

MEDIA RELEASE: Thursday, 31 October 2019

FINE MUSIC IN A PERFECT WEEKEND SERENADE

Chamber Music Weekend (February 14-16)



Australian String Quartet. Image: Jacqui Way

Perth Festival's much-loved **Chamber Music Weekend** is back from 14-16 February with an enriching series of free and ticketed performances reframing Western fine music with Indigenous songlines of our ancient land.

Lovingly curated by celebrated Australian composer and **Perth Festival Artistic Director Iain Grandage**, the program shines a spotlight on Indigenous composers, honours vocal traditions through story and song, and celebrates 250 years since the birth of Beethoven.

To be held in Winthrop Hall and its lush surrounds at the University of Western Australia, we've created a Festival hub for intimate music experiences including a serene escape in **Beethoven's Grotto** where you can be serenaded by every slow movement of every Beethoven Piano Sonata performed by some of Perth's finest pianists.

Other free highlights include **Voyces** lighting up the foyer of Winthrop Hall, relaxed jazz at the end of each day, and **William Barton** performing with a Bavarian brass band.

The centrepiece of the Chamber Music Weekend is a special series of four concerts, **Quartet & Country** with the **Australian String Quartet** performing all six of Beethoven's effervescent Op 18 quartets matched with works from Australian Indigenous composers.

Joined by some of Australia's finest Indigenous musicians including singer **Lou Bennett**, didgeridoo master **William Barton**, Broome music icon **Stephen Pigram** and Noongar elder **Roma Yibiyung Winmar**, composers will bring stories from the four corners of this continent and in doing so, ground the great European string quartet tradition in this county.

One of the UK's finest choral ensembles, **The Gesualdo Six**, local choirs **The Giovanni Consort** and **Voyces**, and virtuoso didgeridoo player **William Barton** unite for **Ancient Voices**, a new commission based on Beethoven's **Ode to Joy** from local composer **Cara Fesjian**.

The Gesualdo Six will also perform their famed interpretations of English motets and part songs in **English Motets**, this program traces music written by some of the English Renaissance masters over a 200-year period.

With a repertoire spanning centuries, continents and genres, the **Grigoryan Brothers** are regarded as Australia's finest classical guitarists. In a Festival focused on honouring traditions, Slava and Leonard Grigoryan pay homage to the influences that have shaped them – from Bach to Handel to Towner and their father Edward.

One of Australia's finest classical ensembles **The Seraphim Trio** continues the Festival's celebration of 250 years since the birth of the great iconoclast Beethoven with a program featuring Beethoven's monumental Piano Trio Op 97, *The Archduke*, paired with Richard Mills' beautifully evocative *Portraits & Memories*.

Buy a ticket to one show or indulge in the complete season. Then extend your weekend of fine-music with a range of evening concerts on and off campus, including at the Perth Concert Hall where revered American pianist **Garrick Ohlsson** brings us great works by Beethoven, Prokofiev and Chopin in an intimate solo recital presented in association with **Musica Viva**.

On the 12th anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations, **Gina Williams** and **Guy Ghouse** present their exquisite suite, **Koorlangka** at Government House Ballroom. With a reputation for a fresh take on ancient traditions, this award-winning music duo performs childrens' songs and lullabies in Noongar. Guitar brilliance and incandescent vocals shine in a concert that connects one of the world's oldest languages with our youngest generations.

WHAT: Chamber Music Weekend

WHEN: Fri 14 Feb – Sun 16 Feb

WHERE: UWA

HOW MUCH: \$39 - \$69

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: perthfestival.com.au

[Download images here](#)

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Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar.

They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.

Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 67 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020–23.

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