

Patron	Sir Neville Marriner
Artistic Director	William Hennessy
Principal Conductor	Benjamin Northey
Board	Brian Benjamin, Chairman
	Daniel Brennan, Treasurer
	Prof Suzanne Crowe
	Peter Murdoch QC
	John Nelson
	Igor Zambelli

MEDIA RELEASE 8 MARCH 2007

APA Chamber Orchestra sails with new crew

Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra's new artistic line-up, featuring as patron, Sir Neville Marriner, and as Artistic Director, William Hennessy, was announced today.

APA Chairman, Brian Benjamin, said that the appointment of William Hennessy as Artistic Director is a pointer to continued strong artistic growth for the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra.

Hennessy said, "I am excited by the opportunities opening up to Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra and honoured to take up the role of Artistic Director at this important time."

Mr Benjamin also announced that Sir Neville Marriner has graciously accepted a position as a patron of Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra. Sir Neville is the legendary founder of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, formed in 1959.

Sir Neville said, "I am honoured and delighted to become a patron of the orchestra ... under [William Hennessy's] leadership."

William Hennessy has been concertmaster with Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra for the past three years. He was most recently head of strings at the University of Melbourne.

He was the founder of the Australian String Quartet, a co-founder of the Australian Chamber Orchestra and is a former member of the London-based Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

He has made over 200 concerto appearances with Australian orchestras. The prestigious Strad Magazine in London has made reference to his "visionary quality" and the Melbourne Age recently referred to him as "for 30 years one of Australia's leading violinists and musical educators"

Sir Neville Marriner was music director of the film "Amadeus" and is the world's most recorded musician. He maintains a formidable concert schedule to this day.

Mr Benjamin said that APA is working on plans for a special concert with Sir Neville conducting the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra in the next couple of years.

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Hennessy will be supported in his new role by a young and vigorous artistic team comprising outstanding Melbourne-based Australian talents in Benjamin Northey as Principal Conductor and Dr Calvin Bowman as Associate Artistic Director.

Lucerne-based Melbourne conductor, Warwick Stengards, will also return from Europe in July this year to make a guest-conducting appearance with the orchestra.

Benjamin said that Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra is pleased to be able to draw on such a depth of artistic management and performance talent for the 2007 season.

“We have an artistic management team in Hennessy, Marriner, Northey and Bowman, which has a distinctive mix of talent, experience and youthful vigour unmatched in Australia.

“Our player complement includes such notable up-and-coming talents as Kristian Winther, Cameron Hill, Lerida Delbridge, Rachel Homburg and Michael Dahlenburg with the leadership of such fine and experienced musicians as Elizabeth Sellars and Molly Kadarau. Featuring a complement with this depth and breadth makes APA unique in Australia.”

Hennessy said, “It is a challenge to take over the artistic leadership from Jeffrey Crellin, but his inspiration and musicianship will continue to influence us, with a highlight of our 2007 season being the presentation of all six Brandenburg Concertos of Bach as Jeffrey had planned.

“In league with Jeffrey, I have worked in recent years to make APA the orchestra of choice for the precociously talented players emerging from Melbourne’s top music schools including the Australian National Academy of Music and the University of Melbourne.

“Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra now comprises a team of dazzling soloists and first class chamber music players supported by an impressively committed board and management.

“It will be a great pleasure to be able to work directly with the Board of Australia Pro Arte to continue to develop the group. To have the opportunity to do this under the patronage of Sir Neville, a personal role model for me throughout my professional career, is an unexpected bonus for me.”

-Ends-

For media inquiries

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Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra Artistic and Management Team, 2007

Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra Artistic and Management Team and Core Players, 2007

Patron: Sir Neville Marriner

Artistic Director: William Hennessy

Associate Artistic Director: Calvin Bowman

Artistic Director Emeritus: Jeffrey Crellin

Principal Conductor: Benjamin Northey

Guest Conductor: Warwick Stengards (appearing courtesy of the Luzerner Theatre, Switzerland)

General Manager: Esther Benjamin, BMusEd, MEd (Arts Management)

Assistant Manager: Hannah Hookey, BMus, BSc

APA Core Players

Michael Brooks Reid
Rochelle Bryson
Rebecca Chan
Michael Dahlenburg
Lerida Delbridge
Stefanie Farrands
Cameron Hill
Rachel Homburg
Erica Kennedy
Elizabeth Sellars
Justin Williams
Kristian Winther
Michelle Wood