

Midori returns to Sydney

1, 2 July 8.00pm

Sydney Opera House Concert Hall



The image of a tiny pig-tailed girl on stage only a little taller than her own violin will be forever associated with the Japanese violinist Midori. Her debut with the New York Philharmonic at the age of 11 created headlines and her extraordinary performance at age 14 with Leonard Bernstein – in which she broke strings on two violins but kept playing without missing a beat – was front page news. Now, over 30 years later and one of the world's greatest violinists, it's clear that Midori has managed to do what many others have found impossible – to translate her precocious talent into a full-fledged career.

In her performances with the Sydney Symphony this July, Midori will celebrate the talents of other child prodigies who went on to great things. Both Mozart and Schubert are represented by the virtuoso violin music they wrote in their teens – Mozart with his Violin Concerto No. 5, known as his 'Turkish' concerto, and also Schubert with his Rondo in A for violin and strings. Also on the program is Mozart's Symphony No. 40 and Stravinsky's Concerto in D for strings – grown-up music with a vivacious sense of youthful energy.

Born in Osaka, Japan, in 1971, Midori studied with her mother before a tape of her playing found its way to the acclaimed American violin teacher Dorothy DeLay, who, when hearing the eight-year-old Midori performing Bach believed she was listening to a 28 year old. DeLay, who had already cultivated the likes of Nigel Kennedy, Itzhak Perlman and Gil Shaham, immediately invited Midori to the Aspen Summer Music School in Colorado.

Midori and her mother moved from Osaka to New York in 1982, where Midori attended the prestigious Juilliard School. Soon after, Midori was asked to audition for New York Philharmonic conductor, Zubin Mehta and on New Year's Eve, 1982 she made her astonishing debut with the orchestra, received with rapturous applause and critical acclaim. More debuts followed, and it was clear that her career in the spotlight had begun.

Midori has always been keen to give back and is known for her deep commitment to the community through outreach programs and teaching, playing an active role in the education of the next generation of musicians and music lovers around the world. While in Sydney, she will hold a masterclass with the orchestra's elite training ensemble, the Sydney Symphony's Fellows. Events like this allow her to pass on some of her extensive knowledge about classical music and life in the industry to talented young musicians.

Throughout her career, Midori has created many arts organizations and programs. She started Midori and Friends in 1992, a non-profit organisation in New York which brings education programs to thousands of underprivileged children each year. She also began Music Sharing in Japan, and Partners in Performance in the United States, which both aim to get people who may not otherwise be involved in the arts a little closer to classical music.

Midori graduated magna cum laude from the Gallatin School of New York University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and gender studies, and in 2005, she received a master's degree in psychology. She lives in Los Angeles and is currently chair of the strings program and professor of violin at the University of Southern California.

Her performances with the Sydney Symphony will be conducted by Antonello Manacorda, co-founder of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Music Director of I Pomeriggi Musicali in Milan. This September he will become Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of Kammerakademie Potsdam.

Tickets from \$35*. To book tickets call the Sydney Symphony box office on: 8215 4600 or visit www.sydney-symphony.com

CONCERT DETAILS

MIDORI PLAYS MOZART

STRAVINSKY Concerto in D for strings (Basel)

MOZART Violin Concerto No.5 (Turkish)

MOZART Symphony No.40

SCHUBERT Rondo in A for violin and strings

Antonello Manacorda conductor

Midori violin

Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall

Winter Gala

1 July 8.00pm

Emirates Metro Series

2 July 8.00pm

Tickets from \$35* (booking fee of \$6 - \$8.50 may apply).

Bookings through Sydney Symphony 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday on 8215 4600 or select your own seat at: www.sydney-symphony.com

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