attila is currently a staff member and violin teacher at the Mueller College in Brisbane.

FROM THE PODIUM

Gary Stavrou

These are uncertain times for the Balmain Sinfonia. As I write this, it is still unclear if we have a future at Macquarie University. Our next concert, on December 10th is secure, but we have yet to negotiate our 2007 concerts and beyond. It would be a pity if we had to leave as both audience and players are happy with Macquarie Theatre.

Our next concert will feature a phenomenal virtuoso violinist, Attila Sautov, who

currently lives and teaches in Brisbane. He has chosen to play a most challenging work, Paganini's 2nd Violin Concerto. This is best known for the "la campanella" melody which has been transcribed for piano by Liszt.

We again welcome to the December concert, as we did in October, Zhu Wen as concertmaster. Wen was the winner of our last concerto competition and was soloist in the Beethoven Violin Concerto which we performed in June. Wen is minding the position until a new concertmaster takes over next year. This is exciting news and I'll tell you more next time.

OUR NEXT CONCERT

The Music

Nicolai : Merry Wives of Windsor Ov.

The fat knight, Sir John Falstaff, has been the subject of many operas, most notably Verdi's well-known work, Falstaff. Less famous is the opera, The Merry Wives of Windsor, by Otto Nicolai which also deals with this comic character and the predicaments he creates when he tries to seduce a pair of bourgeois wives. Although the opera is rarely staged today, its overture has retained some importance in the orchestral repertoire as a concert opener for its bright and tuneful music.

Paganini : Violin Concerto No.2

Niccoló Paganini was recognized as a violin prodigy as a child, and by the time he was a teenager was touring through Italy and writing works to display his phenomenal technique. In addition to an impressive battery of technical tricks, some of which he invented, and his phenomenal sound, larger than any violinist of his day, Paganini was a master showman. He composed six violin concertos and many concert showpieces, all for his own performances, but they were not published until after his death, mainly because he jealously protected his works from rival players. The Concerto no. 2, composed when his fame as a virtuoso soloist had been fully established, is one of the supreme examples of combining technical virtuosity with theatrical melodrama in music. It demands a flawless technique and a flair for showmanship.

Dvorak : Symphony No. 9

In 1892, Dvorak was invited to go to New York to become the Director of the National Conservatory of Music by its founder Jeanette Thurber, the wife of a wealthy New York businessman, who had a dream of raising the standards of American art music to equal those of Europe. Dvorak enjoyed his stay as American audiences adored his music, and he blended comfortably into New York society. He also spent two summers in the small town of Spillville, Iowa, where he felt at home in a large Bohemian community. He had several promising composition students at the Conservatory, and agreed heartily with Thurber's ideal that American composers should foster their own distinctive style of composition. The "New World" symphony is the most famous of the works Dvorak composed while in America. It was an immediate hit with audiences in both America and Europe. The new symphony closely matches the Brahmsian style of his other late symphonies, but there are a few "Americanisms" in the work which reflect his immersion in American music and culture, especially Native American music and African American spirituals. As a strongly nationalistic Bohemian, Dvorak had always brought the spirit of his homeland into his works by bringing in folk tunes. According to his own account of the work's composition, Dvorak attempted to do the same with regard to American music in the Symphony No.9. The result is a work "From the New World" by an Old World composer.