

MEDIA ALERT

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE PRESENTS

TENEBRAE

Spanish Glories of the 16th Century



Melbourne Recital Centre is the perfect venue to present the highly celebrated **Tenebrae** performing Tomás Luis de Victoria's Requiem Mass for six voices, written in 1603 and published in 1605. This luminous masterpiece has a timeless resonance that speaks to hearers across four centuries.

Under the direction of award-winning conductor Nigel Short this masterpiece is one of a handful of large-scale works which enjoys mainstream appeal in the 21st century. Receiving massive acclaim this performance has been described as 'phenomenal' (*The Times*, U.K.) and 'devastatingly beautiful' (*Gramophone*).

Speaking about the performance, Nigel Short said, 'Victoria and Lobo were both masters of the arts of polyphony, harmony and counterpoint, and the works we're performing on tour are their finest examples. It's wonderful to pick gems from the repertoire and to maintain one of the great European choral traditions.'

'There's something special about the sound of a choir in this space - the music soars and surrounds us in a magical and sublime way,' says Marshall McGuire, Director of Programming.

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'Nigel Short's super musical sensitivity to phrasing and texture illuminates everything ... the endless dovetailing of the musical lines, all within an overall architectural vision, is exquisitely sustained.'
BBC Music Magazine

Tenebrae also performs a selection from Victoria's *Tenebrae Responsories and Lamentations for Holy Saturday*, with the captivating 'Versa est in lactum' by his contemporary Alfonso Lobo. These voices from the golden age of Spanish art speak to us with their humanity and beauty to this day.

ABOUT NIGEL SHORT

Award-winning conductor Nigel Short has built up an enviable reputation for his recording and live performance work with leading orchestras and ensembles across the world. Tenebrae is a dream realised for Nigel. Like many such ideas, the realisation of the dream eventually came about through discussions with like-minded musicians, singers and friends, who together realised the formation of Tenebrae - a combination of talented composers and arrangers, pianists and organists, specialists of jazz and Renaissance, instrumentalists and singers.

'Tenebrae is special. Directed by Nigel Short, these were exemplary performances, lucid, and so commanding it seemed as if singing perfectly in tune was the most natural thing in the world.' *The Guardian* (U.K.)

'... the highly impressive Tenebrae directed by Nigel Short pull out all the vocal stops at the right moments.' *Gramophone* magazine

CONCERT DETAILS

Tenebrae - Spanish Glories of the 16th Century

Monday 20 January 2020, 7.30pm

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (One hour & 40-mins incl. interval)

Tickets from \$64 (\$56 concession)

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

For more information and to book tickets visit: melbournerecital.com.au | 03 9699 3333

INTERVIEW & MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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