WAAPA’s string and vocal ensembles perform Haydn and Mozart

The Viennese Classics come to life at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts when the WAAPA String Ensemble and Eneksis Vocal Ensemble, under the musical direction of Peter Tanfield and Micheal McCarthy respectively, perform works by Haydn and Mozart on Thursday September 3 at 7.30pm in the Music Auditorium.

Viennese Classics will feature Joseph Haydn’s Little Organ Mass along with two of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s best-loved works: his sparkling Symphony No. 29 in A major K. 201 and the glorious Violin Concerto No 4 in D major K. 218, performed by guest artist and virtuoso violinist, Peter Tanfield.

Haydn and Mozart, along with Ludwig van Beethoven, were the main composers in what is regarded as the Classical period of Western music from 1750 to 1825. Since these three composers all worked at some time in Vienna, the period is sometimes also called the Viennese Classic.

Haydn’s Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo, also known as the Little Organ Mass, was first performed in 1778 in a tiny chapel in Eisenstadt. The space constraints of the venue restricted Haydn’s scoring to a small organ, a string quartet and a chorus probably not exceeding twelve singers, hence the composition’s more famous nickname.

Mozart was just eighteen years old when, in 1774, he wrote his Symphony No. 29. One of Mozart’s better known early symphonies and regarded by many as a turning point in Mozart’s development as a composer, it has been described by leading British musicologist and critic Stanley Sadie as “a landmark ... personal in tone, indeed perhaps more individual in its combination of an intimate, chamber music style with a still fiery and impulsive manner.”

Violin Concerto No 4 in D major K. 218 was composed by Mozart one year later in 1775. Of his five violin concertos, Mozart’s fourth remains the most immediately scintillating – when asked to bring a Mozart concerto to the audition room, this is the one that is selected most often by aspiring violinists.

Music lovers will not want to miss this evening of beautiful classical music by Haydn and Mozart, performed by two of WAAPA’s most talented ensembles.

Performance Information: Viennese Classics – Haydn and Mozart
Thursday 3 September 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.

For complimentary tickets to this concert or for further information, interviews or photo 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
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Peter Tanfield

English-born Peter Tanfield began playing the violin at age four, studying in Germany, Israel, Switzerland and Holland with such legendary teachers as Igor Ozim, Felix Andrievski, Alberto Lysy, Herman Krebbers and Yehudi Menuhin.

A prize-winner at The Carl Flesch International Competition, International Mozart Competition and the International Bach Competition, among many others, Tanfield’s international career as a soloist has seen him play with the world’s greatest musicians – Pinchas Zuckerman and Yehudi Menuhin to name but two – and with some of the world’s finest orchestras. He has also recorded numerous solo and chamber works for TV, radio and CD.

Active as a teacher in Britain, Spain, Germany, Switzerland and Australia, Tanfield has organised, coordinated and delivered courses and chamber music programs for festivals and youth organisations.

In 1998, Tanfield came to Australia to lead the Australian String Quartet and to teach at the University of Adelaide. At the end of 2001, Tanfield moved to Hobart to teach at the Conservatorium of Music. In 2008, he took up the position of Coordinator of Classical Strings at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.