Six String Counterpoint: a celebration of guitar music

Six String Counterpoint, held on Thursday 14 May at 7.30pm at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, brings the worlds of classical and jazz guitar together in a six string celebration.

Featuring the talents of WAAPA staff and students, Six String Counterpoint includes performances by classical virtuoso Jonathan Paget, jazz/contemporary virtuosos Freddie Grigson, Ray Walker and Simon Jeans, the Plectra Guitar Ensemble and the WAAPA Jazz Guitar Ensemble.

The highlight of the program will be Steve Reich’s minimalist masterpiece, Electric Counterpoint, performed in a version for 16 guitars, including classical, electric and bass guitars. The piece will be conducted by Fiona Digney, who recently presented a performance of Reich’s Video Phase with the award-winning Defying Gravity Percussion Ensemble.

Also on the program will be The Hinchinbrook Riffs for guitar and digital delay by Australian composer Nigel Westlake, performed by Jonathan Paget, fresh from a tour of the east coast of Australia.

In addition to a healthy dose of jazz, WAAPA’s guitar students will perform works by Latin maestros such as Leo Brouwer, Paulo Bellinati and Sergio Assad, and the Plectra Guitar Ensemble will premiere a new work by Jonathan Paget.

The program will culminate in the premiere performance of a new work for guitar ensemble, Without Fear of Wind or Vertigo, by Johannes Luebbers.

The 23-year-old composer/arranger, who graduated from WAAPA in 2006, is a rising star in the jazz world. Just last month, Luebbers was awarded a prestigious 2009 National Jazz Award, the APRA Best Australian Jazz Song of the Year, for his tune Til Death Does me Part on his newly-released Johannes Luebbers Dectet album, Make Some Noise. Known within the industry as ‘The Bells’ in honour of Australian jazz pioneer Graeme Bell, the National Jazz Awards are the Australian jazz fraternity’s most coveted awards. Luebbers is also a finalist in the Youth Arts category for the WA Citizen of the Year Awards, which will be announced on May 30.

With its exciting mix of classical and contemporary, favourites and new works, Six String Counterpoint is a concert that’s guaranteed to entertain lovers of guitar music of all persuasions!

Performance Information: Six String Counterpoint

Thursday 14 May at 7.30pm.

Music Auditorium, 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:

Anton Maz, Marketing Manager, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts
Phone: (08) 9370 6817  Mob: 0404 699 772  Email: a.maz@ecu.edu.au