

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

Media Alert

Melbourne Recital Centre presents

A BACH WEEKEND

TWO DAYS OF BACH - THREE GREAT EVENTS!



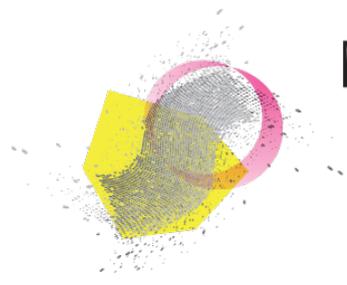
‘To write great music, the musician must make his life a great song ... ceaseless work, analysis, reflection, writing much, endless self-correction, that is my secret.’ J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Every June Melbourne Recital Centre celebrates the disarming genius of Johann Sebastian Bach with a magical, music-filled weekend. On Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 June, three stunning events illuminate the Centre’s Elisabeth Murdoch Hall and Salon with the sounds of his timeless works.

Saturday’s program features pianist Kristian Chong performing virtuoso transcriptions of Bach’s organ music in **Bach & Busoni**, and violinist Rachel Beesley leading some of Australia’s finest Baroque musicians - including flautist Kate Clark - in **The Genius of J.S. Bach**, with the brightest young musicians performing in the ninth **Melbourne Recital Centre Bach Competition** on Sunday.

Kristian Chong has said, ‘Playing Bach and transcriptions of his works is a task that is most certainly challenging, but also highly rewarding. The opening work, the Chromatic Fantasie and Fugue, is wonderfully creative and not what we typically expect of Bach, comprising many delightful surprises and freedoms. It was one of the most popular of Bach’s works in his lifetime.’ He added, ‘This program will fill the Salon with the magic of Bach and the respect of other composers who idolised his work.’

Saturday’s evening concert, **The Genius of J.S. Bach**, includes the Orchestral Suite No.2 in B minor for flute and strings - with its scintillating flute solo - and the intensely dramatic Concerto for violin in A minor. Director **Rachael Beesley** has said, ‘I’m thrilled to have such a fabulous line-up of international musicians to perform this program. The Saturday evening concert combines



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single voices and period instruments to perform Bach's most expressive and soulful works.'

The Genius of J.S. Bach is preceded by a free pre-concert talk at 6.45pm featuring **Kate Clark**. Kate speaks warmly of Bach saying, 'Bach's pragmatism and his modesty - the marks of a true artisan - shine out for me. He has left us a legacy of beautiful, original, perfectly-crafted movements, expressing every imaginable mood.'

On Sunday the ninth **Melbourne Recital Centre Bach Competition** invites you to cheer on talented young musicians as they show their dedication to mastering works by the great composer in sparkingly lively performances.

A Bach Weekend promises to inspire audiences through the passion of the musicians and the many delightful gifts of Bach's music.

CONCERT DETAILS

SATURDAY 16 JUNE

Bach & Busoni

Salon, 4.30pm (One hour, no interval)

Kristian Chong piano

Tickets \$39 (\$29 concession)

Pre-concert talk with Kate Clark

Salon, 6.45pm (30-minutes)

The Genius of J.S. Bach

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, 7.30pm (Two hours incl. interval)

Rachael Beesley director/violin

Kate Clark flute

Myriam Arbouz soprano

Sally-Anne Russell mezzo-soprano

Robert MacFarlane tenor

Christopher Richardson bass-baritone

Grace Wu violin

Bach's Musicians

Tickets from \$45 (\$40 concession)

SUNDAY 17 JUNE

Melbourne Recital Centre Bach Competition

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, 3pm (Two hours & 30-mins incl. interval)

FREE - tickets required

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

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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