November 2020 Sydney Town Hall



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* = Guest Musician

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of the Sydney Symphony not
appearing in this concert

MOZART AND BEETHOVEN

ANDREW HAVERON violin-director SIMON TEDESCHI piano

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

Piano Concerto No. 19 in F Allegro Allegretto Allegro assai

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Symphony No.2 in D Adagio molto – Allegro con brio Larghetto Scherzo (Allegro) Allegro molto This closed performance is generously supported by Dr Rachael Kohn Ao and Tom Breen.

APPROXIMATE DURATIONS 28 minutes, 32 minutes.

COVER IMAGE

Simon Tedeschi (Photo by Cole Bennetts)

PRESENTING PARTNER



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ANDREW HAVERON violin-director

Concertmaster, Vicki Olsson Chair

Andrew Haveron has established himself as one of the most sought-after violinists of his generation. A laureate of some of the most prestigious international violin competitions, Andrew studied in London at the Purcell School and the Royal College of Music. With his unrivalled versatility, he is a highly respected soloist, chamber musician and concertmaster.

As a soloist, Andrew has collaborated with conductors such as Sir Colin Davis, Sir Roger Norrington, Jiří Bělohlávek, Stanislaw Skrowachewski, David Robertson and John Wilson, performing a broad range of concertos with many of the UK's finest orchestras. His performance of Walton's violin concerto with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2015 was nominated for a Helpmann Award. Andrew's playing has also been featured on many film and videogame soundtracks, including Disney's 'Fantasia' game.

Andrew is also in great demand as a concertmaster and director and has worked with all the major symphony orchestras in the UK and many further afield. In 2013, Andrew started in his current position of concertmaster of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. In 2019 Andrew appeared with the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle, and in recitals around Australia with pianists Anna Goldsworthy, Piers Lane and Simon Tedeschi.

Andrew Haveron plays a 1757 Guadagnini violin, generously loaned to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra by Vicki Olsson.

SIMON TEDESCHI piano

Simon Tedeschi is one of Australia's most renowned classical pianists, winner of the Young Performer of the Year Award (Australia), the Creativity Foundation's Legacy Award (USA), and the New York Young Jewish Pianist Award. Recipient of a Centenary of Federation Medal, and based in Boston, Massachusetts for several years, he has performed for royalty, world leaders and audiences young and old from the Sydney Opera House to Carnegie Hall via Abu Dhabi and Beijing. As soloist Tedeschi has performed with all major Australasian symphony orchestras, including recording Rachmaninov's fourth piano concerto with the Sydney Symphony, broadcast on Foxtel Arts, and recorded acclaimed albums for ABC Classics/Universal Music of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, R. Strauss' Enoch Arden, Schumann, Schubert and concerti by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Grieg and Gershwin. A frequent guest of ABC Classic, Musica Viva Australia, Sydney Festival, Art Gallery of NSW and Melbourne Recital Centre, Tedeschi also performs chamber programs with Andrew Haveron, Roger Benedict, jazz pianist Kevin Hunt and Australian theatre icon, John Bell AO.



Andrew Haveron Photo: Anthony Geernaert



Simon Tedeschi Photo: Cole Bennetts

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Mozart wrote this concerto for his own use in 1784. He probably played it in one of his Lenten subscription concerts in Vienna the next year, and in 1790 took it on tour, playing it at the coronation festivities in Frankfurt for the Emperor Leopold II. It reveals Mozart's powers of composition at their richest, and the virtuoso piano part is matched by a fully equal part for the orchestra. Confident, even soloistic, playing is required, especially from the woodwind.

The first subject, whose rhythm dominates the first movement, is a kind of march: Mozart's time-signature. (two rather than four beats in the bar) avoids heaviness. In characteristic galant style, the subject is presented first softly, then loudly. In spite of, or perhaps because of, the dominance of this rhythm, the movement is amazingly rich and varied in themes, especially in the orchestral exposition. But as Cuthbert Girdlestone observes in Mozart and his Piano Concertos, once the soloist has entered, almost all the themes derive in some way from the opening. The triplets which the piano contrasts with the orchestral material become an accompaniment to the march theme. Even in the free fantasia development, which begins with a peremptory gesture from the soloist, and seems to have abandoned the predominant rhythm, the winds begin to interject it, and it spreads to the piano part. Mozart's cadenza for this movement is one of his most effective and broad-ranging. Thus far the movement seems not sectionally divided, but cumulatively developing; it ends with lilting figures which do not feature the march rhythm.

Allegretto, somewhere between 'walking' and 'fast', is a tempo marking quite common for a 'slow' movement in the music of Joseph Haydn, but rare in Mozart. This unique movement has been described as an idyll, or an intermezzo, graceful, even capricious. The key is C major, with an excursion into C minor: only a brief, passing departure from the mood of the movement, with the effect of pathos rather than tragedy. In few of Mozart's concerto movements do the winds take part as fully and imaginatively as here – flute, oboes and bassoon join the piano in leading the discourse, and it seems fitting that the flute should have the last word.

One would hardly suspect, on hearing the light-hearted theme of the finale, that this is to be the weightiest and perhaps the most memorable movement in the concerto, but so it proves. After the statement of the refrain by piano followed by orchestra, the cellos and basses begin a fourpart fugue. Suddenly we are in the same world as the finale of the 'Jupiter' Symphony. But the effect, while powerful and exciting, is far from a display of learning – Mozart only for a moment allows us to forget that he is writing a concerto. Soon the soloist re-enters with considerable virtuosity, and the humorous, chattering themes even suggest an opera buffa finale. Twice more the fugato returns, first as a development, then in a superb passage for orchestra and soloist over a tonic pedal, before the sweeping cadenza. The fugal passages, with their sustained many-voiced texture, invade the comic bantering of the rest of the music, as power and play are winningly combined.



Mozart painted by Joseph Lange

ABOUT THE MUSIC

By the end of the century composers like Joseph Haydn had established the conventional form of the classical symphony: two fast-ish outer movements that create drama out of the contrast of themes in different keys, and, for the inner movements a slow, songlike one, and a lively dance in triple time. In his late middle age, Haydn's symphonies enjoyed huge popularity among the growing middle-class audiences in Paris and London. On the way to London once he visited the city of Bonn, and, impressed with the music of a certain Beethoven, invited the young composer to study with him. In 1792 Beethoven travelled to Vienna and soon became established as a performer and composer. But he waited some years before tackling forms that Haydn had made his own, especially the symphony.

The second symphony dates from 1802. It begins with a slow introduction that recalls Mozart, especially that of the Jupiter' symphony in its strong unisons and emotive harmony, before embarking on an allegro that has many hallmarks of the mature Beethoven. That is, it has an energy borne by often simple rhetorical devices like offbeat accents, sudden silences, the alternation of soft and loud statements of the same material. But, most unusually, the slow introduction's material recurs in the body of the movement, diverting the music from its search for resolution, a highly dramatic manoeuvre that Beethoven also employs in his *Sonate pathétique*.

Lewis Lockwood has described the Larghetto as 'Beethoven's first mature orchestral slow movement', its gentle 3/8 rhythm giving it a pastoral calm enhanced by the delicate orchestration. The scherzo – the first time Beethoven uses the term in his symphonies – was likened by composer Hector Berlioz to the gambols of the night spirits in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. That isn't to say that it is without heft – the sharply articulated rhythms of its opening dispel that idea – but Beethoven's pointillistic scoring keeps it light.

The Second concludes with a classically comic finale, generated by one of those terse coiled-spring motifs Beethoven loved, and unfolding in a series of sudden dynamic and thematic contrasts before a long coda and stormy close.

On his summer holiday in 1802, Beethoven realised that the hearing-loss that had plagued him for a few years was worsening, and in all likelihood permanent. Beethoven was appalled at what this would do to his performing career and social life. In a document now known as the 'Heiligenstadt Testament', which was found among his effects after his death, Beethoven describes his agonising despair, and writes: 'I thank my art that I did not end my life by suicide'. One of the specific works of art that held him back was the Second Symphony

Notes adapted from David Garrett Symphony Australia © 2000 (Mozart) and Gordon Kerry © 2020 (Beethoven).



Beethoven in 1802



Heiligenstadt, scene of Beethoven's 1802 existential crisis

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"Without you, our beloved Sydney Symphony Orchestra would not have survived this period. Your generosity has brought joy and optimism to us all."

Andrew Haveron, Concertmaster

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For your continual support through the good and challenging times. Your loyalty in 2020 has helped us return to what we love – sharing the music.

