MEDIA KIT

ANCIENT VOICES

THE GESUALDO SIX WITH THE GIOVANNI CONSORT, VOYCES & WILLIAM BARTON
WINTHROP HALL UWA
FRI 14 FEB
TICKETS: $39 - $69

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ANCIENT VOICES
UK's finest consort singers the Gesualdo Six are joined by local choirs the Giovanni Consort and Voyces, to perform Thomas Tallis' 40-part motet *Spem in Alium* on the 450th anniversary of its composition. This very special Perth Festival concert also features works from virtuoso multi-instrumentalist and composer William Barton and a new commission based on Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* from local composer Lydia Gardiner.

CREDITS:
The Gesualdo Six
The Giovanni Consort
Voyces
William Barton

THE GESUALDO SIX
The Gesualdo Six is a vocal consort comprised of some of the UK's finest young consort singers, directed by Owain Park. Formed in March 2014 for a performance of Gesualdo's "Tenebrae Responsories for Maundy Thursday" in the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge, the group went on to give over sixty performances around the United Kingdom and abroad in its first three years. Over this time, The Gesualdo Six further developed a passion for ensemble singing that for many of them stemmed from formative years as choristers in churches and cathedrals around the country.

Whilst initially focusing on early music, concert programmes began to reflect a desire to include more modern repertoire and now renaissance polyphony is often juxtaposed with works by composers including György Ligeti and Joanna Marsh amongst others. In 2016, The Gesualdo Six successfully curated its first Composition Competition, supported by St John's Smith Square and the Music Sales group of companies, attracting 174 entries from around the world. In 2019, over three hundred composers entered the second edition of the Composition Competition, with the winning works by Alison Willis and Jacob Beranek receiving their world premieres at Cadogan Hall in London.

THE GIOVANNI CONSORT
Since its foundation in 1995, The Giovanni Consort has become renowned for its exquisite, high-quality performances of unaccompanied choral music ranging from the medieval period to the present day. We pride ourselves on presenting diverse and engaging musical programs in some of Perth's most beautiful buildings and acoustics.

When you attend our performances, you will enjoy new interpretations of your choral favourites but you will also encounter new loves: pieces of music that you did not know, but which deserve a place

in your heart. In the 2019 season you will be inspired and refreshed by works from the distant past as well as newly-composed works from the wider international choral canon.

A core principle in the group's artistic mission is develop and nurture young performers in Perth. As a result, some of the city's great singers have gained vital experience with the Consort. Notable alumni include Katya Webb, Taryn Fiebig, Iain Grandage, Andrew O'Connor and James Clayton.

The Consort has always relied entirely on ticket sales and the generosity of its patrons and subscribers to pay for the numerous costs associated with presenting a concert, including venue hire, catering, publicity, music and remuneration for singers and conductors. Although we will be looking at how to develop ongoing partnerships with a diverse range of organisations in the future, please consider making a financial contribution to support the Consort's ongoing work in 2019.

VOYCES
Perth based choir of exceptional performers who bring a fresh approach to choral music that inspires and delights audiences. Voyces was started in 2011 from a passion for creating and sharing the highest quality choral music in a vibrant and engaging setting that connects audiences and performers.

Dr Robert Braham has led Voyces from its inception and has been involved in choral music in Australia for over 20 years. Robert inspires the group to continually push the envelope, creating exciting concerts to the highest standard of musicianship. He brings together a unique blend of voices to create an exceptional and fresh sound that audiences love.

Robert shines a light on Australian contemporary music, providing musical direction that interprets choral music and programming to make it accessible and enjoyable for a broad audience base. He continually promotes and premieres many such works, including works by Australian composers Iain Grandage (Australian Society for Music Education), Paul Jarman (Trinity College), Dan Walker (Orff national conference) and Andrew Partington (Perth Oratorio Choir).

WILLIAM BARTON
Born in Mount Isa in Queensland, Australia, composer, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist William Barton has been playing the didgeridoo for over 25 years. He has forged an international profile in the classical musical world as a performer and composer, performing with the Philharmonic Orchestras of London and Berlin. William's unique talent has been featured at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the 2018 opening ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games and the Invictus Games in Australia, and recently at Westminster Abbey for Her Majesty, The Queen of England for Commonwealth Day 2019. William holds honorary doctorate degrees from the Universities of Griffith & Sydney and has released five albums on the ABC Classics label. His awards include Winner of Best Original Score for a Mainstage Production at the 2018 Sydney Theatre Awards and Winner of Best Classical Album with ARIA for Birdsong At Dusk in 2012. With his prodigious musicality and the quiet conviction of his Kalkadunga heritage, he has vastly expanded the horizons of the didgeridoo — and the culture and landscape that it represents.

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