

MEDIA RELEASE
26 July 2018

WASO Plays Mozart & Dvořák

MACA Limited Classics Series
Fri 31 August 7.30pm
Sat 1 September 7.30pm

PERTH CONCERT HALL

Leo Hussain: conductor (WASO debut)
Grace Clifford: violin (WASO debut)



Grace Clifford

A sublime symphony and a folk-like concerto - plus a touch of jazz

The West Australian Symphony Orchestra continues to expose audiences to the finest musical talent the world has to offer. For this concert, the sixth in the Classics Series for the 2018 Season, British conductor Leo Hussain and young Australian violinist Grace Clifford make their WASO debuts.

And what a program to introduce them to Perth audiences! The sublime perfection of Mozart bookends this concert, complemented by the irresistible 1920s rhythms and colours of Bohuslav Martinů's *Jazz Suite* and the rustic vitality and lyricism of Antonin Dvořák's evergreen Violin Concerto.

Opera lovers will be familiar with Mozart's menacing *Don Giovanni*: Overture. Legend has it that Mozart only commenced work on this Overture on the night prior to the first performance. Truth or not, the Overture made it in time for the opera's opening night and was hailed as the ideal introduction to the story of the immoral and irresistible Don Giovanni who is eventually dragged to hell by the stone statue of the father of one of his many conquests.



West Australian
Symphony Orchestra
ASHER FISCH PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR

Dvořák's sole Violin Concerto grew out of his relationship with Hungarian violinist Joseph Joachim. The two worked on the piece for some years before Joachim became disillusioned and returned the score to Dvořák. It was eventually premiered in Prague in 1883 with Frantisek Ondricek as soloist; and it is the Czech violinist who was, subsequently, at least partly responsible for the spread of Dvořák's music across Europe.

Like the *Don Giovanni*: Overture, this concerto has not previously been performed by WASO; and it is doubly-exciting to have young Sydney-born violinist, Grace Clifford, coming to Perth for the first time to perform this stunning piece. Grace was the winner at the ABC Young Performer of the Year Awards in 2014 which culminated in three performances of the Beethoven Concerto with the Adelaide Symphony. She also won the Best Recital, Best Chamber Performance and the People's Choice Awards that year. Grace is currently studying at the prestigious Curtis Institute in Philadelphia.

In yet another first, Czech composer Martinů's *Jazz Suite* introduces the second half of the program. Although the title suggests that this piece was composed in the jazz idiom, it has a neoclassical approach with complex harmonies and dense texture. The work will be performed by WASO in small chamber orchestra mode.

The myth and mystery surrounding Mozart's last symphonies is almost as feverish as those associated with his *Don Giovanni*: Overture. Although debate over whether Mozart ever heard his Symphony No.39 performed will continue, there is no doubt that this work will close a triumphant sixth concert in the 2018 Classics Series. One of his final symphonic masterpieces, Mozart's radiant 39th Symphony contrasts intimacy with grandeur and not just a little musical mischief!

Presiding over this program of the new and the well-known will be British conductor, Leo Hussain. Hussain has established himself as a leader of his generation in interpreting Mozart, the second Viennese school and great 20th century composers. He is in high demand as a guest conductor around the world, especially in Germany.

The WASO Classics Series is an ideal vehicle for providing exceptional musical experiences both familiar and not previously encountered; and, with Dvořák, Martinů and the incomparable Mozart, this concert delivers in all aspects.

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

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