
Beauty and the Brass

Monday 7 March | 6pm, Salon

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre and Australian Baroque Brass

Artist/s

Australian Baroque Brass

John Foster, Artistic Director, Baroque trumpet and cornetto

Anna Sandström, soprano

David Drury, organ

Matthew Manchester, cornetto

Roslyn Jorgensen, sackbutt

Program

Johann Heinrich Schmelzer (1623-1680)

Sonata à 3 in D major

Biagio Marini (1594-1663)

Sonate da Symphonie (Venetia 1628)

George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

'Let the Bright Seraphim' from *Samson*

Christian Erbach (1568-1635)

Canzon à 4, *del quarto tono*

Daniel Purcell (1664 - 1717)

'Trumpet Song' from *Masseniello*

Handel

'Lascia ch'io pianga' from *Rinaldo*

Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne (Eternal Source of Light Divine)

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1634)

Lamento della Ninfa, SV 163

About the Music

During the peak of his career, Johann Heinrich Schmelzer enjoyed considerable fame as both a violinist and composer with one of his most substantial contributions being his 'Sonatae unarum fidium' which was the first collection of sonatas for violin and basso continuo to be published by a German-speaking composer. It contains the brilliant virtuosity, sectional structure, and lengthy ground-bass variations typical of the mid-Baroque violin sonata. All of the above-mentioned musical features are apparent in the work presented today, however with the addition of two other solo voices.

Biagio Marini may have been the first professional violin virtuoso, and he was an early Baroque composer of great skill and harmonic daring. Although he wrote vocal music, his instrumental music was justly famous and represents the most advanced writing of its type for the time, insofar as playing technique is concerned. His early works entailed sinfonias and sonata, although there is no clear definition between the two forms, but his later music there has clearly developed a difference: He was one of the first to develop a clear type of "solo" writing for instruments and to promote the format of solo and accompaniment.

Overshadowed by his more famous brother Henry, Daniel Purcell was nevertheless an important composer whose works include cantatas, odes, anthems, and incidental music for plays. Born in London, Purcell became organist of Magdalen College, Oxford around 1690. His instrumental compositions, published around 1710, include trio sonatas and sonatas for recorder, as well as works for other instruments. In 1713, Purcell published a collection of Italian cantatas with English texts. Alongside the celebrated stage and sacred works of Monteverdi, he also published several collections of songs and madrigals. Of these the 'Lament of Arianna' and 'Lamento Della Ninfa' are worthy of mention. The performance of 'Lamento Della Ninfa' today shows the three male voice parts being juxtaposed by cornetti and sackbut, which allows these instruments to show their vocal qualities and ability to blend with the human voice.

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About the Artists

Founded in 2003, the Australian Baroque Brass (ABB) is renowned as one of Australia's finest early music ensembles. Under the artistic directorship of baroque trumpeter and scholar John Foster, the ensemble has pioneered the use of period brass instruments in Australia. The ABB more recently, in addition to being 'Artists in Residence' at St James' Church (Sydney), has performed at numerous music festivals and concert series both throughout this country and abroad. In 2008 ABB made its first tour of the USA, performing extensively throughout the United States. In 2010, Australian Baroque Brass made a world premiere recording of 'The Voyage' by composer Graeme Koehne which was broadcast live at the ANZAC Day dawn service in Gallipoli (Turkey) before an audience of tens of thousands.

In 2011 Australian Baroque Brass also made their debut performance in the United Kingdom performing at the Petworth Festival in Sussex. Australian Baroque Brass has also collaborated with many other well-known artists and ensembles, such as, Paul McCreesh, Crispian Steele-Perkins, Sara Macliver, Michael Laird, The Song Company, Ironwood Ensemble, the Adelaide Chamber Choir, the Choir of St James', The Choir of St Mary's Cathedral (Sydney), the Choir of Christchurch St Lawrence, Baroque Brass of London, the Sydney Consort, Sydney Bach Choir, Polyphonic Voices, Voices New Zealand, and the Academy of St James'.

ABB has recorded extensively for broadcast on ABC Classic FM, 2MBS and numerous other radio and television stations, and has recorded the first three albums in the 'Music of a Golden Age' series (Tubicum Records) to much acclaim. ABB also performs annual orchestral masses at St James' Church in Sydney.

To find out more about Australian Baroque Brass and its members, please visit baroquebrass.com

For more information on Artistic Director John Foster, please visit johnfostertrumpet.com

About the *Spotlight* series

Spotlight celebrates the compelling musical dynamic that exists between just musicians and their instruments. Each musician, artist or ensemble that performs as part of the Spotlight series shares a uniquely intimate and virtuosic perspective on the music they perform in the sublime acoustic of the Salon. This series is supported by The Robert Salzer Foundation.

To view all upcoming events as part of the *Spotlight* series, please visit melbournerecital.com.au/spotlight

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