

Amateur Chamber Music Society

<http://www.acms-australia.org/concerts/>

— **BALMAIN** —

Vivaldi *Concerto in A minor for Two Violins RV522*

(1) *Allegro* (2) *Larghetto Spiritoso* (3) *Allegro*

Cassadó *Cello Sonata in A minor*

(1) *Lento ma non troppo, Allegro* (2) *Aragonesa: Presto ma non troppo (tempo comodo)* (3) *Saeta: Grave* (4) *Paso = doble*

Ravel *Habanera*

Four Pieces - Arranged for String Quartet

Hengqian Zhu: *Happy Girl Saliha*

Tchaikovsky: *The Song of Andante*

Australian folk song: *Click Go The Shears*

Huanzhi Li: *The First Song of Spring*

— **KIRRIBILLI** —

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INTERVAL (10 minutes)

Chopin: *Cello Sonata Op. 65*

3rd movement Largo

Cassadó: *Cello Sonata in A minor*

(1) *Lento ma non troppo, Allegro* (2) *Aragonesa: Presto ma non troppo (tempo comodo)* (3) *Saeta: Grave* (4) *Paso = doble*

— REFRESHMENTS (KIRRIBILLI ONLY) —

Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741): *Concerto in A minor for Two Violins RV522*

(1) *Allegro* (2) *Larghetto Spiritoso* (3) *Allegro*

Violins: Regula Scheidegger, George Carrard; Piano: Christine Edwards

Vivaldi was born 1678 in the republic of Venice. Aged 11 he played alongside his father in the orchestra of San Marco Basilica. At 18 he was ordained as a priest and, in the same year, appointed violin teacher at Del Pietà Orphanage. Aged 24 he stood in for the head music teacher (who was away) and was congratulated by the visiting king of Norway and Denmark, to whom he dedicated his L'estro Harmonico Op 3 (The Harmonic Inspiration, published in Amsterdam two years later) a set of 12 concertos for stringed instruments; this work was a landmark in the development of the concerto form and influenced composers throughout Europe.

Today we will hear the Concerto for Two Violins in A minor RV522. Bach, who was seven years younger than Vivaldi, transcribed many of Vivaldi's concerti for various instrumental combinations, including RV522 as a piece for solo organ BWV593. Transcribing would have been Bach's way of learning from Vivaldi. Bach's famous D-minor Concerto for Two Violins owes something to Vivaldi's influence and goes a step further. In his lifetime, Vivaldi's A-minor double concerto was popular throughout Europe, as were many of his other compositions.

The popularity of his music dwindled after his death; his music faded into obscurity during the Classical and Romantic periods and was rediscovered in the 20th century.

Four Pieces Arranged for String Quartet

Violin 1: Zhenquan Hua; Violin 2: Pansy Lin; Viola: James Dong; Cello: Yi Ding

Heng-Qian Zhu: Happy Girl Saliha (arr: Jie-Cheng Zhang)

Saliha is a young girl in Xin-Jiang Province of China. This song was popular during the painful period in China of 1966-1976. During this time the dictator Chairman Mao created a "Great Culture Revolution" in China which caused huge problems to the country and its people.

Tchaikovsky String Quartet No.1 in D major Op.11. II Andante

Composed by Tchaikovsky in February 1871, the String Quartet was premiered in Moscow in March 1871 by four members of the Russian Musical Society. The famous melancholic second movement was based on a folk song the composer heard at his sister Aleksandra Davydov's family house at Kamenka in Ukraina.

Australian folk song: Click Go The Shears (arr: Hong-de Zhou)

In 1973, when Gough Whitlam, the then Australian Prime Minister, visited the People's Republic of China, a military band played "Click Go the Shears" as Whitlam stepped off his aircraft at Beijing Airport. It has become a popular piece of music played at family/friend parties & local concerts in China for decades.

Huanzhi Li: The First Song of Spring (Spring Festival Overture)

This Suite (Chinese: 春節組曲; pinyin: Chūnjié Zǔqǔ) is a Chinese orchestral work composed by Li Huanzhi (李煥之) between 1955 and 1956, depicting the scene when folks in Shanbei region were celebrating the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival). The tune is widely heard primarily in Mainland China, where it appears frequently in school music textbooks, as well as being played on various festive occasions.

Cassado (1897- 1966): Cello Sonata in A minor

Cello: Sharon Maennl; Piano: Neil Semmler

I. Lento ma non troppo, Allegro

II. Aragonesa: Presto ma non troppo (tempo comodo)

III. Saeta: Grave

IV. Paso = doble: Allegro (ritmico e capriccioso)

Cassadó, born in Barcelona, was a pupil of Pablo Casals and studied composition with Manuel De Falla and Maurice Ravel. In 1925, he composed the Cello Sonata in A Minor. The first movement, titled *Rapsodia*, features highly contrasting moods, an extravagant expression of sentiment. However rather than being free flowing in structure, it is in sonata form.

The following movements are Spanish dances. The *Aragonesa* is a folk courtship dance from Aragon in the Northeast of Spain, in 3/4 time and is capricious in character. The *Saeta* is a song of Catholic Andalusia, sung often from a balcony addressed to the statue of Jesus below or that of His suffering mother Mary. These statues are mounted on platforms and carried along the shoulders of several penitents passing in the procession of Holy Week. It has a plaintive, highly emotional intensity and has the melismas and tercios taken from flamenco music. The *Paso Doble* (Spanish- Double Step) is a fast rhythmic dance in 2/4 time.

Maurice Ravel (1875 - 1937): Pièce en Forme de Habanera

Violin: George Carrard; Piano: Christine Edwards

Ravel originally wrote the Habanera as a vocalise. But it is difficult to sing. The piece has a colourful piano accompaniment, and is so popular that the piano part has been matched to many instruments including violin, flute, cello, clarinet, and saxophone.

Frédéric Chopin (1810 – 1849): Cello Sonata Op. 65 - 3rd movement Largo

Cello: Lye Lin Ho; Piano: Brandon Scherrer



Concert organiser Neil Semmler
light refreshments (wine, juice and savouries)
\$15 admission (\$10 concession/seniors)

For information on future concerts, see
www.acms-australia.org

All chamber music players are welcome to join the
Amateur Chamber Music Society. Visit our website for more information.



CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

Balmain: 5 pm Saturday 26 October 2024

Kirribilli: 3 pm Sunday 03 November 2024



The Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre

16-18 Fitzroy St **Kirribilli**

Campbell St Presbyterian Church

7 Campbell St **Balmain**