

MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday, 12 February 2020

COME FOR A CONCERT, STAY FOR THE DAY

Chamber Music Weekend (February 14-16)



Iain Grandage Photo credit: Al Caeiro

Perth Festival has reinvented **Chamber Music Weekend**. Enjoy relaxing atmosphere and exquisite concerts at the University of Western Australia this weekend from Friday 14 February to Sunday 16 February.

We have transformed the beautiful UWA gardens around Winthrop Hall into a music-lovers paradise with surprise free performances throughout the day, games of croquet on the lawn, beanbags, ice-cold drinks and tasty treats.

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.

Tropical Grove has turned into **Beethoven's Grotto** with students from the Conservatorium of Music at UWA performing Beethoven's piano sonatas on a Steinway Grand literally exploding with colour. Keep an eye out for our Artistic Director Iain Grandage talking about his favourites on Saturday at 12pm.

Watch out for pop up performances throughout the weekend in unexpected locations. Keep your ears peeled for **Voyces Choir**, **Giovanni Concert**, accordion player **Cathie Travers** and a new piece by didgeridoo virtuoso **William Barton** who transfers his formidable didgeridoo techniques onto the tuba.

The centrepiece of the Chamber Music Weekend is a special series of four ticketed 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 in Winthrop Hall.

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 **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.

And 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*.

[Full list of free events.](#)

[Watch Iain Grandage talk about Chamber Music Weekend.](#)

WHAT: Chamber Music Weekend

WHEN: Fri 14 Feb – Sun 16 Feb

WHERE: UWA

HOW MUCH: \$0 - \$69

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: perthfestival.com.au

[Download images here](#)

For further information or interviews please contact:

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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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