

STILL WE RISE

**Monash
Academy
Orchestra**

Monash University
Performing Arts Centres
in association with the Sir
Zelman Cowen School of
Music and Performance.

Presented by

M LIVE



SUNDAY 15 MAY, 2:30PM

Paul Grabowsky *Cythera**

Sergei Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.2 in C minor

i. Moderato

ii. Adagio sostenuto

iii. Allegro scherzando

Interval

Vanessa Perica *Still We Rise***

George Gershwin *An American in Paris*

* Commissioned by the Hush Foundation 2013

** World premiere of 2021 Monash University Ed Byrne Commission

Fabian Russell conductor

Roy Theaker rehearsal conductor

Thong Truong piano

Monash Academy Orchestra

We are grateful to Fabian Russell for agreeing to step in to conduct this concert at late notice, and to Roy Theaker for his preparation of the orchestra before having to withdraw through illness.

PROGRAM NOTE

Still We Rise is a work for orchestra and jazz quintet. A love letter to Melbourne, it pays homage to all that the city and its people have endured the past two years. It journeys through the highs and lows, and celebrates the sense of community that has prevailed in these tough times. The opening statement is one of optimism - pre 2020 - that paints a picture of a city that is vibrant, where possibilities seem endless. From there on, the jazz quintet steps in to drive the orchestra through all the emotions - angst, uncertainty, hope and freedom.

FABIAN RUSSELL

In a career spanning more than three decades, Fabian Russell has been at the forefront of the Australian classical music industry as an award-winning conductor, artistic director, pedagogue, orchestral musician and solo performer. He has held positions with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria, and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and has been guest conductor of orchestras including, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Victorian Opera and Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2002 Fabian founded The Orchestra Project – the Melbourne based training orchestra for Australia's pre-eminent emerging artists who perform alongside members of Australia's professional orchestras. Fabian has also enjoyed a long relationship with the Australian Youth Orchestra as Associate Conductor. From 2008 to 2012 he was Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Melbourne Youth Orchestra. Under his leadership, MYO grew to become what was considered to be one of Australia's leading pre-professional orchestral training programs. Fabian made his Victorian Opera debut in 2013 in a new production of John Adams' *Nixon in China* that received considerable critical acclaim resulting in the 2014 Green Room Award for Outstanding Conductor, as well as the 2014 Helpmann Award nomination for Best Music Director.

He was awarded the Sir Winston Churchill Fellowship in 2011, and is an international adviser to the London based Australian Music Foundation.

THONG TRUONG

Thong is a Bachelor of Commerce and Music student at Monash University. Prior to entering Monash, Thong studied with Wendy McLean on piano and with Jennifer Chou on pipe organ. At Monash he has studied with Anthony Halliday and is currently under the tutelage of Dr Tomoe Kawabata.

Recent accomplishments include first place in the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance Australian Classical Music Prize, finalist in the 2019 Preston Youth Concerto competition, and first prizes in both the 2018 Ringwood Eisteddfod Organ Open section and subsequent Instrumental Grand Final.

Outside of performance, Thong teaches piano to over twenty students. He loves being social and out in the sun, and in his spare time likes to watch crime documentaries and anime, and play tennis and badminton with friends.

VANESSA PERICA

Vanessa Perica is a composer, arranger, and conductor based in Melbourne. Recent career highlights include both national and international recognition. She was a finalist in both the Anonimus Big Band (2018) and 'Scrivere in Jazz' International Composition Competitions (2020). She has also appeared at the Sydney, Melbourne and Perth International Jazz Festivals.

In 2019, Vanessa was a recipient of an Australia Council grant to record her debut album with an all-star lineup including Andrea Keller, Julien Wilson, Sam Anning, Mat Jodrell, Ben Vanderwal, Jordan Murray, Carl Mackey, Paul Williamson and Jamie Oehlers. Released in February 2020, the album titled *Love is a Temporary Madness* has been critically acclaimed, reaching as high as number 1 on the AIR Independent charts, and number 3 on the ARIA Jazz and Blues charts. The album was a nominee in the Australian Music Prize and AIR Awards, and won 'Best Jazz Album' at the 2020 Music Victoria Awards.

In February 2021, the *Love is a Temporary Madness* Symphonic Suite was premiered by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Vanessa Perica Orchestra at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

Vanessa was a winner in the 2021 APRA Art Music Awards for her composition *Spaccanapoli*, and is a finalist in the upcoming Australian Women in Music Awards. In November 2021, the Vanessa Perica Orchestra joined forces once again with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for the Melbourne International Jazz Festival's Opening Night Gala at Hamer Hall.

MONASH ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

Monash Academy Orchestra is a symphony orchestra based on the Clayton campus of Monash University. Consisting of students from the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music as well as musicians from across the wider university communities, it is an orchestra committed to sharing the joy of musical performance.

The orchestra has established an enviable reputation as an outstanding training and mentoring orchestra, performing a large variety of major symphonic repertoire from Beethoven and Mozart to Stravinsky and Duke Ellington. Students are provided with the opportunity to develop their knowledge of orchestral repertoire, as well as the ensemble skills necessary for professional practice.

The orchestra is committed to performing the work of Australian composers. To this end, a new work is commissioned from an Australian composer each year. The orchestra works closely with established and renowned conductors and recognised soloists, providing students with the opportunity to learn from some of the very best in the industry.

MONASH ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN ONE

Lalita Wright
Nicholas Waters^
Michelle Ishkakbaev
Paul Hwang
Benjamin Spiers^
Hui Min Anne Thong
Alyssa Wong
Amy You^
Hannah Wee
Clarissa Liew
Audrey Tanuwijaya

VIOLIN TWO

Michael Loftus-Hills^
Ella Summers
Tai Hindson
Belinda Wang
Tintin Cao
Jasmin Buell
Claire Bergman
Thomas Garnett
Claire Gurrin
Dino Ju
Daniel Goh

VIOLA

Ruby Shirres^
Matthew James
Layla Matri Yuxuan
Zu
Ying Chan
Alice Choate
Amethyst Gratton

CELLO

Mee Na Lojewski^
Marcus Chen
Holly Abougelis
Tara Skelton
Brianna Rowling
Thomas Velican
Janek Kondzior

DOUBLE BASS

Alexandra Giller^
Robert Nicholls^
Gareth Hill^
Hamish Guillick^

FLUTE

Hannah Phillips
Amelia Kalomiris
Ralema Fairhead
Demi Zairopoulos

PICCOLO

Hannah Phillips

OBOE

Emmanuel Cassimatis^
Benjamin Roe
Xiaoyu Gao

COR ANGLAIS

Emmanuel Cassimatis^

CLARINET

Brendan Toohey^
Roger He
Hugh Blacket

BASS CLARINET

Hugh Blacket

BASSOON

Christopher Martin^
Hannah Hunt

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Georgia Venema

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Oliver Voogd

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Matthew Chipman

FRENCH HORN

Henry Eames
Callum O'Connor
Rosemarry Yang^
Sienna Machin

TRUMPET

Rebekka Walker
Bruno Siketa^
Sophie Spencer^

TROMBONE

Trea Hindley^
Forbes Purcell

BASS TROMBONE

Elijah Cornish^

TUBA

Alexander Hurst^

HARP

Laura Winter^

PIANO

Tristan Sumarna

CELESTE

Lana Raftopoulos

TIMPANI

Grace James

Brent Miller^

PERCUSSION

Grace James

Taj Aldeeb

Casey Prater

Lara Wilson^

Robert Allan^

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Oscar Bruten

GUITAR

Uyen-My Pham

PIANO

Patrick Barton Grace

BASS

Maz Raz-Liebman

DRUM KIT

Albert Rolfe

^ denotes guest musician

MPAC would like to thank the tutorial staff who worked with our musicians:

Affinity Quartet strings

Michael Loftus-Hills violin

Roy Theaker woodwind

Alexander Hurst brass

Lara Wilson percussion

Find out what else is on at: monash.edu/performing-arts-centres