

# Master Class with Midori

Monday 27 June 6pm, Elisabeth Murdoch Hall  
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

*This master class and Midori's performance is  
supported by Eva Besen AO & Marc Besen AC*

## ARTIST

**Midori** violin

## MASTER CLASS PARTICIPANTS

**Lawrence Lee** violin  
**Siang Ching Ngu** piano

**Tim Yu** violin  
**Elena Mogilevski** piano

**Harry Bennetts** violin  
**Laurence Matheson** piano

## REPERTOIRE

**PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY** (1840-1893)  
Violin Concerto in D, Op.35  
*I Allegro moderato–Moderato assai*

**MAURICE RAVEL** (1875-1937)  
Violin Sonata No.2  
*I Allegretto*  
*II Blues: Moderato*

**JEAN SIBELIUS** (1865-1957)  
Violin Concerto in D minor, Op.47  
*I Allegro moderato*

## ABOUT MIDORI

Midori is one of the most legendary violinists of this generation. In addition to performing at the highest levels internationally, she has also been recognised by the United Nations and the World Economic Forum for her exceptional commitment to education and community engagement throughout the USA, Europe, Asia and the developing world. More recently, Midori has been making a sustained commitment to the violin repertoire of the future, commissioning several new concerto and recital works.

In the last few seasons, Midori has added several new recordings to her extensive catalogue of discs - a recording of Bach's complete Solo Sonatas and Partitas and a forthcoming release of the violin concerto DoReMi written for her by Peter Eötvös and recorded with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. In 2014, a recording featuring Midori's performance of Hindemith's Violin Concerto with NDR Symphony Orchestra and Christoph Eschenbach won a Grammy Award for Best Classical Compendium.

Midori is recognised as an extraordinary performer, a devoted and gifted educator and an innovative community engagement activist. In 1992 she founded Midori & Friends, a non-profit organisation in New York which brings music education programmes to underserved New York City schoolchildren in every borough each year. Two other organisations, Music Sharing, based in Japan, and Partners in Performance, based in the U.S., also bring music closer to the lives of people who may not otherwise have involvement with the arts. Her commitment to community collaboration and outreach is further realised in her Orchestra Residences Program. In 2007, she was named a Messenger of Peace by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Midori was born in Osaka, Japan in 1971 and began studying the violin with her mother, Setsu Goto, at an early age. Zubin Mehta first heard Midori play in 1982 and it was he who invited her to make her now legendary debut - at the age of 11 - in the New York Philharmonic's traditional New Year's Eve concert, on which occasion she received a standing ovation and the impetus to begin a major career. Today Midori lives in Los Angeles, where, in addition to her many commitments, she continues her position as Distinguished Professor of Violin and Jascha Heifetz Chair at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music.

Midori's violin is the 1734 Guarnerius del Gesù 'ex-Huberman.' She uses three bows - two by Dominique Peccatte, and one by Paul Siefried.

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## ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

**Lawrence Lee** took an interest in music at a very young age which prompted him to start learning the violin at the age of 4. This interest carried him to achieve his Licentiate from Trinity College London (LTCL) in violin performance at the age of 16 thanks to the guidance and mentorship of his teachers; Judy Vasek and Margaret Blades. Since 2008, Lawrence has been heavily involved in various Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO) programs and was fortunate to be part of the 2013 AYO European Tour, where he performed with Joshua Bell and Christoph Eschenbach. In 2015, Lawrence was very honoured to be made concertmaster of the AYO, and is very excited to accept this role again for the 2016 AYO International Tour of Europe and China with Manfred Honeck and Hélène Grimaud, which commences in just a few weeks' time. Lawrence is also a casual violinist with both the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) and West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO); and was privileged to be part of WASO's very successful Beethoven Festival in 2014 under the baton of Asher Fisch. Presently, Lawrence is in his 6th and final year of a double law and commerce at the University of Western Australia where he is undertaking his honours in law. Lawrence would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the generosity and support of the Klein Family Foundation in the pursuit of his musical endeavours.

**Tim Yu**, aged 18, started the violin when he was 5. He was admitted into the Australian National Academy of Music junior program when he was 8, and began lessons with the Head of Strings, Alice Waten, before becoming a student of MSO violinist Mark Mogilevski in 2009. He received his L.Mus.A in 2011, was awarded the Paul McDermott Violin Scholarship in 2012 and achieved a perfect score in VCE Music Performance, receiving the Premier's Award in 2015.

**Harry Bennetts** began the violin at the age of 4, and in his first years studied with Christopher Kimber, Philippa Paige and Mark Mogilevski. He is currently a student at the Australian National Academy of Music studying under Dr Robin Wilson. In 2015 Harry won the Kendall National Violin Competition and the Australian National Academy of Music concerto competition. He also performed the Sibelius violin concerto with the Maroondah Symphony Orchestra and toured with the Australian Chamber Orchestra's ACO2 as an Emerging Artist. He has performed in master classes with Boris Kuschmir, Christian Tetzlaff, Pinchas Zukerman, Lawrence Power and Alexander Sitkovetsky. During his time at Melbourne University, Harry held the Corrina d'Hage Mayer strings scholarship, the Brunner scholarship for excellence, Kate Flowers memorial scholarship and the CD Hume violin scholarship. Harry is an enthusiastic chamber musician, winning the ANAM chamber music competition with the affinity collective string quartet in 2015. In 2016 he toured with members of his quartet to Europe to attend the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove and to undertake tuition with members of the Doric, Belcea, Kuss, Brodsky and Noga string quartets, while also giving several performances.

## ABOUT THE MASTER CLASS LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Supporting the development of Australian artists is a key goal of Melbourne Recital Centre, with particular emphasis on providing opportunities for serious music students and emerging young artists. These young musicians tell us that the opportunity to meet and learn through master classes greatly improves their personal development. The audience members who attend suggest that master classes, at times, can be even more revelatory than concerts.

In 2011, the Centre hosted its first master class with Lang Lang and many other wonderful sessions have followed, led by musical luminaries including Jordi Savall, Susan Bullock, Joanna Macgregor, Maxim Rysanov and Amanda McBroom, impacting over 50 young artists and over 500 attendees. The participants include students from Melbourne's tertiary music institutions, including the Australian Academy of Music (ANAM) and the Melba Opera Trust. Students are also invited to watch.

The Master Class Leadership Circle was initiated to encourage individuals with a passion for this particular form of artist development to join with like-minded supporters to expand the program. This year, the Circle has been further strengthened by the opportunity to give collectively through Ensemble Giovane. This is a group of donors whose gifts are pooled to fund a master class each year. With their help and that of our other generous Master Class Leadership Circle supporters, the Centre will provide five master classes with Great Performers in 2016.

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