

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

Everything old is new again

Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra will perform in the launch of its Prima Era, 2007, season this Sunday 27 and Monday 28 May, under its new Artistic Director, William Hennessy.

Hennessy, whose drive and passion for the task makes one think of 30-something, has a long and distinguished career as one of the country's finest violinists and musical educators. Many of Australia's newest and most promising string players owe a debt to Hennessy for his teaching and inspiration to fulfil their potential here in Australia.

Hennessy was recently appointed to the position of Artist-in-Residence at the Australian National Academy of Music in South Melbourne.

APA Chamber Orchestra's first concerts for the year features solo performances from Elizabeth Sellars, Rachel Homburg and emerging violin talent, Michael Brooks Reid, in addition to Hennessy himself.

The orchestra has taken a major step this year with the appointment of a core group of players comprising a cornucopia of talent. Its members are Michael Brooks Reid, Rochelle Bryson, Rebecca Chan, Lerida Delbridge, Rachel Homburg, Cameron Hill, Erica Kennedy, Elizabeth Sellars, Kristian Winther (violin), Stefanie Farrands and Justin Williams (viola) and Michael Dahlenburg and Michelle Wood (cello).

Hennessy said, "I have retained a group of players who display the ability to perform both as members of an ensemble and in leadership roles. All of the violinists are capable of leading the orchestra and each will, at some stage, have the opportunity to perform as a soloist with the group. Several have done so already."

This model for the orchestra, comprising a core group of players, each of outstanding standard, owes much to Hennessy's experience with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and subsequent long-standing relationship with Sir Neville Marriner, the new patron of Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra.

The concerts will be presented by the Hamer Family Fund, formed by the families of Rupert and David Hamer. Both of these nationally-known identities were important community leaders whose aspirations for Australia as a land of culture, imagination and liberal democracy are exemplified in the approach that Australia Pro Arte has taken to its development.

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For media inquiries
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www.australiaproarte.com (temporary site, the main one is under re-construction)