



Serenata Series Concert

Piers Lane, 21 Nocturnes by Frederic Chopin: a hypnotic performance.

Serenata, Saturday 8th September at 5.00pm.

From the very first notes to the last delicious phrase, Piers Lane held a capacity audience spellbound with his hypnotic playing. This was music-making at the highest level: masterpieces of composition in harness with a performer who was perfectly connected with the character of the music.

The 21 Nocturnes of Chopin, composed between 1827-1846, established a new style of piano music which is intimate and unfolds gently and with grace. This style which was established by Chopin has influenced all types of music including music for film and musical comedy. In terms of quality, however, what Chopin achieved in his Nocturnes has never been bettered.

This was a marathon concert. These pieces take around 2 hours of playing time. But at no time did the audience appear anything but completely absorbed in their musical journey. The music itself is intimate and, for the most part, flows gently forward, making its musical points with subtlety. It is engrossing music which draws the listener into its sound-world.

Witnessing this performance, I found myself thinking of the age-old question: 'is it the singer or the song?' At this concert it was definitely both and that was the key to its success on this occasion.

Because of the size and musical scope of the concert there was a lengthy break for intermission during which high tea was served. In the words of one audience member the food and champagne were deliciously wicked.

In connection with interval refreshment, the mounting of a concert series such as ours would not be feasible without the assistance of our friends and neighbours. Support can come in various ways: food preparation and presentation, wine, even piano maintenance and tuning. To our many friends and supporters including, Mark and Sue Foster at Yarrowa Estate, Ara and Nyree Vartoukian, Lorraine Hahlos, Wendy Gray, Di Jaffray, Delyse Wright among others, we say thank you for helping to make our concert series possible.

The Serenata Series continues on October 14th with Tasmin Little and Piers Lane and November 11th with Timothy Constable.

Praise for the concert:

The atmosphere was just perfect for such exquisite music. We are so incredibly fortunate to be in a place that offers such opportunities to see these outstanding musicians. Piers Lane was absolutely wonderful. To top it all we had that deliciously wicked high tea.

Thank you so much for another spectacular concert. It was an absolute gift to have all the nocturnes so beautifully performed and to wine and dine in the beautiful performance space you have made. I felt really privileged to be present and surrounded by such lovely company as well.