

Mon 29th August 2011
Immediate Release

Youth Orchestra in fine voice

Adelaide Youth Orchestra's final Maestro Series program for the year is a showcase for the mastery of voice. Featuring acclaimed young tenor Robert Macfarlane performing the world premiere of a new song cycle by Calvin Bowman and the overture from Rossini's much-loved *The Barber of Seville*, the September 25th concert will be a magnificent evening of symphonic music at Elder Hall.

In its 10th anniversary year, AdYO is proud to have made its first commission thanks to Ars Musica Australis – under the auspices of Father Arthur Bridge AM. Ars Musica supports talented young Australians through a variety of programs including music commissions. In this case, they have funded the commission of a song cycle by renowned Australian composer Calvin Bowman for the Adelaide Youth Orchestra. It is the first time a South Australian arts organisation has received support and the first commission in Australia for a youth orchestra. *The Purple of Heaven* is a song cycle written especially for tenor Robert Macfarlane and string orchestra, and based on texts by John Shaw Neilson. Macfarlane is one of the rising-star tenors in Australia. He is regularly heard in recital and in operatic roles with State Opera of SA, and is a noted exponent of new music.

The orchestra will also perform Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5* - a rich, moving work – one that was said to have simultaneously redeemed audiences and the composer himself. Written in 1937, *Symphony No. 5* is attributed with saving Shostakovich from certain peril; having previously been denounced by the all-powerful Joseph Stalin. As a symphonic work it has been recorded by all the great orchestras internationally and presents a fantastic challenge to a youth orchestra, with its typically complex patterns and different moods.

Maestro Series 3: Mastersinger

Rossini: *The Barber of Seville: Overture*

Calvin Bowman: *The Purple of Heaven** (world premiere)

Shostakovich: *Symphony No. 5*

* *The Purple of Heaven* commissioned for the Adelaide Youth Orchestra by Ars Musica Australis

Adelaide Youth Orchestra

Keith Crellin, Conductor

Robert Macfarlane, Tenor

Sunday 25 September 2011, 6.30pm

Elder Hall

Tickets: Adult \$25, Concession \$20, Student \$10, Group (8+) \$22, Family \$60

Book at BASS (131 246) or www.bass.net.au

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Media contact

Principal Partner

Maestro Series
Principal Partner



Sidonie Henbest
M: 0416 454 466
E: sidonie@felicitypublicity.com
W: www.felicitypublicity.com





Robert Macfarlane, tenor

Tenor Robert Macfarlane completed a Bachelor of Music in December 2006 (with High Distinction in Voice Performance) and graduated with First-class Honours in December 2007 from the Elder Conservatorium at the University of Adelaide in South Australia. He studied under the head of vocal studies Keith Hempton. He has also been awarded a Helpmann Optus Mentorship to study with soprano Merlyn Quaife in Melbourne, a George Boland Scholarship to study with Howard Crook in Paris and continues studies in Adelaide with Mezzo-Soprano Cheryl Pickering. Robert has participated in Masterclasses and private lessons with many distinguished singers, teachers and répétiteurs including Margreet Honig, Jeanette Favaro-Reuter, Martin Petzold, Simon O'Neill, Teddy Tahu Rhodes, Roy Howat, David Hamilton, Ralf Ernst, Kenneth Griffiths, Phillip Moll and David Harper. He also studied and performed in recital with pianist Malcolm Martineau during his Adelaide residency in 2008 which was recorded by ABC Classic FM. Robert will continue intensive German and Italian language study at the University of Adelaide this year. Robert recently won the 3rd Annual Royal

Melbourne Philharmonic Aria competition for oratorio singing. 2011 sees Robert perform the Evangelist in the St. Matthew and St. John Passion of J.S Bach in Melbourne and Adelaide and performances with iOpera in Melbourne and State Opera of South Australia.

Robert has performed principal operatic roles with State Opera of South Australia, Pinchgut Opera (Sydney), Co-Opera and Lyric Opera of Melbourne, in repertoire including Ferrando in *Così fan Tutte* and Count Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville*. A dedicated recitalist, he has performed Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin* and *Winterreise*, Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, Britten's *Michelangelo Sonnets*, Faure's *La Bonne Chanson* and Poulenc's *Tel Jour Telle Nuit* with pianists Leigh Harrold and Emily Kilpatrick in Australia and the UK, with several broadcasts on ABC Classic FM. He is known nationally as an interpreter of Bach, particularly the Evangelist's in the St. John and St. Matthew Passions, and received the 2008 and 2009 Bach scholarship from St. John's Southgate in Melbourne, enabling his performances in St. John's presentation of the complete Bach Cantatas in their liturgical context. He also performed the Evangelist in the Australian premiere of CPE Bach's St. Matthew Passion with the Trinity College Choir, Melbourne, in 2010. Other concert repertoire includes Benjamin Britten's *Serenade* and *Les Illuminations*, Handel's *Music for the Carmelites*, *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem* Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Pärt's *Miserere*, Stainer's *The Crucifixion*, Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* and Vaughan Williams' *On Wenlock Edge*. A noted exponent of new music, he has premiered works by Quentin Grant and Graham Dudley for the Firm, and has given Australian premieres of works by Wolfgang Fortner, Alexander Goehr and Alec Roth, mostly as part of the new music ensemble Duo Trystero, with guitarist Aleksandr Tsiboulski.

Media contact

Calvin Bowman, composer

Described variously as “*a uniquely talented musician*” (Philip Glass), “*one of the finest musical minds this country has produced*” (Graham Abbott), and “*truly gifted*” (Ezra Laderman), Calvin Bowman is currently Senior Lecturer and University Organist at the Australian National University and Associate Artistic Director of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. His principal teachers have included John O'Donnell and Thomas Murray, organ; Donald Thornton, piano; Davitt Moroney, harpsichord; and Graeme Koehne and Ezra Laderman, composition. He has also attended masterclasses in Europe and the United States with Marie-Claire Alain, Michael Radulescu, Jean-Claude Zehnder, Gillian Weir and Thomas Trotter.

Dr Bowman has presented the complete Bach organ works twice in public, once in 1995 and then again in 2009 for the Melbourne International Festival when he performed them in a single seventeen hour sitting. For the latter feat he was nominated for a Helpmann Award in the “Best Individual Classical Music Performance” category. In 2001, he was granted the privilege of re-opening the Melbourne Town Hall organ following its multi-million dollar restoration by presenting the world premiere performance of “Voices” by Philip Glass in the composer’s presence. He has also appeared as keyboard soloist with many Australian orchestras including Orchestra Victoria and the Melbourne, West Australian and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras. His organ recordings have met with widespread critical acclaim and been featured in publications such as the Gramophone Good CD Guide.

Dr Bowman’s compositional skills have been recognised with the awarding of a prestigious Australia Council Fellowship for 2008-9. His artsongs have been lauded by Barbara Bonney as “*very beautiful and well written,*” and he has been described as “*the finest exponent of artsong composition we have in Australia*” (Richard Mills). He is a laureate of the Ned Rorem Award for Song Composition, the Diana Barnhart American Song Competition, and the English Poetry and Song Society Artsong Award. His works have been performed by ensembles and soloists such as The Amadeus Orchestra (UK), Linda Larson and Arlene Goter (USA), The Song Company, Genevieve Lacey, Jeffrey Crellin, Antoinette Halloran, Australia Pro Arte, and the Flinders Quartet. He has been commissioned by organisations such as the Australia Council, Ars Musica Australis, and Symphony Australia, as well as by many individuals and ensembles. Recent commissions include a Harp Concerto for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, a children’s opera for the National Boys’ Choir, and a Piano Trio for the Freshwater Trio. In September 2008 Emma Matthews recorded one of his songs with the Monte Carlo Philharmonic for Deutsche Grammophon, and in late 2009 Sir Neville Marriner conducted two performances of his song cycle “*I would sing a little while*” with Jacqueline Porter and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. Sir Neville described the work as “*an absolute gem of twenty-first century imagination*”.

Dr Bowman is a graduate of The University of Melbourne, and was the first Australian to graduate with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University with the assistance of a Fulbright scholarship.

Calvin Bowman is a member of Australian Mensa and a life member of The Australian Fulbright Association.

Media contact

Keith Crellin OAM

Artistic Director and Conductor, Adelaide Youth Orchestra

In 1972 Keith Crellin became the first violist to win the ABC Young Performers Award, rapidly establishing himself as one of Australia's leading soloists and chamber music players.

He helped form the Rialannah String quartet, performed with the Petra String Quartet and was a regular member of the Australian Contemporary Music Ensemble. In 1985 he became a founding member of the Australian String Quartet based in Adelaide and during the next 16 years toured widely, performing internationally and making numerous recordings with this acclaimed ensemble.

Today as Associate Professor and head of the String Department and conductor in residence at the Elder Conservatorium of Music at The University of Adelaide, Keith is committed to the music education of young people, dividing his time between teaching, performing and conducting.

He has been a conductor of the Australian Youth Orchestra, tutor with the Australian Youth Orchestra Young Australian Concert Artists program and participated in many National Music Camps as tutor and conductor. In 2003 he was appointed artistic director and conductor of the Adelaide Youth Orchestra, and since has introduced hundreds of young South Australians to the pleasures of orchestral music and the excitement of performance. In 2004 he was awarded the University of Adelaide's Stephen Cole prize for excellence in teaching and in 2008 the Order of Australia for his contribution to music and education.

Keith's own music education included studying violin with Gretchen Schieblich and Ladislav Jasek at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, before completing his tertiary studies at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music under noted pedagogue Professor Jan Sedivka.

Subsequently Keith was appointed lecturer in viola and chamber music at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music, director and principal conductor of the Conservatorium orchestra and artistic director and chief conductor of the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra. In 2006 he was appointed Adjunct Professor in Strings and Chamber Music at the Tasmanian University. He has conducted concerts and recordings with the Tasmanian and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras.

Adelaide Youth Orchestras – WE ARE

Founded in 2001, Adelaide Youth Orchestras is now 10! with plenty to celebrate... over 1,500 students have been part of our programs, we've presented 150 plus concerts ... new works have been commissioned and premiered ... and we're now a central part of Adelaide's youth arts scene. Adventurous, youthful and wise, we now look forward to our next 10 years!

Adelaide Youth Orchestra: an 80 piece orchestra of SA's most talented young musicians, conducted by AdYO Artistic Director, Keith Crellin. This is the orchestra you'll hear at our Maestro Series concerts.

Adelaide Youth Sinfonia: an 80 piece orchestra of high school aged, gifted young musicians being nurtured to become potential members of AdYO, conducted by ASO principal horn, Philip Paine.

Adelaide Youth Strings: a 40 piece string orchestra of enthusiastic primary school aged string players who in a fun and rewarding way learn ensemble and life-skills while playing classical, folk and popular works, conducted by ASO violist, Martin Butler.

Media contact