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Academy Baroque Consort Performs a Ravishing Feast of Italian Baroque Music

The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts is delighted to present *A Baroque Banquet*, a concert directed by leading early music performer Marsha McGuire.

McGuire directs the Academy Baroque Consort in a programme of Italian music from the seventeenth and early-eighteenth centuries.

At this time the belief was held that ‘moving the passions of the soul’ was the most important function of music.

Through the dramatic vocal music of Monteverdi and concertos for trumpet and violins by Torelli and Vivaldi, the Academy Baroque Consort take this maxim to heart and promise an evening of high drama and sparkle.

Music for solo harp will be heard alongside concertos for string orchestra, and solo vocal music will be heard alongside two large-scale madrigals by Claudio Monteverdi.

In the manner of a lavish north Italian court WAAPA can boast an opulent array of accompanying continuo instruments.

For the first time ever in WA audiences will have the opportunity to hear music accompanied by three theorbos (large guitar-like creatures), two harps and a harpsichord.

“We have a number of really promising musicians at WAAPA who are interested in and committed to early music, and this concert is an ideal showcase for them” says Stewart Smith, head of classical music.

A highlight of the program is Monteverdi’s madrigal ‘Hor che'l ciel e la terra’, where the music emerges from the very deepest part of the human soul and continues taking the listener on an unforgettable, ecstatic journey.

With its contrast of colours, exotic instruments, and rhetorical drama, *A Baroque Banquet* promises to be a concert to please all lovers of fine music.

**Performance Information: A Baroque Banquet**

Thursday 6 May at 7.30pm.
Music Auditorium, WAAPA, Edith Cowan University, 2 Bradford St, Mt Lawley.
Tickets are $22 full/$17 concession. Bookings through WAAPA Box Office on 9370 6636.

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For further information or to discuss interview opportunities, please contact:
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