The Gypsy, the Monk and the Hipster

Three brilliant and highly contrasting musical compositions come together for the first time in *The Gypsy, the Monk and the Hipster* on Thursday 22 April at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts at 7.30pm.

This concert of eclectic works by Bela Bartok, John Tavener and Joe Cutler will be performed by Resonator – WAAPA’s elite new music chamber ensemble – and a string chamber orchestra, with music direction by Lindsay Vickery and Peter Tanfield.

The program begins with Bela Bartok’s *Divertimento*, a defiantly vigorous and sunny work steeped in the gypsy rhythms of the composer’s native Hungary. Ironically, it was written only months before the beginning of World War II and was the last work Bartok composed before he fled Hungary and immigrated to the United States.

The works of two British composers complete the program, yet their influences could not be more different. Reclusive ‘holy minimalist’ Sir John Tavener was inspired by the spiritual transparency of Yeats’ poetry when writing his 1983 composition, *To a Child Dancing in the Wind*, while Joe Cutler channels Stravinsky and Duke Ellington in his barnstorming 1995 work, *Sal’s Sax*.

Tavener, now in his mid-60s, is best known for his religious, minimal works. Written for soprano, flute, harp and viola, *To a Child Dancing in the Wind* is an eight-song cycle based on Yeats’ poems. Each song is linked by a 25-note bridge for harp, which reads the same backwards and forwards. This 25-note ‘musical palindrome’ recurs in many of Tavener’s subsequent compositions.

Only 24 years younger than Tavener, Joe Cutler’s music is “very much of his generation,” wrote Kenneth Walton of *The Scotsman* in his review of Cutler’s CD, *BartleBooth*. “He is old enough to have swallowed up the free-thinking legacy of the 1960s and ‘70s, with its cool nod to jazz and rock, but young enough to have escaped the so-called ‘school of complexity’ of those even a half generation behind.”

Cutler’s compositions are influenced by his time spent studying at the Chopin Conservatoire in Warsaw and his extensive work in the Netherlands. *Sal’s Sax* is a hard-edged essay in Dutch minimalism driven along on a tide of brass and explosive keyboard and percussion chords.

With three such contrasting pieces, *The Gypsy, the Monk and the Hipster* promises to provoke, inspire and entertain.

Performance Information: *The Gypsy, the Monk and the Hipster*

Thursday 22 April 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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