

Inventi Ensemble

# Homage to the Classics

Monday 23 May 2pm & 6pm, Salon

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre and Inventi Ensemble

L O C A L  
H E R O E S

## ARTISTS

*Inventi Ensemble*

Melissa Doecke, flute

Ben Opie, oboe

Lynette Rayner, violin

Phoebe Green, viola

Blair Harris, cello

## PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Flute Quartet in D, K.285

I *Allegro*

II *Adagio*

III *Rondeau*

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Phantasy Quartet for Oboe and Strings, Op.2

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Symphony No.1 in D 'Classical' (arr. Inventi Ensemble)\*

I *Allegro*

II *Larghetto*

III *Gavotta*

IV *Molto Vivace*

\*This work is under consideration for the Contemporary Masters Performance Award 2015, generously supported by pianist Stephen McIntyre AM and friends who established the award in honour of Stephen's birthday.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

*A Q&A with Inventi Ensemble:*

**Mozart, Britten, and Prokofiev - it's quite a specific selection. Can you talk us through how they're related and why you chose to work them into one epic performance?**

We wanted to feature well known composers in this concert who forged their own paths in composition and were at the forefront of music creation at their time. Inventi Ensemble strives for that in all our musical performances and we wanted to use this concert to pay tribute to those trailblazers of the past! Mozart, Britten and Prokofiev are all exemplary composers who fit that category well. We also wanted to link the instrumentation of flute, oboe and strings and that culminates in our new Prokofiev arrangement which ties the whole program together. This concert is the first of two that we are performing this year at Melbourne Recital Centre. The second concert, August 13, is titled East meets West and features the other end of the spectrum - contemporary music from Asia, Europe and the US for flute, oboe, harp and percussion, with all works written in the last 45 years. The series as a whole connects Inventi's passion for re-inventing classics alongside performing the new.

**Mozart apparently didn't like writing for the flute. Why choose this quartet?**

Mozart received a commission in 1777 from a Dutch amateur flautist to write two flute concertos and a couple of easy flute quartets. At age 21, recently enamoured with a new girl - Aloisia Weber - and having too much fun in Vienna at Christmas time, Mozart wrote all the works in a month, but never quite finished the commission and was only paid half the fee. His lack of enthusiasm in writing for the flute largely reflects

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his enthusiasm for these other pursuits in life at the time! This Flute Quartet in D was the first one written - finished Christmas Day - and shows a distinct flair and artistry in the flute writing, and a lot of cheeky Mozart wit and exuberance for life.

### What is special and unique about Britten's Phantasy Quartet?

Britten wrote this piece when he was only 19 years old. He was studying at the Royal College of Music at the time and was quite frustrated there, saying '*my musical education was perhaps more outside the college than in it*'. The feelings were mutual from the other side. One of his professors was known to have said he didn't think it was decent that an English public schoolboy of Britten's age should be writing that kind of music. You'll hear what he meant by *that kind of music* in this concert! It is incredibly complex and exciting and dramatic.

### Why reinvent Prokofiev's 'Classical' Symphony?"

It is an ambitious idea! Inventi's co-artistic director Ben Opie has been responsible for most of the arranging, and it's mostly like putting together a puzzle. The question is how to keep the essence of the original when you're reduced to five players? The result is that we're all a lot busier! It's a challenge, but the result is fascinating and provides us with a unique extra insight into the original work. This particular symphony is Prokofiev's own homage to the classical style and, with that simplistic elegance in the instrumentation and forces used in his original, seemed best suited to adapt for our quintet.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Splashing onto the Australian music scene in early 2014, **Inventi Ensemble** have performed as part of Melbourne Knowledge Week, Melbourne Music Week, Melbourne Children's Week, the Alice Desert Festival in Alice Springs and toured South Australia. They currently present 3 different monthly music series around Melbourne, run twice-weekly interactive music programmes in Melbourne's Immigration Detention Centres, and present interactive concerts for organisations such as Vision Australia and Probus Clubs. Their recent highlights include performances at Ngeringa Cultural Arts Centre, Bendigo International Festival of Exploratory Music, Lyrebird Music Society and the Melbourne Recital Centre 'Local Heroes' series.

Defying stereotypes, Inventi are equally at home premiering works at a new music festival, performing in Australia's finest concert halls and chamber music series, alongside playing Bach from a 3-tonne truck in a pop-up venue, and introducing new Australian music to young children in a library storytime project. Passionate about regularly performing Australian music, Inventi have commissioned new music and premiered works by the following composers: Luke Styles, Melody Eotvos, Mark Gaydon, Nikki Edgar and Edwin Roxburgh. In addition to this they include as many repeat performances of Australian music as possible into their repertoire such as Elena Kats-Chernin, Melody Eotvos, Luke Styles, Mark Isaacs, Ross Edwards, Michal Rosiak and more. Inventi Ensemble is an exciting new voice in Australian music.

## NEXT CONCERT

### East to West

Monday 15 August 6pm, Salon

Join Inventi Ensemble on a journey from East to West and experience new perspectives when traditions from the East collide with western classical music.

For more information and tickets, please visit [melbournerecital.com.au/heroes](http://melbournerecital.com.au/heroes)

## ABOUT LOCAL HEROES 2016

Local Heroes is the easiest way to rediscover your love of chamber music or take delight in experiencing it for the first time. From strings to piano, early music to contemporary, art song to tango, there's something for every musical taste. This year *Local Heroes* showcases 19 acclaimed ensembles in 44 concerts in the award-winning acoustics of Melbourne Recital Centre's Salon and Elisabeth Murdoch Hall. Want to get to know the artists and learn more about the music they love to perform? Visit [localheroes.melbourne](http://localheroes.melbourne) to discover more.



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