

19 May, 2008

## MEDIA RELEASE – PRO ARTE CONCERT

### Father Likes Son

#### William Hennessy and Sean Hennessy-Brose feature in Pro Arte's "Moonshadow" Concert at BMW Edge

In a program replete with sumptuous music, from Bach's double violin concerto to Australian composer Alfred Hill's "Four Nations", Sean Hennessy-Brose will appear with Pro Arte at BMW Edge under the direction of his father, William Hennessy, for the first time in two concerts, next Sunday 25 and Monday, 26 May, 2008.

Performing as soloist in the expansive Bach Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Hennessy-Brose relishes the prospect of a performance on the Yamaha piano at BMW Edge with the vital Pro Arte string forces.

Working with his father, says Sean, "is always inspiring and fun. His enthusiasm for music is contagious and he is always open to my ideas."

"I'm excited about performing with Pro Arte because I have attended many of their performances and been very moved by their music making."

Like his father, Sean is a passionate musician. He began piano lessons with his mother at the age of four. A family heritage like this is something that might cause many a musician to head for safer ground but Sean has risen to the challenge and is marking out his own path in the field.

A strong player with a commanding presence at the keyboard, he has a youthfulness which belies the nine years he has been a teacher of this instrument. He enjoys the challenge of rendering the full range of emotions that Bach has injected into the score.

His many credits include being a finalist in the David Paul Landa Memorial Scholarship, The Australian National Piano Award and he is a fellow of The Australian National Academy of Music.

He has given solo performances in Brussels as part of the *Musici Artis International Festival* and on many of Australia's recital concert platforms including Angel Place and Elder Hall.

The piano concerto is one of Bach's most popular works. Originally composed for strings, it made its way to piano via the harpsichord. It is a work that readily accommodates the more powerful pianoforte.

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On the same program, the glamorous duo of Rochelle Bryson and Katherine Lukey will present another Bach favourite, the Double Violin Concerto.

Lukey and Bryson bring style and virtuosity to a work that has been loved by generations and requires great sensitivity and skill on the part of the duo.

This is also the first time these two violinists have performed as soloists with Pro Arte.

Details are available at [www.proarte.com.au/moonshadow](http://www.proarte.com.au/moonshadow).

**Esther Benjamin**

**General Manager, Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra**

## Media Release Key Facts

### Concert Details

- Who:** Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra
- What:** **Moonshadow**
- Program:** **Bach**, Concerto for Two Violins (BWV 1043)  
**Alfred Hill**, String Symphony "Four Nations"  
**Bach**, Concerto for Piano and Orch. in D minor (BWV 1052)  
**Beethoven**, Grosse Fuge Op 133 arr Weingartner
- Director:** **William Hennessy** (<http://www.proarte.com.au/WilliamHennessy>)
- Soloists:** **Sean Hennessy-Brose**, piano  
**Rochelle Bryson**, violin (<http://www.proarte.com.au/RochelleBryson>)  
**Katherine Lukey**, violin
- Where:** BMW Edge
- When:** 2.30 PM, Sunday, 25 May  
7.00 PM, Monday, 26 May
- Interviews:** **Sean Hennessy-Brose; William Hennessy**
- Contact:** **Esther Benjamin, 0422 636 639**

## **Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra**

The average age of the core players of the orchestra is 25 and many are graduates or continuing students at Australia's musical equivalent of the Institute for Sport, the National Academy of Music in South Melbourne. So it has some of Australia's top young talent, the stars of the future, all in one place performing regularly together as Pro Arte under the guidance of William Hennessy, legendary violinist and artist at large.

From a mere 6 performances only a few years ago, this year Pro Arte will present 23 concerts including 11 in regional Victoria, 3 of which will be in Geelong.

Chamber orchestral music is an experience like no other in the music world. The sound is bigger than a small chamber group but it's rich and warm and more accessible for many than a symphony orchestra. A typical reaction from audience members, often younger people, is that they find it very moving and personal.

**More Information:** [www.proarte.com.au](http://www.proarte.com.au)

### **Sean Hennessy-Brose**

London born pianist, associate artist, composer and chamber musician Sean Hennessy-Brose is rapidly establishing himself as a leading Australian musician. He has given solo performances in Brussels as part of the Musici Artis International Festival and on many of Australia's concert platforms including Angle Place Recital Hall in Sydney, Elder Hall in Adelaide, the Ian Hanger Recital Hall in Brisbane, Costa Hall in Geelong and Melba Hall at the University of Melbourne. He has performed chamber music with numerous outstanding musicians including Julia Nafisi, Kristian Winther, Blair Harris, Nicholas Carter, and Liz Hennessy. Sean has also performed his own compositions to critical acclaim with well known jazz musicians including Chris Hale, Cesar Rodrigues and Anton Delecca.

Among the teachers who were important for his artistic development were such contrasting personalities as Lucinda Collins, Yonty Solomon, Boris Berman, Natasha Vlassenko, Stephen McIntyre and his mother Merryn Brose with whom he began studying piano at the age of four.

By age twenty-one Sean had been a finalist in the David Paul Landa Memorial Scholarship, The Australian National Piano Award, the Retosa Youth Music Scholarship, and the Geelong Advertiser Music Scholarship. In 2001 he was awarded a full scholarship to The Australian National Academy of Music where he studied with numerous teachers from abroad. He has been nominated for an International Who's Who award and his performances have been broadcast on ABC FM and 3MBS FM. In 2008 Sean is working towards making a complete recording of Das Wohltemperierte Klavier by J.S. Bach and has been invited to take part in master-classes focusing on this repertoire in Apeldoorn (Holland), Courchevel (France), and at the Hannover University of Music (Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hannover)

More information and sound recordings of Sean Hennessy-Brose can be found at:

<http://www.myspace.com/seanhennessybrose>