

JOHN LENNON'S STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER A CONCERT OF ENGLISH DELIGHTS

Sunday 26 October at 2.30 pm, Monday 27 October at 7.00 pm

Conductor : Jeffrey Crellin

Soloist: Jacqueline Porter, soprano

BMW Edge, Federation Square

For its final concert of 2009, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra salutes the popular and much-loved music of England. The concert's title, Strawberry Fields, is drawn from the famous Beatles song penned by John Lennon, 'Strawberry Fields Forever', paving the way for a program by fellow English composers, Sir Edward Elgar, Benjamin Britten and British-born Australian composer, Malcolm Fox.

"Elgar's 'Serenade for Strings' and Britten's 'Les Illuminations' are two icons of 20th century English string works," says William Hennessy, Artistic Director, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. "All three of these string works are, in their own ways, vehicles for the demonstration of what is most attractive in string playing ; warmth, richness, beauty of sound with vividness and subtlety of colour", says Hennessy.

Britten's 'Les Illuminations' has the added attraction of soprano soloist, **Jacqueline Porter**, and is a showpiece for both soloist and orchestra. "She is our most welcome returning guest," said Hennessy. Porter will also be one of the featured artists in the 2009 season when she will perform Calvin Bowman's 'I will sing a little while', commissioned by Ars Musica Australis for this orchestra in 2006, under the baton of Melbourne Chamber Orchestra's patron, the esteemed British conductor Sir Neville Marriner.

The inclusion of 'Pathways of Ancient Dreaming' honours the memory of **Malcolm Fox** (1946 - 1997) whose untimely death at the age of 51 was described by fellow composer, Tristram Carey, as "a serious loss to both Australian and British music". The work, commissioned by Arcata Kammerorchester, premiered at the Perth International Arts Festival in 1990. Hennessy explains that, "'Pathways' refers to the pathways of the imagination that connect us with our native soil.' In his past role as leader of the Australian String Quartet and a member of the teaching faculty at the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide, William Hennessy worked closely with Fox as a composer and was inspired by his colleague's unequivocal belief in the importance of fine music.

Malcolm Fox emigrated to Australia in 1974 (at the age of 28 years) so the strong English influence in the programmed work 'Pathways of Ancient Dreaming', written in 1990, is a unique blend of cultures but comes as no surprise.

Jacqueline Porter made her debut with Melbourne Chamber Orchestra in July, 2007, when she performed to acclaim the premiere of Calvin Bowman's song cycle of time and seasons. She completed a Bachelor of Arts (Italian) and a Bachelor of Music with Honours at the University of Melbourne. In 2005, she was placed third in the Australian Youth Aria competition and was a Semi-Finalist in the Herald Sun Aria competition. Also, in 2005 she made her professional debut with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in Bach's Cantata BWV 207, with Orchestra Victoria as a soloist for their Community Program regional tour and with Melbourne Chorale in

performances of Mozart's Coronation Mass, Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Haydn's Maria Theresa Mass.

Strawberry Field was a Salvation Army children's home in Wootton, a suburb of Liverpool, England. Lennon grew up near the home. One of his childhood treats was the garden party that took place each summer in the grounds of Strawberry Field. Lennon's Aunt Mimi recalled 'As soon as we could hear the Salvation Army band starting John would jump up and down shouting Mimi come on We're going to be late.' It is the place that inspired Lennon to be a musician.

Strawberry Fields, the final concert of the year for Melbourne Chamber Orchestra – and the final concert at BMW Edge before taking up its new residency at the new **Melbourne Recital Centre** will be a nostalgic event. The evocation of the pastoral landscapes with the emotional hues of England will reflect on the years of music making in the glass atrium on the banks of the Yarra.

The concert will be conducted by Jeffrey Crellin.

Details

Concert **Strawberry Fields**, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra

Conductor Jeffrey Crellin

Soloist Jacqueline Porter, soprano

Venue BMW Edge, Federation Square

Sunday 26 October at 2.30 pm, Monday 27 October at 7.00 pm

Tickets Sunday \$53; Monday \$58

Concessions and Under 30 and Student prices available – see website

Where Ticketmaster **136 100**

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra **03 9650 3365**

More Information – www.mco.org.au