Media Release

08/05/09

Star pianist plays Rachmaninov in ‘Russian Romantics’

Be swept off your feet in a whirlwind of Russian romanticism when Melbourne pianist-composer Benjamin Martin takes to the stage as special guest artist with the Faith Court Orchestra in Russian Romantics, on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 of May at 7.30pm at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

This highly dramatic program of music, conducted by Peter Tanfield, features two of the greatest Russian masterpieces: Tchaikovsky’s thrilling Symphony No. 5 and Rachmaninov’s beloved Piano Concerto No. 2.

In Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5, audiences will experience the full power of Tchaikovsky’s artistry in the well crafted, colorfully orchestrated movements. Piano Concerto No. 2, which established Rachmaninov’s fame as a concerto composer, has become one of the composer’s most enduringly popular pieces.

Pianist Benjamin Martin, who will perform Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Faith Court Orchestra, is internationally renowned for his highly expressive playing.

Accepted into the Victorian College of the Arts at the age of 15, Martin went on to study at New York’s prestigious Juilliard School with the late, great American pianist, John Browning.

Since returning to Australia in 1994, Martin has given many concerts at home and abroad. In addition to performing with many of Australia’s finest orchestras and chamber ensembles, Martin has collaborated with the great German violist, Hartmut Lindemann, and has performed with Eiji Oue, Pekka Kussisto, Richard Tognetti, Elizabeth Wallfisch and Markus Stenz.

Martin has received numerous awards, including two full scholarships to the Tanglewood Summer Festival as both pianist and composer; the Queen Elizabeth Grant; first prize in the Hepzibah Menuhin Memorial Award; and the Marten Bequest Scholarship.

Martin is a champion of 20th Century music and has given first performances of music by Morton Gould and Brett Dean. As a composer, his music has been performed in Australia, Europe and the USA.

WAAPA is delighted to have such an accomplished pianist performing with the Faith Court Orchestra, which was founded in 2005 to mark the significant contribution Faith Court and the Court family have made to WAAPA’s Classical Music program.

Performance Information: Russian Romantics – Faith Court Orchestra
Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 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:
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