XenDen Suite honours WA jazz mentor

The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts opens its Jazz Windows Series for 2009 with a performance of an original work written by saxophonist Troy Roberts in honour of one of WA’s greatest champions of jazz music.

*XenDen Suite*, to be performed at WAAPA’s Music Auditorium on Thursday 19 March at 7.30pm, is a musical tribute to the late Alan Corbet. As Coordinator of JazzWA, Corbet established core programs such as the Jazz Windows Series and was an inspirational mentor to countless young jazz musicians.

“Alan created a recording label, XenDen Music, specifically designed for original and independent musicians,” says Roberts. “But unfortunately due to Alan’s untimely passing in early 2008, the label’s full potential never came to fruition. This work is my tribute to an amazing man with incredible vision.”

Roberts, a 2001 WAAPA graduate, recorded *XenDen Suite* in August last year; the concert at WAAPA will be the first public performance of the work.

“The *XenDen Suite* is unique in that the eight-part ensemble combines a traditional jazz quartet with a classically orientated string quartet,” says Roberts.

Performing with Roberts are musicians Tom O’Halloran on piano, Pete Jeavons on bass, Daniel Susnjar on drums, Semra Lee and Stephanie Dean on violin, Alex Brogan on viola and Matthew Hoy on cello. Special guest artists include Gary Keller on flute, Alex Millier on bass clarinet and jazz vocalist Libby Hammer.

The Suite has eight movements, with evocative names such as ‘Tebrocnala’ (Alan Corbet backwards), ‘Feb 19’ (the day Corbet died) and ‘La Brecaton Minute’ (an anagram of Corbet’s name).

In her liner notes for the *XenDen Suite* CD, highly respected Perth jazz singer Helen Matthews wrote, “Each note carries with it the character and charm of Alan and is delivered through the sensitivity and creative beauty of his jazz ‘brother’, Troy Roberts.”

Granted exceptional entrance into WAAPA when he was 15, Roberts graduated with a trifecta of jazz scholarships: the Bob Whyllie Scholarship, the Melville Toyota Scholarship and the James Morrison Scholarship. Since then Roberts has completed his Masters from the University of Miami and his performing career has gone from strength to strength. Highlights include performing with many of the world’s best jazz musicians; several international tours with James Morrison; winning multiple awards, including five Downbeat Music Awards and two WAMI Awards; touring Europe in 2006 and the USA in 2007 with his jazz quartet, VOID; and in October last year, making the semi-finals of the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition in Los Angeles.

For a full biography of Troy Roberts, please visit his website at [www.troyroberts.com](http://www.troyroberts.com)

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Performance Information: XenDen Suite
Thursday 19 March 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, ticket requests or to discuss interview opportunities, please contact:
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