

The Best of Bernstein

Fri 29 June 7.30pm
Sat 30 June 7.30pm

PERTH CONCERT HALL

Benjamin Northey: conductor
Nicholas Tolputt: countertenor
WASO Chorus



Leonard Bernstein

WASO celebrates the 100th birthday of the composer of *West Side Story*

The West Australian Symphony Orchestra's Classics Series for 2018 continues with a showcase of the music of composer, conductor and educator, Leonard Bernstein, one of the greatest musicians of the twentieth century.

'Lenny' was unique: he was a long-term music director for the esteemed New York Philharmonic, a skilled pianist who often conducted from the piano, a prodigious composer of some of the music that defined the twentieth century and enjoyed success on both stage and screen - including television where he gave a series of classical music lectures that extended across four decades.

But it is the music that defined him; and this concert, conducted by the ever-popular Benjamin Northey, provides an insight into the breadth, and brilliance, of his oeuvre commencing with *Candide*: Overture. Bernstein had always dreamed of writing "The Great American Opera" and, whether or not *Candide* can lay claim to that mantle, the Overture has become a hugely popular concert classic in its own right.

Bernstein considered that the Oscar-nominated score for *On the Waterfront* had a life beyond the silver screen and he subsequently re-cast the music to form the concert suite we know so well today.

The Suite will be followed by *On the Town*: Three Dance Episodes which incorporates the best-known theme from that musical, “New York, New York”.

The second half of the program commences with *Chichester Psalms* which will feature the WASO Chorus (demonstrating its versatility as the piece is sung in Hebrew) together with exciting young Australian countertenor, Nicholas Tolputt, making his WASO Debut in this performance.

No Bernstein concert would be complete without an acknowledgement to *West Side Story*; and Symphonic Dances, adapted from the film version of the musical, is a fitting centenary “Happy Birthday” tribute to this musical genius.

Tickets from \$33 on sale now at WASO on 9326 0000 or waso.com.au

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