

The Emmerson-Lifschitz Duo
THE GREAT ROMANTIC

Monday 14 November 6pm | Salon

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre and The Emmerson-Lifschitz Duo

ARTISTS

Sonya Lifschitz, piano

Stephen Emmerson, piano

PROGRAM

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

The Marriage of Figaro, K.492: Overture

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)

Piano Concerto in D minor, No.1, Op.15 (arr. Brahms for piano four hands)

I. *Maestoso*

II. *Adagio*

III. Rondo: *Allegro non troppo*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Two of Australia's most innovative, imaginative and searching musical voices come together to re-imagine works of the past, re-invent the works of the present, and forge new paths into the future in the genre of two piano ensemble. The duo seeks to explore the theatricality, dramaturgy, and the intimate and intricate dialogue possible between the two instruments.

Stephen Emmerson is one of Australia's most sought after and respected musicians. He studied at The University of Queensland before a Commonwealth Scholarship enabled him to study at New College Oxford where he graduated with a Master of Philosophy in 1983 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1989. As a performer, he studied piano with Pamela Page and Peter Wallfisch. He has been on full-time staff at the Queensland Conservatorium since 1987 where he teaches various music literature and performance-related courses, convenes the Doctor of Musical Arts program and is a member of the Conservatorium Research Centre. As a pianist, he has performed widely around Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific. In addition to solo performances on piano and fortepiano, the focus of his performance career in recent years has been within various chamber ensembles including the Griffith Trio and Dean-Emmerson-Dean. Recordings of his playing in collaboration with a variety of performers have been released by ABC Classics, Move Records, The Anthology of Australian Music on Disc, CPO, Tall Poppies, Contact and Melba.

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Praised by the *New York Times* and *The Age* for her 'dynamic' and 'powerful' performances, Ukrainian-born pianist **Sonya Lifschitz** is internationally recognised as one of Australia's most innovative, creative, and fearless musical voices. During the 2015-16 season, Sonya made her critically acclaimed solo debut in one of New York's most prestigious series, the *BargeMusic*, with other season highlights including performances at the Banff Centre (Canada), Melbourne Recital Centre's *Local Heroes*, *Spotlight*, and *Salon: Solo* series, the Melbourne, Darwin, Port Fairy, and Metropolis Festivals, 3MBS Marathons, and a collaboration between visual artist Angela Cavalieri, iconic Melbourne arts venue fortyfivedownstairs, and Sonya's contemporary ensemble Press, Play, of which she is the co-founder and artistic co-director.

Sonya is increasingly active as a music curator and director, pushing to expand the existing parameters of performance culture and concert experience in Australia. In 2015 she curated, directed, and performed in a critically-acclaimed multi-disciplinary project (*Canzone*) for the Melbourne Festival, working at the intersection of visual art, music, and animated projections. This year, as a Fellow at the Australian National Academy of Music, Sonya directed and performed a large-scale multimedia project featuring all four books of George Crumb's *Makrokosmos*, reflecting her commitment to innovative and creative concert presentation and community engagement.

A fierce advocate for new music, Sonya has commissioned and premiered numerous large-scale works by composers such as Larry Sitsky, Kate Neal, Robert Davidson, Damian Barbeler, Steve Adams, and Anthony Lyons. A passionate collaborator, she performs regularly with her piano duo partners Stephen Emmerson and Therese Milanovic, the Topology ensemble and the Kransky Sisters, and members of the Melbourne Symphony, Queensland Symphony, and Australian Chamber Orchestras. Sonya debuted with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at age 18, performing Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, broadcast on ABC Classic FM and SBS television. She has been a soloist with the Melbourne Symphony, Israel Symphony, John Hopkins Symphony, Western Australia Youth Symphony, Melbourne Symphonia, and Marroondah Symphony orchestras; has performed extensively in Australia, United States, Israel, Switzerland, Italy and England; and has been featured on ABC Classic FM, ABC Radio National, and 3MBS Fine Music stations. A Fulbright Scholar, Sonya studied under the legendary pianist-conductor Leon Fleisher at the Peabody Conservatory of Music (John Hopkins University, USA) and holds a PhD in performance from the University of Melbourne.
sonyalifschitz.com

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Melbourne Recital Centre acknowledges the people of the Kulin nation on whose land this concert is being presented.



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