

MEDIA RELEASE 2 JUNE 2008

Stealing Sunlight heralds Pro Arte's moments in the Sun - on and off the Stage

**Sold-out concerts + Triennial Funding + A World Premiere + Australian Dream
Team of Violinists on stage together and...
Last minute Subscriptions still available !**

Stealing Sunlight
Sunday June 22 @ 2.30 pm
Monday June 23 @ 7.00 pm
BMW EDGE, Federation Square
www.proarte.com.au

Following the sold out success of its second subscription concert, Melbourne's premier chamber orchestra, Australia Pro Arte is proud to announce the details of the third concert series on Sunday June 22 at 2.30 pm, Monday June 23 rd at 7.00 pm at the picturesque BMW Edge, Federation Square, before touring to the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre on 24 June at 8 pm.

Four of Australia's most talented violinists will display their virtuosic talents in two of the most awe-inspiring concertos of the repertoire - Vivaldi 's concerto for 4 violins in B Minor and the equally demonstrative Telemann Concerto (TWV 40: 203).

Violinists **Rebecca Chan** (Hamer Quartet) **Erica Kennedy** (The Flinders Quartet), **Helen Ayres** (The Seraphim Trio) and **Michael Brooks Reid** (Adelaide Symphony) are four dynamic core players of Australia Pro Arte.

'I am thrilled to be able to present these fine musicians for Melbourne audiences. Each of these violinists brings to the concert stage indisputable musicianship. Their solo talents will certainly soar in these most fiendish works of the violin repertoire,' said William Hennessy, Artistic Director Australia Pro Arte.

These violinists are no strangers to excellence or the international spotlight. Rebecca Chan, has won prizes in the **Gisborne International Violin competition** (NZ) and is currently preparing for the finals of the **ABC Young Performer of the Year** (June 26). Erica Kennedy has performed as a soloist with the **Tasmanian and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras** while Helen Ayres, has recently completed her **Doctorate of Musical Arts** at **Melbourne University** . Michael Brooks Reid completes the quartet with his superlative experience as guest Associate Concert master of the **Adelaide Symphony Orchestra**. This is an Australian violin dream team.

The concert will also feature the **World Premiere** performance of **Calvin Bowman's** Divertimento for Strings. This premiere is an integral component of Pro Arte's Australia commissions program, summoning compositions which often draw

inspiration from life in the city of Melbourne. Bowman, the Associate Artistic Director of Pro Arte, is also a pianist and organist. He has collaborated with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Philip Glass to name a few. In this latest work he draws inspiration from the classical and baroque eras.

The upwardly mobile Australia Pro Arte is also Stealing Sunlight in the financial sense. On 28 May, the **City of Melbourne City Council** announced that Pro Arte is one of 13 arts organisations to receive a triennial grant in the Arts Innovation category. 'This triennial funding signifies a very important step forward for Pro Arte. With this assurance of continuity of funding from the **City of Melbourne City Council** we are able to confidently put in place our artistic vision and share it with the people of Melbourne. We are truly part of the rich canvass of the Melbourne Arts scene,' said Esther Benjamin, General Manager, Pro Arte.

It is not too late for music buffs to purchase a subscription for the final four concerts of the season : **Purple Haze** (17 & 18 August) conducted by Benjamin Northey, **Let the Sunshine in** featuring Melbourne oboist Jeffrey Crellin and **Strawberry Fields** which features the talents of soprano Jacqueline Porter (October 26, 27). A 4-concert subscription costs only \$180 (Sundays) or \$210 (Monday evenings).

Attending a concert by Australia Pro Arte is a quintessential Melbourne experience. Perched on the edge of the River Yarra, BMW Edge is a glass-encased space affording gum-tree-framed views of King's Domain gardens by day; rippled water reflections and distant trams wheeling silently along St Kilda Road by night.

Booking an individual ticket or subscription is as simple as calling Pro Arte's office on **03 9650 3365** or emailing us at admin@proarte.com.au.

or
Ticketmaster **136 100**

Stealing Sunlight
Directed by William Hennessy
Sunday 22 June, 2.30pm
Monday 23 June, 7.00pm
BMW EDGE, FEDERATION SQUARE

Lutoslawski: Overture for Orchestra
Telemann: Concerto for Four Violins
Bowman: Divertimento for Strings (World Premiere)
Vivaldi: Concerto for Four Violins
Mendelssohn: String Symphony No. 9

For photos and interviews please contact Ovation on 0416 853 052