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MEDIA RELEASE

for immediate release

APA is, Loosely, in the Sky with Diamonds

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Australia Pro Arte (APA) Chamber Orchestra will launch its 2008 concert series, *The Range Of Light*, with ***Diamonds In The Sky***, at BMW Edge, Federation Square on Sunday afternoon, 30 March and Monday evening, 31 March.

Diamonds In The Sky features three mighty composers, Franz Joseph Haydn, Frank Martin and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Conducted by APA's Principal Conductor, Benjamin Northey, ***Diamonds In The Sky*** sees the return of soloists Amir Farid (piano) and Michael Brooks Reid (violin).

APA Artistic Director, William Hennessy has difficulty restraining his enthusiasm as the opening of *The Range Of Light* concert series fast approaches.

Hennessy says, "We are delighted to start this year's series with our presentation of Mozart, Haydn and the magnificent Swiss composer Martin in works which reveal them at the height of their powers.

"Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra is committed to the presentation of established and recent master works.

"Martin's Polyptyque will sit most handsomely between the two better-known giants and will stand as testimony that aspiration to the timeless and aesthetic is genuinely a part of our modern musical world.

"Polyptyque, for solo violin and double string orchestra, is one of the greatest post World War II musical achievements where Martin addresses all humanity, and in his music we recognise our own humanness," Hennessy continued.

Conductor – *Diamonds In The Sky*

Benjamin Northey has garnered a number of accolades and was most recently awarded the Best Newcomer Award in the *Limelight* magazine annual music awards, following his international accomplishment in being selected to participate in the International Conductors' Academy with the London Philharmonic.

Soloists – *Diamonds In The Sky*

Amir Farid (recipient of the 2006 Australian National Piano Award and member of the Benaud Trio) will be the soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto in C minor, K 491 at APA's 2008 season opener ***Diamonds In The Sky***.

Michael Brooks Reid (a core APA player since 2007 and founding member of the Hong Kong International Youth Orchestra) is the violin soloist for the presentation of Martin's Polyptyque Six Images de la Passion du Christ.

Haydn - Symphony No. 90

This symphony, described as a ceremonial, flamboyant work, opens with a large-scale slow introduction featuring heavy chords followed by a lively allegro and some exhilarating, flashy scale passages during the course of the expansive opening movement.

The most unusual section of this work is the finale, which proceeds at a lively ceremonial pace until a frantic, lengthy false ending late in the movement.

The music then resumes quietly, almost bashfully, until Haydn eventually resolves to a ceremonial virtuosic close.

Frank Martin - Polyptyque Six Image de la Passion du Christ (1973)

Frank Martin is considered one of the towering composers of the twentieth century.

This piece is based on a small set of medieval painted panels in Siena depicting the Passion of Christ which forms the basis of a multi-movement work for solo violin and double string orchestra.

It is believed that the solo violin was assigned the roles of both Jesus and the Evangelist, while the orchestra takes on the part of the Apostles, the crowd scene of the traditional Passion settings.

Mozart - Piano Concerto in C minor, K491

Long considered one of Mozart's greatest works, this is the penultimate work in the series of a dozen piano concertos Mozart composed in Vienna from 1784 to 1786 as, in another world, the First Fleet was being assembled in Great Britain.

The orchestra specified in this score is the largest Mozart called for in any of his concertos, and this work has been regarded as the most symbolic in character of them all.

It is certainly the most individual in its design, and it stands out in this exalted series, even more than the D minor, as what the Mozart scholar Alfred Einstein called "an explosion of the dark, tragic, passionate emotions."

WHAT Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra presents

DIAMONDS IN THE SKY

Conductor: Benjamin Northey, APA Principal Conductor

Soloists: Amir Farid (piano) and Michael Brooks Reid (violin)

WHERE BMW Edge, Federation Square

WHEN Sunday, 30 March 2008 at 2.30pm

Monday, 31 March 2008 at 7.00pm

Pre-concert talk commences 40 minutes prior to performance.

TICKETS \$15 - \$58

BOOKINGS Australia Pro Arte: 03 9650 3365

Ticketmaster: 131 600

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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.

Media Inquiries

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High res images available.

Interview opportunities with Hennessy, Northey, Farid and Brooks Reid.