

MEDIA RELEASE
27 July 2018

WASO plays Mozart & Beethoven

WASO's 90th Anniversary Tour

QUEEN'S PARK THEATRE, GERALDTON
Thu 1 November 7.30pm

GOLDFIELDS ARTS CENTRE, KALGOORLIE
Sat 3 November 7.30pm

Christopher Dragon: conductor
Laurence Jackson: violin

West Australian Symphony Orchestra



WASO embarks on a major regional tour as part of its 90th Anniversary celebrations

The West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO) prides itself on being a cultural institution for all Western Australians; so it appropriate that, in the year it commemorates nine decades of classical music contribution to the community of Western Australia, WASO takes the celebrations regionally with the first tour of the full orchestra to the Mid-West and the Goldfields since the early 2000s.

“WASO has a proud history of touring in Western Australia with its inaugural regional concert taking place in July 1949 in Kalgoorlie. We are once again so pleased to be able to fulfil our mission *to touch souls and enrich lives through music* in the regions in this our 90th year”, said Craig Whitehead, WASO's Chief Executive.

The tour proceeds with the generous support of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Royalties for Regions program.

In an eye-wateringly complex coordination of musicians, support crew, instruments and equipment, WASO will fly 58 musicians plus conductor and support staff to each location on the day of the concert,

accommodate them overnight and get them home the next day while all the musical instruments, music stands and other equipment travel by road. It's a huge undertaking and has been years in the planning.

The program for the 90th Anniversary Tour includes a selection of highlights from across WASO's 2018 Season. The popular classical program has something for everyone, with works by two of the giants of the classical repertoire, Ludwig van Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

WASO will provide a free pre-concert talk for audiences, with schools in both Geraldton and Kalgoorlie having an opportunity to attend a special free Open Rehearsal.

The concert will commence with Mozart's *Don Giovanni*: Overture. The story goes that Mozart only started work on the Overture to his opera *Don Giovanni* the night before the premiere performance was scheduled and was kept awake by his wife reciting poetry to him while he composed the work. Within those few hours, Mozart managed to complete the Overture which has been acclaimed as a work of genius ever since.

The first half of the program concludes with Violin Concerto No.3, also by Mozart. The composer was only nineteen years of age when he completed this work. Acclaimed WASO Concertmaster, Laurence Jackson, is a bit older than that; but he and his 1850 J. B. Vuillaume violin are ideally placed to bring this most admired of Mozart's violin concertos to life.

Beethoven's Symphony No.5 is probably the most popular and recognisable classical music composition in the world. Even those who might claim never to have experienced an orchestral work would have been exposed to "the Fifth" - especially the opening four-note motif - in contemporary popular music (Electric Light Orchestra's adaptation of the Chuck Berry hit "Roll Over Beethoven"), film (Saturday Night Fever, Fantasia 2000), television (theme song for "Judge Judy", opening sequence of Doctor Who "Before the Flood") and even video games (Dragon's Lair II: Time Warp).

But to experience the entire Symphony No.5 live from the stage in all its orchestral glory, as Beethoven intended, is something else again; and WASO is proud to provide this special opportunity for regional audiences.

Brilliant young Perth-born conductor, Christopher Dragon, will lead the WASO in this enthralling concert. Christopher was appointed to the position of Associate Conductor with the Colorado Symphony in 2015 following a three-year engagement as Assistant Conductor with WASO. He regularly returns to his home State to collaborate with WASO.

Dive into the divine and excellence of our very own WASO.

Bookings: Kalgoorlie - www.goldfieldsartscentre.com.au
Geraldton - www.qpt.cgg.wa.gov.au

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Department of **Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**
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