



West Australian  
Symphony Orchestra

WASO CHORUS SINGS

# Three Masses: Haydn, Mozart & Schubert

Sun 21 Oct 2.15pm | St Mary's Cathedral, Perth



## WASO Chorus

**Christopher van Tuinen**  
conductor

**Jennifer Barrington**  
soprano

**Courtney Pitman**  
mezzo soprano

**Tom Buckmaster**  
tenor

**Kris Bowtell**  
bass

### SOPRANO

Valerie Bannan  
Anna Börner  
Alinta Carroll  
Penelope Colgan  
Clara Connor  
Cate Creedon  
Erika Dietrich  
Ceridwen Dumergue

Fay Edwards  
Bronwyn Elliott  
Ro Gorell  
Pauline Handford  
Diane Hawkins  
Sue Hingston  
Michelle John  
Grace Kook  
Sharon Leahy  
Elysia Murphy  
Sheila Price  
Elizabeth Reid  
Fiona Robson  
Lucy Sheppard  
Sarah Shneier  
Gosia Slawomirski  
Nike Titilola Etim  
Marjan van Gulik  
Margo Warburton

### ALTO

Marian Agombar  
Janet Baxter  
Llewella Benn  
Daniela Birch  
Patsy Brown  
Catherine Dunn  
Kaye Fairbairn  
Jenny Fay  
Louise Gillett  
Dianne Graves  
Louise Hayes  
Jill Jones  
Gaylene Kelso  
Shew-lee Lee  
Kate Lewis  
Diana MacCallum  
Robyn Main  
Deb McNeil  
Lyn Mills  
Margot Morgan  
Lynne Naylor

Katrina Nesar  
Philomena Nulsen  
Deborah Pearson  
Deborah Piesse  
Louise Sutton  
Claire Taylor  
Olga Ward  
Jacquie Wright

### TENOR

John Beamish  
Peter Handford  
Ken Gasmier  
Allan Griffiths  
Guy Hooper  
David Lancaster  
Patrick Melling  
John Murphy  
Andrew Paterson  
Arthur Tideswell  
Stephen Turley  
Brad Wake

### BASS

Justin Audcent  
Michael Berkeley-Hill  
Charlie Bond  
Bertel Bulten  
Mark Gummer  
Stephen Hastings  
Benjamin Lee  
Andrew Lynch  
Tony Marrion  
Peter Ormond  
Jim Rhoads  
Mark Richardson  
Steve Sherwood  
Chris Smith  
Tim Strahan  
Robert Turnbull  
Mark Wiklund  
Andrew Wong

## West Australian Symphony Orchestra

### VIOLIN

**Rebecca Glorie**

*A/Principal 1st Violin*

**Kylie Liang**

*Assoc Principal 2nd Violin*

Beth Hebert

Ellie Lawrence

Sunmi Jung

Cerys Tooby

### VIOLA

Alison Hall

Elliot O'Brien

### CELLO

Xiao Le Wu

### DOUBLE BASS

Christine Reitzenstein

*The West Australian Symphony Orchestra respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Elders of the Indigenous Nations across Western Australia on whose Lands we work.*



**Wesfarmers Arts**

Principal Partner

# Program Notes

This concert is for all those who have ever complained about the music of the younger generation: three exquisite masses, all written by teenagers.

## Joseph Haydn

Born 1732, Rohrau,  
Austria  
Died 1809, Vienna

Missa brevis in F, Hob.  
XXII:1

**Joseph Haydn** was around 17 when he wrote his *Missa brevis* ('Short mass') in F major. He was at the time a boy soprano in the choir at St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, where he had been trained since the age of eight in singing, keyboard and the violin – but not in composition. 'I used to think then that it was all right if only the paper were pretty full. Reutter [the Cathedral's director of music] laughed at my immature output, and scolded me for composing in sixteen parts before I understood two-part setting.'

In his *Missa brevis* in F major he writes for more modest forces – four-part choir, accompanied by an orchestra of two violins, bass, and organ – and his setting is elegant and cheerful. It is also very short, even for a *missa brevis*, and in his determination to get through the wordy texts of the Gloria and Credo as efficiently as possible, he divides up the text between the voice parts, so that multiple lines of text are sung simultaneously – a technique ('polytextuality') not exactly permitted by the church authorities of the day, who only tolerated polyphonic music in the liturgy if the words could be clearly understood!

The mass stands out for its use of two soprano soloists, and it is tempting to imagine that Haydn was writing for himself and for his younger brother Michael – both star trebles in the Cathedral choir. If that is true, it must have been one of the last things he sang there, as that was the year when his voice finally broke, and he was dismissed from the choir.

## Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born 1756, Salzburg  
Died 1791, Vienna

Missa brevis in D minor,  
K65

**Mozart** was a mere 13 years of age when he composed his *Missa brevis* in D minor. He had, however, been composing since the age of five, and had more than 70 pieces under his belt already, including symphonies, sonatas, two operas and two masses. The D minor *missa brevis* was finished just nine days after returning home to Salzburg from an extremely disappointing year in Vienna, where the genius child with the pushy father – mostly because of the pushy father – had very publicly failed to break in to the lucrative opera establishment.

Undeterred, the young Mozart continued to compose. The *Missa brevis* in D minor is believed to have been written to open a forty-hour prayer vigil at the Salzburg University Church, and the minor key – rare among Mozart's mass settings – perhaps reflects the penitential nature of the event. The Benedictus movement with its starkly chromatic vocal line is also unusually solemn in mood.

## Franz Schubert

Born 1797, Vienna  
Died 1828, Vienna

Mass No.2 in G, D167

**Schubert** was 19 writing his second mass and is the grand old man of this program. He was a man of faith, but not a willing churchgoer. He was raised in the church, was schooled at the imperial seminary, and spent five years as a choirboy in the Imperial Court Chapel. It can hardly be mere carelessness, then, that caused him to omit from every mass setting he ever wrote the words *Et in unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam ecclesiam* ('And [I believe] in one holy catholic and apostolic church').

His Mass in G major was written in 1815 – his most prolific year, which saw him produce more than 20,000 bars of music, including two masses, an opera, a symphony, a Stabat Mater, a Salve Regina and 140 songs. It was probably composed for use at his family's parish church. This is Schubert's shortest mass setting (written in just six days), but nearly half as long again as either the Haydn or Mozart settings on today's program. His Gloria and Credo still power through the text (though without resorting to polytextuality) – the Credo is notable for its constant, almost restless flow of crotchets in the orchestral parts – but Schubert uses the extra time for a sublime and leisurely Benedictus which begins as a soprano solo and then expands into an intricate trio of solo voices. The pleading Agnus Dei is similarly unhurried, and the mass finishes gently, showing us the longed-for peace in the calm and quiet of the music.

Natalie Shea © 2018

*Of these works the West Australian Symphony Orchestra has previously performed only Schubert's Mass in G, conducted by John Hopkins at the Perth Festival on 4 March 1967. The performance featured the University Choral Society and the soloists were Molly McGurk (soprano), Vin Warrener (tenor) and Bruce Martin (bass).*



## Handel's Messiah

Fri 7 Dec 7.30pm & Sat 8 Dec 2pm | Perth Concert Hall

### HANDEL *Messiah*

Christian Curnyn conductor (WASO debut)  
Sara Macliver soprano  
Fiona Campbell mezzo-soprano  
Henry Choo tenor  
Morgan Pearse baritone (WASO debut)  
WASO Chorus

Hallelujah! Be moved and uplifted by Handel's ever-popular oratorio. Conductor Christian Curnyn leads WASO, the WASO Chorus and acclaimed soloists in one of the best-loved choral works, a beloved Christmas tradition to be shared by all.

Tickets from \$40\*

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