

Stonnington Symphony

Roy Theaker *Artistic Director*

Roy Theaker plays Beethoven

Sunday Series 1

5 June 2022 | 2:30pm | Malvern Town Hall



CONDUCTOR & SOLOIST

Roy Theaker *Artistic Director*

BEETHOVEN

Violin Concerto in D Major, Op.61

INTERVAL

SHOSTAKOVICH

Symphony No.9 in Eb Major, Op.31

Stonnington Symphony acknowledges that we meet on the traditional land of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and offer our respects to elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land and of its peoples.

Violin Concerto in D Major, Op.61 **Ludwig Van Beethoven (1772 – 1827)**

Mozart died in Vienna in the late autumn of 1791, a victim of the stifling class conventions of the *ancien regime*. A year later, a 20-year-old Ludwig Van Beethoven arrived in Vienna keen to make his name as a musician. By this time, the face of Europe was changing fast. The French Revolution was in full swing, and Austria had declared war on France. While Mozart's life had remained largely unaffected by international politics, Beethoven's revolutionary artistic vision was shaped by the ideology and volcanic social change of the turbulent times in which he lived.

Beethoven's goal was to write music of immeasurable quality and lasting worth, and to achieve it he made thousands of pages of rough draughts or sketches in an effort to reach the perfection that he knew was impossible. He lifted music from its role as sheer entertainment and made it the object of hush reverence - music written for its own sake as an elevating power.

One of the most beloved violin concertos of all time, Beethoven's Violin Concerto was written in 1806 and described by violin virtuoso Joseph Joachim as the "greatest" German violin concerto.

FUN FACT - Beethoven and Mozart Studied with the same teacher!

Symphony No.9 in Eb Major, Op.31 **Dmitry Shostakovich (1906 – 75)**

Together with Stravinsky and Prokofiev, Shostakovich was one of the greatest Russian composers of the 20th century. He was born at a critical time in Russian history as his career ran in parallel with the history of the new Soviet state. His 15 symphonies and 15 string quartets are among the finest 20th century works in that media. He was often at odds with official artistic doctrines and although he appeared at times to bend with the fluctuating Soviet attitudes to music, he maintained to the last an integrity and individuality which marked him as the most important composer in the USSR.

Shostakovich studied the piano at home with his mother and then at the Petrograd Conservatory with Leonid Nikolayev. He also studied composition with Max Steinberg and Gluzanov, whose influence is apparent in his early work. He soon went on to develop his own brittle, witty and satirical style.

To mark the end of the war Shostakovich wrote his Ninth Symphony (1945) dominated as he said by a 'transparent clear mood'. The jauntiness and air of trouble-free serenity dashed official expectations of a defiant heroic celebration of victory, a fact that clearly contributed to criticism the Symphony attracted. Shostakovich was condemned for alleged formalism in his music and was urged forcefully to fight his way back to the path of socialist realism.

Undoubtedly one of Shostakovich's most celebrated works, the ninth symphony is small in scale but full of humour. Shostakovich himself said, "musicians will love to play it and critics will delight in blasting it."

FUN FACT - Shostakovich was a Soviet football fanatic. He attended every game and wrote meticulous notes about the scores. He even became a qualified referee!

Violin I

Ashley Wood*
Nimrod Kuti
Helen Henzell
Paul Boasman
Heather Thompson
Sally Banks
Pamela Scott
Igor Zakopaylo
Alice Barke
Justine Siedle
Jennifer Hall

Violin II

Vincy U*
Lisette Bush
Moya Cummings
Vino Sathianathan
Caroline Morpeth
Florence Thomson
Tamer Mikhael
Mark Pokryshevsky
Amy Huva

Viola

Daniel Neumann*
David Keuneman
David Choate
Francis Parker
Hugh McMaster
Kim Tucker
David Woods
Peter Neustupny

Cello

Tom Sinclair*
Michael Condon
Julia Cianci
Sue Duke
Phillipa Clements
Georg Ramm
Dennis Vaughan
Julia Choate

Double Bass

Nic Synot*
Mark Bowman
Erica Bramham

Flute

Sam Cooke*
Barbara Kerr*

Piccolo

Matthew Barker*

Oboe

Emma Ridout*
Felicity Hardiman

Clarinet

Brendan Toohey*
Sam Webber

Bassoon

Meaghan Waugh*
Gennady Slavsky*

Horn

Bruce Ikin*
Tracey Tulloch*
Jacinta Ewers
Peter Marks

Trumpet

Benjamin Sametz*
Rob Harry*

Trombone

Stephanie Burger*
Michael Lo

Bass Trombone

Kit Millais*

Tuba

Jack Tzikas*

Timpani

Christine Flood*

Percussion

Allison Summers
Chrissy Chan

** denotes principal player*

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Sunday Series 2 – Laurence Matheson plays Mozart

21 August 2022 | 2:30pm | Malvern Town Hall

Sunday Series 3 – Yasmin Rowe plays Rachmaninov

13 November 2022 | 2:30pm | Malvern Town Hall

Symphony in a Day

Saturday 10 September 2022 | Malvern Town Hall

Have you ever wanted to play as a member of the Stonnington Symphony?

Well THIS is your chance! Playing alongside professional musicians and members of the Stonnington Symphony under the tutelage of Artistic Director Roy Theaker, this is fantastic opportunity to both improve your skills in a relaxed and fun environment as well as perform in the magnificent Malvern Town Hall!

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The Stonnington Symphony Artistic Development Fund is a registered charity for the purpose of furthering the cultural growth of Stonnington Symphony's musicians, members and audiences. All donations over \$2.00 to this fund are tax-deductable. We encourage you to consider making a contribution to the future of community music making in City of Stonnington.