



Tasmin Little OBE Violin
Piers Lane AO Piano

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet, and pay our respect to the elders of the Wodi-Wodi people past, present and future.

Serenata Series

Concert Three

Sunday 14 October 2018, 2.30 pm

Tasmin Little OBE *Violin*

Piers Lane AO *Piano*

The performers will introduce each item on the program

JOHANNES BRAHMS Sonatensatz (*Scherzo*) (1853)

FRANZ SCHUBERT Sonatina in D, D 384 (1816)

Allegro molto

Andante

Allegro vivace

KAROL SZYMANOWSKI Sonata in d minor for Violin and Piano, opus 9 (1904)

Allegro moderato

Andantino tranquillo e dolce

Finale: Allegro molto, quasi presto

INTERVAL

ELENA KATS-CHERNIN Russian Rag Revisited (1996 – 2004)

MAURICE RAVEL Piece en forme de Habanera (1907)

CAESAR FRANCK Sonata for Violin and Piano in A major (1886)

Allegretto ben moderato

Allegro

Recitativo-Fantasia (ben moderato)

Allegretto poco mosso

THE PERFORMERS

TASMIN LITTLE OBE



"One of the supremely great violinists of our time"
Music-Web International

Tasmin Little is firmly established as one of today's leading international violinists. She has performed on every continent in some of the world's most prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, Musikverein, Concertgebouw, Philharmonie Berlin, Vienna Konzerthaus, South Bank and Barbican Centres, Royal Albert Hall and Lincoln Center.

Tasmin's concerto appearances include those with Berliner Philharmoniker, Adelaide and West Australian Symphonies, Bournemouth Symphony, Berliner Symphoniker, City of Birmingham Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Gewandhaus Orchester Leipzig, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, New Japan Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Radio Filharmonisch Orkest, Royal Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, Singapore Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Ulster Orchestra, and all BBC Orchestras.

Her multi-award winning and varied career encompasses international concerto and recital performances, master classes, workshops and community outreach work. Tasmin's discography and performance schedule reflect her wide-ranging repertoire and she has given numerous World Premiere performances including concerti by Willem Jeths, Robin de Raaf and Stuart MacRae. She premiered her commissioned work, 'Four World Seasons' by Roxanna Panufnik, on a live BBC broadcast during the Music Nation weekend, preceding the London 2012 Olympics.

She is one of few violinists to perform Ligeti's challenging Violin Concerto, playing it at Carnegie Hall, the Berlin Philharmonie, Salzburg Festival, BBC Proms, Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Philadelphia Kimmel Center.

Tasmin records exclusively for Chandos Records. Her Elgar Violin Concerto with Sir Andrew Davis and the Royal National Scottish Orchestra garnered outstanding critical acclaim and was awarded the Critic's Choice Award in the 2011 Classic BRIT Awards. Her recording of the Britten Concerto with Edward Gardner and the BBC Philharmonic, released in 2013, received lavish critical praise – "one of the finest committed to disc", "rapturous", "incandescent", "her virtuosity is breathtaking". Other Chandos releases include the Delius Suite with the BBC Philharmonic and Sir Andrew Davis, a British Violin Sonatas disc of works by Ferguson, Britten and Walton with Piers Lane, and a 2 CD-set of Schubert Chamber Works with Tim Hugh and Piers Lane. Her highly acclaimed triple CD of the complete Beethoven sonatas with Martin Roscoe, was launched in 2016. Awards include a Diapason d'Or for her Delius Violin Sonatas with Piers Lane, and a Gramophone Audience Innovation Award for her ground breaking musical outreach project, 'The Naked Violin'.

Two recent Chandos discs recorded by Tasmin have been well received. They are the world premiere of Roxanna Panufnik's Four World Seasons recorded with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and hailed by critics for its 'virtuosity'

‘vivid sense of character’ and ‘lustrous tone’. (Gramophone), and the Franck, Szymanowski and Fauré sonatas recorded with pianist Piers Lane, acclaimed for its ‘impassioned performances’, ... ‘energy and poetry’ (The Observer).

In recent years, Tasmin performed Walton violin concertos with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Osmo Vänskä at London’s Royal Festival Hall, Szymanowski violin concerto no.2 with Edward Gardner (Barbican Centre) and the Tchaikovsky violin concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. She also performed with the BBC Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony and BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Her recitals included performances at all the major festivals and venues throughout the UK as well as BBC broadcast recitals. Internationally, her engagements include recitals and concerti in Australia, concerti in Poland and Ireland and a recital in Hong Kong’s City Hall.

In 2008 Tasmin launched ‘The Naked Violin’, to break down barriers to classical music by releasing a free downloadable CD on her website, and performing in communities where music is rarely heard. Within days of the CD’s release, 6,500 websites linked to her site with over half a million downloads within months. ITV’s The South Bank Show filmed the project. Tasmin toured ‘The Naked Violin’ in the UK, America, China, New Zealand, Ireland and Dubai.

Tasmin Little is a Fellow of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (FGSM), a Vice President of the Elgar Society, an Ambassador for The Prince’s Foundation for Children and the Arts, and for Youth Music. She received Honorary Degrees from the Universities of Bradford, Leicester, Hertfordshire and City of London. In 2016, the Royal Academy of Music and the University of London awarded her Honorary Membership of the Academy (Hon RAM).

In 2012, Tasmin Little was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Birthday Honours List, for Services to Music. She plays a 1757 Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin.

PIERS LANE AO



"No praise could be high enough for Piers Lane whose playing throughout is of a superb musical intelligence, sensitivity, and scintillating brilliance."

Bryce Morrison, Gramophone

London-based Australian pianist Piers Lane stands out as an engaging and highly versatile performer, at home equally in solo, chamber and concerto repertoire. In great demand as a soloist and collaborative artist, recent highlights include performances of Busoni's mighty piano concerto, Frank Bridge's Phantasm and Ferdinand Ries's eighth concerto at Carnegie Hall with the newly formed Orchestra Now; premiers of Carl Vine's second Piano Concerto (written for him) with the Sydney Symphony and the London Philharmonic, and several sold-out solo recitals at Wigmore Hall. He also gave over thirty performances in Australia, and performed throughout the UK, and in France and Belgium.

Five times soloist at the BBC Proms in London's Royal Albert Hall, Piers Lane's concerto repertoire exceeds ninety works and has led to engagements with many of the world's great orchestras and conductors, including the BBC and ABC orchestras, the American and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestras, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, City of London Sinfonia and the Royal Philharmonic, Liverpool Philharmonic and Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestras.

Piers frequently performs at prestigious festivals such as Aldeburgh, Bergen, Como Autumn Music, La Roque d'Anthéron, Newport, Prague Spring, and Chopin festivals in Warsaw and Paris. He is Artistic Director of the Sydney International Piano Competition and was Artistic Director, Australian Festival of Chamber Music from 2010 to 2017.

Piers Lane is in great demand as a collaborative artist. He continues his longstanding partnership with violinist Tasmin Little, clarinettist Michael Collins and Australia's Goldner String Quartet. He has performed extensively with singers Cheryl Barker, Peter Coleman-Wright, Yvonne Kenny and Markus Schafer, and has collaborated with Anne Sofie von Otter, Brett Dean, the Australian, Kodály, Medici and New Budapest String Quartets, and with several pianists including Marc-André Hamelin and Kathron Sturrock.

Many composers have written for Piers, and he has premiered works by Brett Dean, Dave Heath, Richard Mills, Carl Vine, Benjamin Wallfisch and Malcolm Williamson, among others.

He has recorded over sixty CDs on major labels, primarily with Hyperion Records. Recent releases include concertos by the Australians Alfred Hill and George Boyle, a Franck, Fauré and Szymanowski disc with Tasmin Little, and works by Borodin, his ninth disc with the Goldner String Quartet.

Piers has written and presented more than 100 programs for BBC Radio 3; he was a professor at the Royal Academy of

Music from 1989 to 2007 and was made an Honorary Member there in 1994. He holds Honorary Doctorates from Griffith and James Cook Universities. He received the first Laza Kostic fund medal for promoting Serbian culture during the difficult political times of the late 1990s. Among his international professional roles, Piers is UK President of the European Piano Teachers' Association and Patron of the Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference, the Tait Memorial Trust (London) and the Youth Music Foundation of Australia.

Although he lives in England, Piers strongly supports music in Australia. In August 1995, at Professor Robert Constable's invitation, he gave the inaugural concert on the first Australian designed and manufactured Stuart & Sons concert grand in the Newcastle Conservatorium Concert Hall. In 2000 he gave the inaugural recital on the first Stuart & Sons grand piano in the UK, in the presence of the Prince of Wales, at St David's Symphony Hall, Cardiff, Wales.

Piers performed the 21 Chopin Nocturnes at a Serenata Series concert in September 2018. *"I had such a lovely stay...playing the complete Chopin Nocturnes on a beautifully restored Bösendorfer in a candlelit salon at 'Serenata'... in the wondrous Kangaroo Valley, two hours south of Sydney."* (Piers' Facebook)

"Piers Lane held a capacity audience spellbound with his hypnotic playing. ... Masterpieces of composition in harness with a performer perfectly connected with the character of the music."
(Valley Voice)

And from the audience: *"What a superb evening. Your 'salon' was so beautiful - candlelight, beautiful linen, flowers and your gorgeous piano. Perfect for such exquisite music. Piers Lane was absolutely wonderful."* *"Magic!"* *"A wonderful evening, a truly special concert – just fabulous!"* *"Totally absorbing."* *"Spectacular! Absolutely a gift to have all the nocturnes so beautifully performed in your beautiful performance space you. I felt really privileged to be present."*

In the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Honours, Piers was made an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished services to the arts as pianist, mentor and organiser.

MUSIC NOTES

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833 – 1897)

SONATENSATZ (1853)

Scherzo

In 1853 Robert Schumann instigated a plan to compose a musical work to be presented as a tribute to the violinist, Joseph Joachim. The four-movement work would be a composite effort composed by three people: Schumann's pupil, Albert Dietrich, pianist and composer Johannes Brahms and Schumann himself. Dietrich wrote the first movement, Schumann the second and last movements, and Brahms wrote a scherzo as the third movement. Of the four movements that were presented to Joachim in 1853, only the third movement, the Scherzo by Brahms, has become a staple of the repertoire and is frequently performed as a stand-alone concert piece.

Called the FAE Sonata, the work is based on a musical cryptogram, the notes 'f a e', which appear prominently in each of the four movements. The letters stand for Joachim's personal motto: *Frei aber einsam* (free but lonely).

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FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797-1828)

SONATINA IN D FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO (D 384) (1816)

Schubert's first works for violin and piano were composed in 1816-17, when he was not yet twenty years of age. The teenage Schubert was a fine violinist and although he had composed extensively for string groups from his earliest years, these were his first efforts at the sonata genre for violin and piano. As regards their title, the original manuscript in the composer's hand refers to the works as sonatas. However, they were first published after the composer's death as 'sonatinas'. Two reasons for this are

possible: first, calling the works sonatinas indicates the publisher's conviction that, though beautifully crafted, they are not sufficiently large in stature to warrant the title 'sonata'. A second reason could be an attempt to attract sales to the growing amateur market where implying that the music was 'not too difficult' was a good marketing ploy.

D 384, which is the first of a set of three works, bears the inscription 'completed March 1816'. The work has three movements:

- I. *Allegro molto*
- II. *Andante*
- III. *Allegro vivace*

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KAROL SZYMANOWSKI (1882 – 1937)

SONATA IN D MINOR FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO, OPUS 9 (1904)

Composed in 1904 when its composer was 21, Szymanowski's sonata for violin and piano is a large-scale work that bears the strong influence of various late romantic models, including the harmonic language of Scriabin and the formal approaches of Franck and Liszt. It created quite a sensation at its first performance in 1909 and has remained a popular addition to the repertoire for violin and piano since that time. In all, Szymanowski wrote an important handful of virtuoso works for violin and piano, including this *Sonata* in d minor, his frequently performed *Tarantella*, a *Nocturne* and three brilliantly conceived works entitled *Mythes*.

The Sonata has three movements:

- I. *Allegro moderato*
- II. *Andantino tranquillo e dolce*
- III. *Finale: Allegro molto, quasi presto*

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ELENA KATS-CHERNIN (1957-)

RUSSIAN RAG REVISITED (1996 – 2004)

Australian composer Elena Katz-Chernin wrote one of her most popular short pieces, *Russian Rag*, for piano in 1996. The piece quickly became a favourite with performers, and the composer has subsequently arranged the music for a wide variety of instrumental ensembles and combinations. The violin and piano version dates from 2004.

The composer writes: *This piece was originally written in 1996 for pianist, Donna Coleman, as a commission from ABC Classics, for her CD “Rags to Riches”. It was my first ever Ragtime and it has a slightly nostalgic feel, with a slight reference to Russian café music.*

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MAURICE RAVEL (1875 – 1937)

PIECE EN FORME DE HABANERA (1907)

This music, which was composed by Ravel in 1907, was originally written as a wordless song (vocalise) for low voice and piano. Ironically, in modern times, the original voice and piano version is less frequently performed than the various arrangements that have been made of it, the violin and piano arrangement being one of the most popular.

The *Habanera* is a slow Cuban dance that originated in the city of Havana (hence its title) and always has a hypnotic, recurring rhythmic motive. Always sensuous and seductive, the *Habanera* was popularised by Bizet in the well-known aria from his opera, *Carmen*.

Ravel was a native of the southern Basque region of France and was always attracted to musical styles with a strong connection to the Spanish world.

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CAESAR FRANCK (1822-1890)

SONATA FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO IN A MAJOR (1886)

There is evidence to suggest that Franck began this work some thirty years before it finally appeared, having promised to write a violin sonata for Franz Liszt's daughter, Cosima. Just how much progress he made in fulfilling that commission is unclear, but it is likely that a considerable amount was written some twenty or more years before the version we know today finally appeared. Be that as it may, the work has a spontaneity and freshness, which imply that it was written within a short timeframe.

Franck finally produced his violin and piano sonata, not for its original purpose, but as a wedding gift for the young violinist, Eugene Ysaye, and the music is dedicated to him.

From its first performance, the sonata quickly became a staple of the violinist's repertoire. The music balances virtuosity with great beauty, drama and lyricism. Each movement is connected by a motto theme that is heard from the violin in the first movement, and various versions of this theme recur in each of the four movements. The musical language is rich and chromatic; although the piece starts and ends in the key of A major, its tonality relentlessly shifts about throughout the piece. This kaleidoscopic harmonic language is a trademark of the composer.

The four movements are:

- I. Allegretto ben moderato*
- II. Allegro*
- III. Recitativo-Fantasia (ben moderato)*
- IV. Allegretto poco mosso*

Program notes by Robert Constable 2018

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Serenata Series 2018 Final Concert

Concert 4

TIMOTHY CONSTABLE – PERCUSSION

Music of J S Bach (Violin Sonata in C, BWV 1005, arranged for marimba by Timothy Constable), Wesley-Smith and Smadbeck, and Korean traditional percussion music

Sunday 11 November, 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Interval: Yarrawa Estate wines and finger food

Tickets: \$80.00

General Information

- ❖ Audience members at each concert are invited to have a glass of wine with the performers after their concert.
- ❖ Individual concert tickets are available for the last Concert of the 2018 series.

Serenata Series 2019

Serenata Series 2019 concerts will be in the second half of the year. The Serenata Series 2019 performers and dates will be announced shortly after the Arts in the Valley Festival (2 – 5 May 2019).

Serenata Series 2019 tickets will be available from TryBooking.com through our website from May 2019.

Website: www.serenataseries.com.au

Email: concerts@serenataseries.com.au

Telephone enquiries: (02) 4465 1012

Tickets: www.serenataseries.com.au/tickets



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

YARRAWA ESTATE



arts in the valley

Di Jaffrey: art work and marketing design

Delyse Wright: website

Musica Viva Australia

Our many generous helpers, neighbours and friends in the Kangaroo Valley and Berry communities who encourage us with, and provide their services, talents and products to, our Serenata Series.

Thank you!

Robert Constable and Jane McKellar



W: www.serenataseries.com.au

E: concerts@serenataseries.com.au

T: (02) 4465 1012

Tickets: www.serenataseries.com.au

Concert location: Serenata, 5 Keoghs Road,
Kangaroo Valley, NSW 2577

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