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MEDIA RELEASE: for immediate release

***Bountiful* - Bach's Brandenburg Concertos**

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William Hennessy

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www.proarte.com.au

T 03 9650 3365
F 03 9650 3301
E admin@proarte.com.au

Suite 128A Level 1 Block Arcade
100 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Australia

Bountiful is Australia Pro Arte (APA) Chamber Orchestra's next concert featuring the final four Brandenburg Concerti, performed under the direction of William Hennessy (APA Artistic Director) at BMW Edge, Federation Square on a Sunday matinee, 26 August 2007 and an evening performance on Monday, 27 August 2007.

Johann Sebastian Bach's Brandenburg Concertos are widely considered to be some of the finest works of the Baroque era.

Being virtuosic works for chamber orchestra, these pieces call for great depth of talent and are entirely suited for an APA presentation given the depth of its string complement.

Music lovers regard the Bach Brandenburg Concertos as the most-loved set of concertos ever written.

Each a masterpiece in its own right and uniquely diverse, no two of the Brandenburg Concertos are alike in their instrumentation.

Each of the six concertos requires both a distinctive combination of instruments and a highly-skilled group of soloists, indicating that Bach had an array of superbly gifted players available to him at that time.

For this reason, the entire set of Brandenburg Concertos is seldom performed in a complete presentation.

APA's presentation of the complete set of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos culminates with ***Bountiful***, with the first two concerti featured at the most recent APA concert in July, *Glistening Symmetry*.

"The six Brandenburg Concertos of Bach represent the very height of the Baroque concerto form," Hennessy explained.

"For an ensemble such as APA the presentation of all six Brandenburg Concertos is a kind of rite of passage - an affirmation of the highest musical values towards which we strive," Hennessy continued.

The vibrant young professional ensemble includes violinists Rebecca Chan, Michael Brooks Reid and Rachel Homburg, whom have been APA members for some time.

A casual member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Chan studied medicine and arts at the University of Melbourne.

Chan was recently announced as the winner of the annual concerto competition at the Australian National Academy of Music, 2007, was the recipient of the Gisborne International competition in New Zealand, the Hepzibah Menuhin Award and was a finalist in the 2005 Dorcas Maclean Scholarship.

Brooks Reid has been performing with APA for the past three years and been a concertmaster for the Melbourne University Orchestra, Hong Kong International and Melbourne Youth Orchestras.

Having completed a Bachelor of Music with Honours at the University of Melbourne, Homburg is a member of the Tailern Quartet and plays regularly with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, and has performed as soloist with APA.

Notes on the Works

Concerto # 3: (Allegro), Adagio, Allegro

This piece is believed to be the earliest written of the set and is purely an ensemble piece featuring the combination of three violin, three viola and three cello. The texture of the piece continually shifts as the groupings change, as alliances form and then dissolve.

Concerto # 4: (Allegro), Andante, Presto

Described as the lightest and wittiest, Bach requires two flauti d'echo (echo flutes). Since there is no instrument by this name that we know today - there are a number of modern interpretations. APA's presentation will include two modern flutes.

Concerto # 5: Allegro, Affetuoso, Allegro

The fifth concerto is thought to have been the last composed, where Bach replaced the middle viola part with the harpsichord. Both on stylistic and instrumental grounds this piece is the most forward-looking of the six. Not only does it embrace aspects of the developing solo concerto more wholeheartedly than the remaining works in the set, but Bach also writes here for the newly fashionable transverse flute.

Concerto # 6: Allegro, Adagio ma non tanto, Allegro

Concerto six has no violins in the ensemble as the violas take the highest string part. The music of this concerto is "propelled by the dialogue of the two violas which alternate thematically in the manner of the Italian trio-sonata."

WHAT Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra's presentation of
Bountiful
featuring Bach Brandenburg Concerto's No. 3-6

WHEN Sunday, 26 August 2007 at 2.30pm
Monday, 27 August 2007 at 7.00pm

Pre-concert talks commence 40 minutes prior to performance.

WHERE BMW Edge, Federation Square

TICKETS Sunday performance: \$50.00 and \$40.00 concession
Monday performance: \$58.00 and \$46.00 concession

BOOKING Pro Arte Australia: 03 9650 3365
Ticketmaster: 131 600

EMAIL admin@proarte.com.au

WEB proarte.com.au

Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra

APA provides the chance to hear great music of our civilisation, up-close and personal in the most dramatic internal performance setting in Australia.

Popular around the world with musicians, the term Pro Arte (meaning for art's sake) has long been used where groups form for the purpose of expressing their most personal musical interests largely unfettered by non-artistic considerations.

In the case of APA, it has always been a working combination of professional musicians and music-lovers that provides the artistic and organisational drive to produce the best possible concerts for our audiences.

Interview & photo opportunities

Available with William Hennessy and Rebecca Chan.
High res images available.

Media Inquiries

Ben Starick 0411 029 393
Esther Benjamin 0409 576 184