

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

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Melbourne Recital Centre Presents



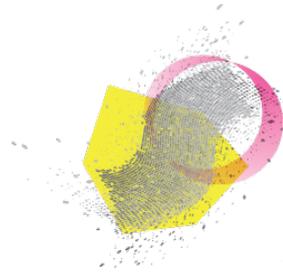
Melbourne, 25 September 2019 - Melbourne Recital Centre celebrates the world's greatest musicians with the 10th season of the highly anticipated concert series *Great Performers*. Featuring eight stellar performances with a focus on solo or duo recital, Melbourne Recital Centre's *Great Performers* concert series is sought after by patrons far and wide in the treasured Elisabeth Murdoch Hall.

Launched today, the 2020 season of *Great Performers* consolidates the series' vital importance as a platform for internationally significant music-making. As critic Eamonn Kelly said, 'Melbourne Recital Centre's *Great Performers* series challenges blinkered thinking, presenting international masters in intimate recital. The series regularly manages programming miracles and demonstrates that global engagement is both possible and preferable.' (*The Australian*)

Celebrating the 10th season of *Great Performers* is an occasion to re-establish relationships with friends of Melbourne Recital Centre and make new ones. Director of Programming Marshall McGuire has curated a program of exquisite music with musicians from Austria, The Philippines, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Canada, U.S.A., Argentina and Germany. *Great Performers 2020* celebrates the piano, the cello, the violin and the voice with the return of baritone Thomas Hampson, a great master singer and good friend of Melbourne Recital Centre who made his debut recital in Elisabeth Murdoch Hall in 2018.

New to the series is Argentinian pianist Ingrid Fliter, renowned for her Chopin performances. Making a return visit is Shanghai-born, Australian-trained charismatic cellist Li-Wei Qin. Superstar violinist Nicola Benedetti (U.K.) presents the Australian premiere of Wynton Marsalis's *Fiddle Dance Suite*. Returning from Germany is violinist Christian Tetzlaff, whose performance at Melbourne Recital Centre in 2015 is still talked about by those who were there as one of the most outstanding musical moments in our 10-year history. We will hear him again, alone on stage, as he plays Bach and Bartók like no one else. From Austria is Elisabeth Leonskaja, a pianist of the great Russian school and musician of mesmerising quality who will dazzle with her performance of Mozart.

The 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth brings many chances to encounter his masterpieces, but



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few will be as compelling as James Ehnes's journey through all of Beethoven's violin sonatas with his regular collaborator Andrew Armstrong.

Director of Programming Marshall McGuire says:

'In 2011 we launched a new series in our new space shining a light on great performers and performances from Australia and the world. And 10 years on we have established the *Great Performers* series as a place where audiences and performers come together to share great music in the intimacy of Elisabeth Murdoch Hall.'

'Many of our great performers come off stage in awe of the listening of the audiences, the intensity of really listening and absorbing the notes and the words. It's a relationship that we hope is as exhilarating for you as it is for the performers.'

'Our line-up for 2020 welcomes back old friends and introduces you to new voices, I find each and every one of them exciting as artists, as musicians, as storytellers, and hope that the variety of music, of styles and of experience that we have programmed for you is a fitting way to celebrate the 10th season of this *Great Performers* series.'

Season packages for *Great Performers* are available now.

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

INTERVIEWS & MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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