

Reawakening 2

AUSTRALIA HOUSE ENSEMBLE



PATRON

**His Excellency, the Hon George Brandis QC,
High Commissioner for Australia in the UK**

Dohnányi Serenade in C Major, Op.10

Naoko Keatley, Morgan Goff, Pei-Jee Ng

Online Concert, May 27th 2021

Programme Notes:

Ernő Dohnányi: Serenade in C major, Op.10

- i. Marcia*
- ii. Romanza*
- iii. Scherzo*
- iv. Tema con variazioni*
- v. Rondo*

Hungarian pianist, composer and conductor Ernő Dohnányi was a central figure in Hungarian musical culture in the decades leading up to World War II. A celebrated pianist and devoted chamber musician, his output of chamber works as a composer was equally fine, and are now part of the standard repertoire, most famously his Piano Quintet No.1 and his Serenade for String Trio, Op.10. Written for violin, viola and cello, the Serenade was composed in 1902 during a concert tour to London and Vienna.

The Serenade is a multi-movement suite and follows a fast-slow alternating form, delivering contrast and an abundance of musical riches. The work begins with a March theme, full of jauntily rhythmic play - this same March appears at the end of final movement and brings the entire work to a close.

The slow Romanza second movement begins gently, the plodding pizzicatos accompanying a lonesome viola melody before the violin and cello passionately burst forth in a brief climax.

The middle movement Scherzo is capricious by nature, built on a recurring motive of descending intervals passed between all three voices in fugato fashion. The Tema con variazioni follows. The chorale-like theme displays great lyricism whilst the five variations explore the material in various guises, the final variant showcasing the tender introversions of the viola's voice.

The Serenade is wrapped up with an exuberant Rondo, with the reprise of the March theme rather abruptly bringing to end a greatly adventurous musical journey.

String trio featuring Australia House Ensemble members:



Naoko Keatley (Violin): Began violin at the age of four and made her first appearance as a soloist with an orchestra at age of eight, playing Bach's Concerto for Two Violins with Henry Pisarek and the Sydney Youth Orchestra. In 2001, Naoko was awarded a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she studied with Diana Cummings and Maurice Hasson. Naoko was a Tillett Trust Young Artist Platform award winner in 2008, and through this made her debut appearance at the Wigmore Hall to great acclaim. As a member of the London Symphony Orchestra, she regularly performs at the Barbican and on tour around the world. She has a busy freelance career and appears regularly as Principal with the Australian World Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra and many other orchestras in the UK. Naoko's recording of the Hindson Violin Concerto with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra can be found on Spotify and other music platforms under her maiden name, Naoko Miyamoto.



Morgan Goff (Viola): Morgan is based in London he works extensively as a Session, chamber and solo violist/Violinist as well as a busy freelance career in the West End. He was the violist of the Kreutzer Quartet for ten years. Morgan also has a busy performing and recording schedule with numerous chamber ensembles in London, including and with recordings, the Locrian Ensemble, the Gavin Bryars Ensemble, the Fiorini Trio, the English Piano Trio, Aurora Orchestra and the London Sinfonietta. Record labels he has recorded for as soloist and chamber musician include Hyperion, Meridian, Naxos NMC, Toccata Classics, Metier, Guild, Dutton Epoch, BMS and ABC classics. Morgan was in the ensemble which performed *This House (Chindamo)* at the Centenary of Australia House in November 2018.



Pei-Jee Ng (Cello): Co-Principal Cellist of the London Philharmonic Orchestra since 2015, Australian Pei-Jee Ng began his studies in Adelaide before moving to the UK to study extensively with Hannah Roberts and Ralph Kirshbaum in Manchester. He completed his studies at the Royal Academy of Music and received the prestigious Queen's Commendation for Excellence. He was the 2001 Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year and won the 2008 Young Concert Artists Trust auditions in London. In addition to the major Australian symphony orchestras, he has performed concertos with the National Taiwan Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Malaysian Philharmonic, Singapore Symphony, Oulu Symphony, Sinfonia VIVA and Estonian National Symphony, and made his debut with the Philharmonia Orchestra at the 2011 Chichester Festivities. As a soloist and recitalist he has performed in venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Centre, Konzerhaus Berlin, Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and Sydney Opera House and appeared in many festivals in the UK, Australia and Europe. A committed chamber musician, Pei-Jee is cellist of the award winning Fournier Trio. His collaboration with pianist Chiao-Ying Chang won them the Libero Lana Prize at the 2011 Trieste International Chamber Music Competition.



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Creating opportunities to promote Australian musicians, singers and composers on the international stage.

**This is the second in a series of three free online concerts:
'Reawakening'**

You can still listen to Reawakening 1 which is an historically informed performance of Schubert's String trio D. 581 performed by Rebecca Chan (violin), Sascha Bota (viola) and guest cellist Brian O'Kane.

Donation requested to support the artists. Book via Eventbrite on the website (click on website link above).

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