07/10/08

Wine-inspired jazz music premieres at WAAPA

An exciting new jazz piece inspired by the history of wine will receive its premiere performance at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts at the end of October.

*Plonk!*, a major commissioned work by West Australian composer Mace Francis, will be performed by the Mace Francis Orchestra with woodwind quartet and tuned percussion at WAAPA’s Geoff Gibbs Theatre on Friday 24 October at 7.30pm.

Mace Francis graduated from WAAPA in 2004 with an Honours degree in Composition. He immediately set about forming the Mace Francis Orchestra, a 14-piece jazz band, to experiment with composition in the style of the great modern big bands led by Bob Brookmeyer, Thad Jones and Maria Schneider.

Four years later, the Mace Francis Orchestra is an integral part of the Perth jazz scene. The big band has been commissioned by the Perth Jazz Society, collaborated with Aboriginal singers from the band Djiva, performed with jazz legend Jim Pugh, released three CDs and been twice nominated for WAMI Jazz Group of the Year. Most recently, in July the Orchestra enjoyed a highly successful interstate tour, packing in 12 shows in 18 days.

Francis not only conducts and composes for the band, but secures gigs, applies for funding and does promotion. The multi-talented musician also plays in a number of other Perth ensembles, is the musical director of the West Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra and is a sessional lecturer at WAAPA.

For *Plonk!*, Francis has composed a jazz suite inspired by the history of the imperial vine and the delights of wine. The young composer will take us on a musical exploration of wine inspired by its various colours – Red, White and Rosé. Each of the composition’s three movements will explore a defining period in the history of wine, from Mesopotamia to the modern wine regions of Western Australia.

*Plonk!* has been possible by the Australia Council of the Arts.

“Music is the wine that fills the cup of silence.” – Robert Fripp

**Performance Information: Plonk! – Mace Francis Orchestra**
Friday 24 October at 7.30pm.
The Geoff Gibbs Theatre, WAAPA, Edith Cowan University, 2 Bradford St, Mt Lawley.
Tickets are $20 full/$15 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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