

Amateur Chamber Music Society

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

— PROGRAMME —

DOHNÁNYI *Piano Quintet in C minor Op 1*

(1) *Allegro* (2) *Scherzo*

(3) *Adagio quasi andante* (4) *Allegro animato*

violins George Carrard and Regula Scheidegger

viola Barra Boydell cello Clara Blazer

piano Christine Edwards

30'

HAYDN *String Quartet No 62 in C Major Op 76 No 3*

Hob.III:77, two movements

(1) *Allegro* (2) *Poco adagio, cantabile*

violins Zhenquan Hua and Peirong Lin

viola James Dong cello Yi Ding

25'

Interval

5'

MOZART *Sonata No 18 for Piano and Violin in G major K301*

(1) *Allegro con spirito* (2) *Allegretto-Minore-Maggiore*

violin Regula Scheidegger piano Christine Edwards

14'

CHEN and HE *Butterfly Lovers*

violins Zhenquan Hua and Peirong Lin

viola James Dong cello Yi Ding

8'

— REFRESHMENTS —

DOHNÁNYI (1877-1960) *Piano Quintet in C minor Op 1*

Dohnányi Ernő (Ernst von Dohnányi) was born in Pozsony, Kingdom of Hungary, now Bratislava, Slovakia. Until he was eight years old, he studied music with his father, a professor of mathematics and an amateur cellist. At 17 he enrolled in the Royal National Hungarian Academy of Music, now renamed Liszt Academy, studying piano with István Thomán, Liszt's favourite pupil and teacher of Bartók. In 1894, a year later, the 18 year old Dohnányi composed his Opus 1, the piano quintet that you will hear today. Brahms, never known for passing out gratuitous compliments, looked at the quintet, said "I could not have done it better myself", and arranged for the Vienna premiere the next year, where he played the piano part.

The opening *Allegro* begins with a broad, spacious theme, full of expectation and portents of great things to come; the strings then take over and bring the music to its first emotional high. The opening bars of the restless *Scherzo*, is reminiscent of a furiant, a Czech dance of the kind Dvořák often employed; the lovely trio has a vocal quality to it. In the *Adagio quasi andante* the presentation of the entire main theme is entrusted to the viola alone with a soft piano accompaniment in the background; it has an elegiac mood, with a sense of farewell. The imaginative finale *Allegro animato* is rich in ideas; the opening theme in 5/4 bursts forth in a triumphant fashion; the waltz-like second theme is introduced by the cello; out of this, Dohnányi creates a fugue—but this is not a dry, academic ordinary fugue but a beautiful lyrical one.

HAYDN (1732 – 1809) *String Quartet in C Major Op 76 No 3* *Hob.III:77*

Franz Joseph Haydn was an Austrian composer of the classical period. He was instrumental in the development of chamber music such as the string quartet and piano trio. His contributions to musical form have led him to be called "Father of the String Quartet". From its beginning the work has always been popular. It is a golden piece of music often performed in many countries including Australia.

The nickname "Emperor" is so called probably because the second movement is a theme and variations on what was at the time the anthem of the Austrian empire, which included adjacent states: God, Protect our Emperor Franz (Gott erhalte Franz, den Kaiser).

MOZART (1756-1791) *Sonata for Piano and Violin in G major K301*

In 1778, the 22 year-old Mozart and his mother left Salzburg and set out on a long journey which culminated in Paris. Mozart was searching for new employment. He had become restless in his post as Concertmaster to the Salzburg Court, a title that he had held since age 13. Mozart found his native Salzburg to be provincial and artistically stifling. He was paid a low salary, and there was little call for him to write operas.

The trip opened Mozart's ears to exciting new musical possibilities. In Munich, he heard a set of violin sonatas by Joseph Schuster (1748–1812) and sent copies of the scores home, writing to his sister, Nannerl, "I have often played them here; they are by no means bad. If I remain

long enough, I intend to compose six in this style, for it is much liked here.” Mozart travelled on to Mannheim, a hotbed of musical innovation at the time. Here, he began work on a set of violin sonatas modelled after Schuster’s. Although Mozart had already written more than 300 works in Salzburg, he chose to publish the Sonatas in Paris as “Opus 1.”

This sonata is one of several that are in two movements only. It is exceptional in having two Allegros - there is no slow movement. The second of allegro is a graceful waltz-like piece in a simple ternary design, with a central episode in the minor whose siciliano-like melody is entrusted entirely to the violin. The reprise follows the plan of the opening section exactly, but Mozart adds a little coda which brings the sonata to a close of considerable charm.

CHEN (1935 -) and HE (1933 -) *Butterfly Lovers*

The Butterfly Lovers arranged for String Quartet utilises some traditional Chinese techniques and styles to create a sound world suitable for its story. Among them are the use of melodies from Chinese folk songs and from a well-known Chinese opera version of the Butterfly Lovers story.

Across the music story we can feel Zhu and Liang meeting in childhood, attending school together, and growing closer. The story turns tragic as Zhu is betrothed to another man. Later Liang is depressed, becomes ill, and dies. On the way to Zhu’s wedding ceremony the welcome team passed Liang’s tomb and are hindered by a sudden strong wind. Zhu enters the tomb, which collapses crushing her to death. The story ends with the lovers’ spirits emerging as butterflies.

concert organiser George Carrard
light refreshments (wine, juice, fruit, savouries)
\$15 admission, \$10 concession/seniors

Next concert: Sunday 7 July. Please check acms-australia.org/index.php/concerts for details when available, or go to acms-australia.org and click on the tabs.

All chamber music players are welcome to join the Amateur Chamber Music Society. Visit acms-australia.org for more information.

Amateur Chamber Music Society

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

Two Chamber Music Concerts in May 2024

3 pm Sunday 19 May at 16 Fitzroy St
Kirribilli

5 pm Sat 25 May at the Presbyterian
Church, 7 Campbell St, Balmain

