

MEDIA ALERT

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE PRESENTS

FREIBURG BAROQUE ORCHESTRA & KRISTIAN BEZUIDENHOUT



Beethoven turns 250 in 2020. Melbourne Recital Centre marks the occasion with a marvellous musical celebration.

Music-lovers all over the world are ready to recognise the birthday of the great maestro. Born in Germany in 1770, Beethoven's music made a profound contribution to the art form, which listeners today remain in awe of. The five piano concertos Beethoven wrote between 1795 and 1809 have been treasured for more than 200 years. Melbourne Recital Centre welcomes **Kristian Bezuidenhout** and **Freiburg Baroque Orchestra** to perform all five over two outstanding evenings.

Marshall McGuire, Director of Programming at Melbourne Recital Centre said:

‘As the world celebrates the birthday of one of the greatest composers, we wanted to find a grand way to contribute to this global celebration. And the combination of Beethoven, this great orchestra, and the world's leading player of fortepiano (the style of piano that Beethoven wrote for), and all his piano concertos (plus a few other pieces) seemed to us a winning partnership. These exclusive Australian performances will be epic - and we hope a great way to launch our year of Beethoven.’

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Kristian Bezuidenhout is one of today's most exciting keyboard artists, equally at home on the fortepiano, piano, harpsichord and modern piano. His partnership with the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra has attracted high praise, and this special event celebrating Beethoven is not to be missed.

Historian writer, historian, music programmer and broadcaster David Garrett said:

'Playing all five concertos in numerical sequence, the concerts will demonstrate how Beethoven's pianos grew in range of notes, and also in projection and richness of sound: an orchestra playing on instruments of the period needn't hold back, as a modern orchestra must, and a player on a modern piano.'

Kristian Bezuidenhout said:

'This is a rare chance to hear this wondrous cycle performed in its entirety at Melbourne Recital Centre by one of the greatest period instrument orchestras on the planet with a piano very similar to those Beethoven would have known intimately. We are greatly honoured to have the chance to share this remarkable music with you in Australia.'

Hear the concertos as Beethoven imagined them, with the Orchestra's standing-setting musicianship set off by Bezuidenhout's 'irrepressible imagination and vitality' (*The Guardian*, U.K.). What better way to celebrate this extraordinary composer's legacy.

These concerts are part of Melbourne Recital Centre's Beethoven 250 Celebrations.

CONCERT DETAILS

The Complete Beethoven Piano Concertos - Freiburg Baroque Orchestra & Kristian Bezuidenhout

Tuesday 10 & Wed 11 March 7.30pm

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall - please visit website for duration and interval details

Tickets from \$99

Two concert packages from \$158.40

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

Supported by Yvonne von Hartel AM, Robert Peck AM, Rachel Peck & Marten Peck of peckvonhartel architects.

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

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