

illuminating notes

PUBLICATION FOR THE SUBSCRIBERS, PATRONS AND FRIENDS OF THE WEST AUSTRALIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Join WASO on tour

The West Australian Symphony Orchestra's tour to China in May 2006 is becoming a reality with the planning and preparations in full swing. It will be WASO's first international tour in 22 years and is testament to the Orchestra's increasing success and development. With the 2006 season launched, all eyes have turned to the New Year and the tour will certainly be a highlight.

To celebrate WASO's tour of China, Debrett's Travel Services has designed a fantastic package that will allow supporters of WASO to participate in the historic event. The packages will allow you to see the amazing sights of China, attend exclusive functions with WASO and experience the Orchestra performing in exotic world class venues.

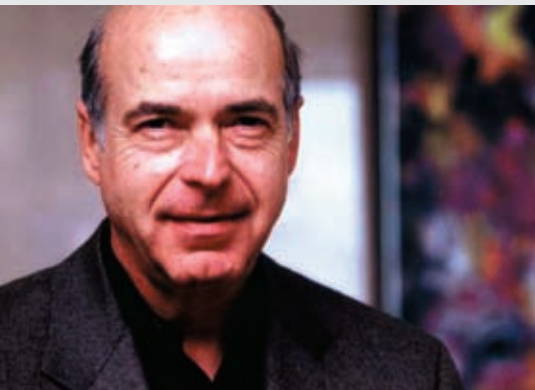
The short program is six nights (8-14 May), starting in Beijing, from \$3550 per person. On your first full day in Beijing, you will visit Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and, that evening, attend the first concert by the Orchestra. Day Two, you will climb the Great Wall of China and visit the Ming Tombs. On Day Three a two hour flight will take you to Shanghai, where you will dine at one of the city's oldest restaurants, Meilongzhen, followed by Shanghai's acrobatic show of jugglers, tumblers and contortionists. In Shanghai you will visit the Jade Buddha Temple, the Bund, Yu Yuan Garden and Shanghai Museum and attend the final WASO concert for this program. The last day will take you to Suzhou, China's Garden City, designated as a World Heritage site in 1997.

The long program starts in Beijing, and runs for 12 nights (8 - 20 May) from \$5050 per person. The long program follows the same itinerary as the short program, and then from Shanghai you will travel to Hangzhou to attend the third orchestral performance. In Hangzhou you will tour the West Lake, one of China's most beautiful sights, as well as the Lingyin Temple. A highlight of this program will be the cruise through the stunning scenery of the Li River to the fascinating town of Yangshuo. From Guilin, you will fly to Guangzhou and enjoy shopping at local markets, visit the Chen Family Temple and the Six Banyan Temple before attending the final WASO performance in China.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and the deadline for interested parties is 15 December 2005. For further information (to make an appointment or receive a brochure), contact Nicole Barbarich on 9386 1155 or email her on nicoleb@debretts.com.au. There has already been a massive response and space is limited.



Message from Matthias



The year has flown by and I think you will agree that it has been an outstanding one for the Orchestra.

I am delighted with the audiences who have filled the Perth Concert Hall to see the Orchestra. The Beethoven Gala concert featuring the London Philharmonic Choir was truly a night to remember, and I was thrilled to conduct such a wonderful work to a full house.

This Beethoven Gala was one of many sold out concerts in the season, which is wonderful to see.

After returning to Perth from two amazing weeks in Japan with the NHK Symphony Orchestra I was able to attend the 2006 season launch at the beautiful Kings Park Function Centre. 2006 promises to be an inspiring year with many highlights. Our concerts will explore a sense of place: spaces evoked by music, and music that has grown out of particular places.

I am also looking forward to the concert season opening Gala performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in February. This concert, which forms a centrepiece of next year's Perth Festival, also includes the highly anticipated world premiere of Brett Dean's *Vexations and Devotions*.

The China tour is particularly exciting. I was there in 2004 and feel thrilled about accompanying the Orchestra on their first international tour in 22 years, to a country that is advancing culturally and economically at an extraordinary rate. For those who will not be travelling with

the Orchestra to China, you will be able to hear some of the music that will be played during our farewell concerts in May.

Some amazing artists will be joining us in 2006 - violinist Vadim Repin, Midori and Nigel Kennedy; pianists Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Stephen Kovacevich; singers Sumi Jo and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. And conductors Edo de Waart, Simone Young and Alexander Lazarev have also agreed to make music with our Orchestra in 2006.

I hope you can join us for an incredible season of music. I am sure that in 2006, "A sense of place..." will capture your imagination.

Matthias Bamert
Chief Conductor

New board member – Bill Bloking

Bill Bloking is the newest addition to the West Australian Symphony Orchestra Board and was first introduced to the WASO early in 2003 when he met then Manager Corporate Development, Keith Venning. Bill provided a great deal of support in the Orchestra's 75th Anniversary fund raising appeal which led to the donation of a Steinway Grand Piano as a major component in BHP Billiton's contribution as a corporate partner in 2003.

The Grand Piano was chosen by acclaimed concert pianist and friend of Matthias Bamert, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, who after trying out 10 similar pianos at the Steinway and Son piano factory in Hamburg, Germany, found the right one for the orchestra. As a result, a superb 2.5 metre hand crafted Steinway D model grand piano was purchased and flown back to Perth.

Subsequently in 2003 Keith Venning and Bill Bloking began to discuss the possibility of an Orchestra tour of China. If the tour could be arranged through the Chinese government Bill Bloking said he would endeavour to gain support for the tour from the North West Shelf Partners. The WASO tour of China in May 2006 is due to substantial funding from the North West Shelf Partners and Bill Bloking's support.

Bill Bloking is President, Australia/Asia Gas for BHP Billiton Petroleum, and has overall accountability for the commercial and gas marketing interests in the North West Shelf and Bass Strait Projects, Coal Bed Methane, and New Gas Ventures such as the Pilbara LNG Project and the Browse LNG Project.

Bill is Chairman of BHP Billiton Petroleum (North West Shelf) Pty Ltd and is also a

Director of BHP Billiton Petroleum (Bass Strait) Pty Ltd and North West Shelf Australia LNG.

He is a Director and National Vice President of the Australia China Business Council and a Director of the Australian Petroleum. He is also a Governor of the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia and a member of the Advisory Boards for the University of Western Australia Futures Foundation and the West Australian Energy Research Alliance.

Prior to joining BHP, Bill spent 24 years with Exxon Corporation, where he held a variety of Engineering, Corporate Planning, Gas and LNG Marketing, and General Management positions. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering (Summa Cum Laude) and is a citizen of both Australia and the USA.

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa

The West Australian Symphony Orchestra's 2006 season begins with a superb special event. One of the world's most beloved artists, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa will join the West Australian Symphony Orchestra under the stars at Lake Karrinyup Country Club on the 28th and 29th January 2006 for the annual Emirates WASO at Lake Karrinyup.



Dame Kiri will begin the WASO season with a sophisticated performance in the elegant surrounds of a new venue, Lake Karrinyup Country Club. The extraordinary talent of Dame Kiri coupled with exquisite food and superb wines make this event a "must see" in January 2006.

Gaining legendary status almost overnight after her sensational debut as the countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 1971, Dame Kiri has gone on to become one of the most famous sopranos in the world. Dame Kiri is a familiar figure in the leading opera houses of the world – Covent Garden, the Metropolitan, Paris Opera and the Vienna State. Her natural serenity and vocal beauty have joined with the world's major orchestral ensembles and appeared at venues including Tanglewood, Hollywood Bowl and the desert outback of Australia.

Dame Kiri's prestigious music career has spanned over 35 years and highlights include attracting one of the largest direct telecast audiences of any singer in history (estimated at over 600 million) as a soloist at the wedding of HRH Prince Charles.

She continues to perform in concert halls and arenas throughout the world and her appearance at Lake Karrinyup will be the first return to Perth in over a decade.

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa will join the WASO in two exclusive Australian concerts for the premier event on Perth's summer concert calendar. Now in its fifth year, the Emirates WASO event is well established and continues to bring world-renowned artists to Perth. Dame Kiri will be performing some of her favourite songs from the world of musicals as well as popular opera classics.

Tickets are on sale now

Corporate Hospitality Packages: (08) 9422 8253 or info@lkcc.com.au

Group Bookings: (08) 9326 0075

Single Tickets: Through WASO on 9326 0000 or www.waso.com.au

The 2006 Emirates WASO at Lake Karrinyup is proudly supported by WASO's Principal Partner Emirates Airline, Lake Karrinyup Country Club, Lotterywest, City of Stirling, Water Corporation and West Australian Opera.

Subscriber Benefits 2006

Use your West Australian Symphony Orchestra subscriber card and take advantage of discounts and special privileges.

All you need to do is show your 2006 WASO Subscriber Card to take advantage of these great deals.

ABC Shops

Receive 10% off any full price purchases in any of the ABC Shops in WA. Phone 9321 6852. (This discount only applies to in-store purchases.)

Black Swan Theatre Company

Receive concession price tickets to all Black Swan Theatre Company productions. Bookings via BOCS 9484 1133.

Luna Cinemas

Purchase movie tickets at the discounted price of \$11.50. Phone 9444 4056.

Musica Viva

Receive a 10% discount off full price tickets to Musica Viva performances. Bookings via BOCS 9484 1133.

Ogden IFC

Receive a 5% discount on food and coffee for pre-show dining at the Perth Concert Hall and His Majesty's Theatre. Phone 9231 9946.

Perth Theatre Company

Receive a 10% discount off standard price tickets to all Perth Theatre Company 2006 productions with the exception of the His Majesty's Theatre co-production. Bookings via BOCS 9484 1133.

Plan B Financial Services Ltd

Plan B Financial Services offer special discounted rates on financial planning services. Phone 1300 362 082.

West Australian Ballet

Receive a 10% discount off full price tickets for WA Ballet performances. Bookings via BOCS 9484 1133.

West Australian Opera

Receive adult tickets to *Madame Butterfly* and *Nabucco* for the concession price. This offer is not valid on opening or Saturday nights. Bookings via BOCS 9484 1133.

West Australian Youth Music Association

Receive a 10% discount off full price tickets to WA Youth Music Association performances. Bookings on 9421 1566.

Wesley Classics

Receive a 5% discount off full price CD purchases in-store or online at www.wesleyclassics.com.au.

Graham Abbott

Presenter *Keys to Music*,
Saturdays 9.05am
on ABC Classic 97.7FM



From then to now...

Graham studied Music Education at the Sydney Conservatorium in the late 1970s and then spent five years as a full-time high school Music and English teacher in the early 1980s. In 1985 he won the ABC/Willem van Otterloo Conducting Scholarship and studied with Myer Fredman. He began his professional conducting career in 1986.

Between 1986 and 1992 Graham made Adelaide his home where he was Conductor-in-Residence at Adelaide University and Musical Director of the Adelaide Chorus. In 1993 Graham moved to Melbourne to become Associate Conductor of the MSO and Musical Director of the Melbourne Chorale.

After a brief period working in Scotland, Graham returned to live in Adelaide at the start of 1993 in order to make *Keys to Music*, juggling this and freelance professional conducting work. "They fight all the time so I'm not sure which one comes out on top! Long may it be so, I guess. I'm in the very fortunate position of having too much work on offer."

* Graham Abbott, conductor and presenter of *Keys to Music*, joins the Orchestra in the Perth Concert Hall for a live recording of three programs for the popular ABC Classic FM series. Learn more about the composers and their music in these three entertaining and informative 60 minute programs under Graham's skilled direction.

About the Program...

Each *Keys To Music* program takes on average three days for Graham to make, from researching the topic and writing the script to recording in-studio. Producer Michael Rogers does all the technical stuff and makes him sound so good! Graham's main aim of the program is to open up classical music for ordinary people; to dispel the myth that music is somehow mysterious or only for a select few.

Favourite composers?

Handel, Bach and Mozart (followed very closely by Haydn, Stravinsky and Britten!)

On audience reaction to the program

"Audiences seem to love it. I get so much correspondence from people who love having music made more accessible. As one listener said: "Thank you for opening up the music we love but didn't know why." My reaction? Working on *Keys to Music* makes me feel like I've died and gone to heaven. I've never had such a fulfilling or mind-expanding job."

When he's not working

"Reading biographies and the occasional novel, in fact anything at all to do with Venice - I go there as often as I can. Good Australian food and wine... from time to time I practise Buddhist meditation techniques."

Keys to Music 1

11.30am, Tuesday 7 February
BERNSTEIN *Candide* Overture
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9
(*Ode to Joy*) Scherzo

Graham Abbott, conductor/presenter

Keys to Music 2

10.00am, Wednesday 12 April
RAVEL Piano Concerto in G

Graham Abbott, conductor/presenter
Ian Munro, piano

Keys to Music 3

11.30am, Wednesday 12 April
COPLAND Four Dance Episodes
from *Rodeo*

Graham Abbott, conductor/presenter

Tickets

\$15.00 (per concert)
\$40.50 (3 concerts)

Bookings through WASO on
9326 0000 or www.waso.com.au



From the President: Friends of WASO Transformed

In October 2004, the Friends of the WASO took a momentous leap in the dark, hoping that we could do more for the Orchestra by reconstituting ourselves as the Patrons and Friends of WASO. Thankfully, the experiment has proved a great success.

Having direct assistance from WASO staff has made it easier for us to keep in touch with developments. It has given us the professional support we needed to improve our publications and membership forms. Working with WASO staff such as James Boyd, Catherine McStravick, and Sarah Gallinagh has been very rewarding.

The launch of our Patrons Program in June raised – within three months – contributions in excess of \$70,000. Because these contributions represent the individual commitments of Patrons, we have every reason to expect that they will be continued in years to come.

Membership of Friends has also bounded ahead, increasing over a period of about two years from 199 to 310. There is still a long way to go to achieve our aspirations, but a very good start has been made.

Thanks to the support of an imaginative Committee and a dedicated corps of office and Friends' Desk volunteers, we put on a range of interesting events. Some of these were traditional favourites such as the annual Christmas party for the WASO and the very popular Tea and Symphony mornings.

We were also able to continue our events celebrating particular sections of the Orchestra. This year we held two such occasions, the first Celebrating Lower Brass and the second Celebrating Double Basses.

Our ability to cater for these events after the demise of the old WASO headquarters at the ABC has been immensely helped by the acquisition of a major sponsor of the Patrons and Friends: The Perth Mint. This was the setting for the Patrons and Friends reception for the London Philharmonic Choir, Celebrating Double Basses, and the Russian Gold promenade concert.

Planning is underway for next year when we hope to Celebrate Horns on the Foreshore and explore connections between Music and Empire at Fairbridge Farm Village in Pinjarra. Watch out for news of these events in future editions of *Illuminating Notes* and our newsletters.

Professor Norman Etherington
Patrons and Friends President

The Patrons and Friends Committee

The Patrons and Friends of the WASO officially took over from the old Friends of the WASO at its first Annual General Meeting in October.

The 'new' Committee elected was almost identical to the 'old' Committee, allowing us to continue the transition from 'Friends' to 'Patrons and Friends'.

In particular, we were able to retain the 2005 President, Professor Norman Etherington, who, with Vice President Max Collins, has been the driving force behind our transition to the new organisation.

Members of the new Committee:

President: Prof. Norman Etherington
Vice President: Mr Max Collins
Hon. Treasurer: Ms Dusty Peck
Hon. Secretary: Mrs Margaret Lalchere

Committee Members

Prof. Fred Affleck
Mrs Diane Brennan
Mr Vin Brennan
Dr Louis Moyser
Mr Chris Thompson

Orchestra Representative:

Miss Louise Sandercock

Co-opted Members:

Mr Eric Lawson
Mr John Isherwood
Ms Charlotte Jennings
Mrs Dianne Martin



Patrons and Friends of the WASO: President Norman Etherington (left), Secretary Margaret Lalchere and Vice President Max Collins.

Join the Friends of the WASO

Demonstrate your support for your Orchestra by joining the Friends of the WASO. As a friend your financial contribution goes directly to the Orchestra. A donation of \$30 (\$45 double) secures your membership of the Friends.

In the past, the Friends of the WASO have made generous contributions to the purchase of instruments and have helped individual members of the orchestra to travel interstate and overseas for special events and study. This continues under our new association with the WASO.

We organise a number of events throughout the year, all of which will bring you closer to the orchestra and the music you love. For example:

Tea and Symphony

Join other classical music lovers at WASO open rehearsals at the Perth Concert Hall. During the break, you can mingle with orchestra members over morning tea. Tea and Symphony mornings are held four times each year.

Meet the Orchestra

Each year special events 'celebrate' sections of the Orchestra. This is an opportunity to meet the members of the horn section, the lower brass, the violas, etc. Learn the part they play in music making, how their instruments work and the special challenges they face.

Help to host special events and visitors

Friends of the WASO help with the organisation of children's concerts, hosting visiting musicians, and other activities.

Participate in special musical occasions

A number of special occasions are held by the Friends every year. Some recent examples were visits to the historic organ at New Norcia and the glittering "Russian

Gold" spectacular at The Perth Mint, held jointly with our sponsor The Perth Mint and the Friends of the Art Gallery.

Join other members in the Patrons and Friends Lounge on concert nights

Friends of the WASO receive a 10% discount at ABC Shops and the opportunity to experience the Orchestra in unique and exciting ways. We invite you to join us as music lovers and supporters of our own West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend phone 9326 0016. You can also talk to members of the Patrons and Friends at our information desk near the entrance to the Perth Concert Hall, or the Friends Lounge at the lower gallery level.

To become a Friend of the WASO, complete the form below and return to:

Patrons and Friends of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, PO Box Y3041, East St Georges Tce, Perth, WA, 6832

with your subscription of Single - \$30 Double - \$45 Youth (13 to 21) or Student (25 and under) - \$10

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Cheque enclosed, or

I wish to pay by Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Card number Expiry Date

Cardholder's name _____ Signature _____

Total \$ _____

Polish influence as friends of WASO meet the double basses

Patrons and Friends of the WASO 'celebrated' the WASO Double Basses at a special function hosted by our sponsor The Perth Mint on 13 September.

More than 50 members gathered to learn more about the double bass and enjoy a recital by four double bass players - Principal Boguslaw Szczepaniak, Andrew Tait, Mark Tooby and Christine Reitzenstein - in the gold pouring room of The Perth Mint. Despite the unusual venue the acoustics were excellent!

The group played a variety of specialist double bass items, ending with a quartet by Daryl Runswick entitled *Strauss in the Doghouse*.

The double bass conference

In August this year Boguslaw Szczepaniak attended the First International Double Bass Festival in the beautiful city of Wroclaw, at the invitation of the Polish Double Bass Society. More than 50 leading double bass players from 15 countries, attended the nine-day conference.

They performed recitals and gave lectures and master classes in one of the most important gatherings of double bass musicians ever held. Boguslaw himself performed the Mozart Bassoon Concerto transcribed for double bass; this was received with great interest because the transcription is rarely heard. He also gave master classes to several talented young double bass players.

"The conference was a great opportunity for me to hear and meet many virtuosos of the double bass. As well as the classical recitals there were also jazz bands featuring outstanding bass players," said Boguslaw.

"During the concerts and master classes I heard many new pieces of double bass music and many new arrangements of

well-known compositions. For example a popular sonata by Henry Eccles was performed with a string quartet instead of piano." Boguslaw performed it at the Friends function - accompanied by Louise Sandercock (violin), John Pokorny (violin), Nik Babic (viola) and Christine Reitzenstein (bass).

Boguslaw was born in southern Poland and began playing the violin at the age of 10, but he changed to the double bass at the age of 14. In 1974 he graduated from the Academy of Music in Warsaw and played with the Warsaw National Philharmonic for several years. This was followed by 18 months in Tehran and two years with the Singapore Symphony. He joined the WASO as Principal Double Bass in 1982 and has been here ever since.

Evolution of the double bass

At the 'Celebrating The Double Basses' gathering Andrew Tait spoke briefly on the history of the double bass and its older cousin the violone.

The violone (derived from the viol family) is a six stringed instrument about three quarters the size of the double bass. It has frets and a very different style of bowing. (Bachs' Brandenburg Concertos were written with the violone in mind.) Violones were used until the 1750s when, in response to the expansion in the size of orchestras the louder double basses began to supersede them.

The double bass and the violone cover a similar register, referred to as the '16 foot' register (being the length of an organ pipe needed to reach the low octaves). Both instruments were used side by side in the orchestras of the 18th century.

The development of both instruments was largely regional, with double basses employing 3,4 or 5 strings and a multitude of tunings. Three stringed double basses were more powerful, though the 5 stringed instruments covered a greater range.

To further complicate matters the term 'violone' was used to cover a wide variety of instruments from huge church basses to small French bass violins. And given that few original early instruments survive, documenting a clear history of either instrument is difficult.

Andrew Tait left the Patrons and Friends gathering to fly to London to collect his new violone (pictured) which he hopes to use with local early music groups and eventually with the orchestra, though initially he plans to play it for the early solo repertoire.



While in England he met the double bass sections of six major London orchestras and spent a week in the workshop of bass maker Roger Dawson, who has seen a huge number of the world's greatest instruments pass through his hands. Needless to say, Andrew is keen to spend more time there.



WASO double basses in the gold pouring room

Patrons and Friends strike gold at The Perth Mint

Russian Gold was the title of one of our most ambitious (and successful) projects, held in October this year, appropriately at the home of our sponsor The Perth Mint.

Organised jointly with our sister organisation the Friends of the Art Gallery, the event celebrated the end of the Gallery's spectacular *St Petersburg 1900* exhibition. A capacity audience of 100 music lovers came to join a 'promenade' concert in which they moved through the historic Mint building.

It began with Sam and Mary Blight playing bush music in the Prospectors' Garden, followed by the Pro Arte Collective of

piano and wind instruments playing a Rimsky-Korsakov quintet in the gold pouring room, where we also saw a gold pouring demonstration. Finally the Duyfken string quartet of WASO players performed string quartets by Rimsky Korsakov and Prokofiev in the courtyard.

To put it all in the context of the time Dr Mark Edele of the History Department of the University of Western Australia treated us to an entertaining summary of the turbulent period of Russian history leading up to the Bolshevik revolution.

Delicious Russian savouries and fine wines by Vasse Felix provided the refreshments.



The Pro Arte Collective in the Mint's gold pouring room: Joanne Brown (bassoon), Diane Riddell (flute), Nicole Dixon (french horn), Lisa Gerritsen (clarinet), and Stephanie Nichols (piano).



The Duyfken Quartet – Daniel Ispas (violin), Rebecca White (violin), Rachel Kirk (viola), and Matthew Hoy (cello).

Some early dates for 2006

CELEBRATING THE FRENCH HORNS - 26 FEBRUARY

On Sunday, 26 February there will be a function at the Mounts Bay Sailing Club starting at 6.00pm. From \$20.00 per person with drinks available at the bar.

TEA AND SYMPHONY - 17 MARCH

The first Tea and Symphony open rehearsal will be in the Perth Concert Hall on Friday 17 March for the final rehearsal of Great Classics 1, Orchestral Spectacular. It will be conducted by Edo de Waart with Andrea Lam, piano and will feature Strauss' *Alpine Symphony*, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 and Meale's *Very High Kings*.

Other Tea and Symphony dates are August 4, September 8 and 13.

VISIT TO FAIRBRIDGE - 24 SEPTEMBER

Note in your 2006 diary that the Patrons and Friends have booked a day visit to Fairbridge for Sunday, 24 September. It will include a tour of the old Fairbridge Farm property, music in the attractive Fairbridge Chapel and a BYO picnic lunch in the grounds. Details will be circulated closer to the day.



L-R: David Evans, Jenny McLeod-Sneyd, William Stewart, Malcolm Stewart, Robert Gladstones.

Relax in the Patrons and Friends lounge on WASO concert nights

WASO and the Concert Hall have opened a special lounge for the use of Patrons and Friends at WASO concerts. The lounge provides an opportunity for Patrons and Friends and their guests to gather for pre-concert drinks and interval coffee and drinks on concert nights. The lounge is open for all Masters and Great Classics concerts.

Drinks and coffee are available at normal prices in a relaxed atmosphere and without the need to queue for service. Members of the Patrons and Friends Committee will be present to welcome you and your friends, with guests especially welcome – perhaps as potential members! Speakers have been installed to allow you to listen to the pre-concert talk. The Patrons and Friends lounge is on the third level above the Concert Hall foyer. Take the lift if you don't like the stairs!



The new Patrons and Friends lounge at the Concert Hall.

Margaret Blades – Associate Concertmaster

The WASO's Associate Concertmaster position was filled by the recent appointment of Margaret Blades. Margaret moved to Perth from Adelaide, where she was Associate Concertmaster from 1995 to 2005 with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

A graduate of the Elder Conservatorium, where she studied with Beryl Kimber, Margaret went to Tasmania to complete her Masters degree under Jan Sedivka. She lived in Tasmania for six years, playing chamber music with a string quartet, working with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and teaching at the Conservatorium.

She moved to Sydney to work with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony and toured extensively overseas with both Orchestras before joining the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. A highlight of her 10 years with the

Adelaide Orchestra were performances over two years of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*.

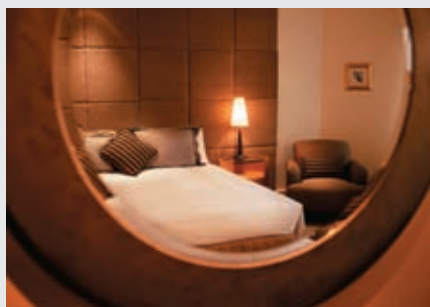
Margaret is not the only 'Blade' in the WASO. Her sister Mary-Anne has been Associate Principal Flute since 2003. Interestingly, the girls' mother, a pianist, introduced the violin first to Mary-Anne, but Mary-Anne preferred the flute and Margaret became the violinist of the family.

Outside her busy work schedule, Margaret enjoys the sun and surf. She is also a big fan of British comedy. She and her husband Greg share their home with two much-loved Maltese dogs, 'Buffy' and 'Spike'.



Stay the night

Valet parking upon arrival, luxurious guestrooms, resort style facilities and a delicious buffet breakfast encapsulates the new Breakaway package offered by Hyatt Regency Perth. The Hyatt would like to offer WASO subscribers the chance to relax by the pool or sauna, play tennis, work out in the fitness centre and dine in one of the three restaurants. In the morning patrons can enjoy fresh fruits, tempting pastries and a full cooked buffet breakfast before check-out.



The Hyatt is also offering WASO subscribers a bottle of selected Australian Wine to be waiting in their room. To book a Breakaway call 13 12 34 and mention WASO, or log on to www.hrplifestyle.com to view Hyatt's upcoming restaurant promotions.

Valid from 1 December 2005 to 31 March 2006.

The perfect Christmas gift

Looking for the perfect Christmas Gift? How about a West Australian Symphony Orchestra Gift Voucher.

Valid for twelve months, the voucher can be used towards any 2006 West Australian Symphony Orchestra concert. Our gift vouchers are attractively presented and do not come in set amounts, so they are flexible enough to suit any budget. For more details, call our Customer Service staff on 9326 0000.



Australian major performing arts group

In order to powerfully lobby the Government on arts issues, AMPAG is collecting names in the form of an online petition to demonstrate how much the community values the arts.

AMPAG is the advocacy body for Australia's 28 major performing arts companies. Their mission is to ensure that these companies are adequately supported by the Government and accessible to all Australians.

AMPAG calls on Federal, State and Local Governments to:

- restore investment in the major companies to underpin a vibrant cultural life in Australia
- nurture programs (including Playing Australia) to tour the best Australian work to regional, remote and outer suburban communities

- bring the arts to students across Australia with a strategy for strong partnerships with schools and training institutions
- support tours that take the best of Australian talent and work to international audiences, to build Australia's reputation as a creative and exciting culture
- encourage Australians to become philanthropists in the arts.

AMPAG uses the statistical information gathered from the petition to demonstrate to politicians how strongly the community feels about our culture. Your view counts!

To show your support please log onto www.ampag.com.au and follow the petition prompts.

Vexations and Devotions

The 2006 season opening Gala concert will feature the work of world-renowned composer Brett Dean. This world premiere of *Vexations and Devotions* brings together the rich, multi-textured music of Dean, Australia's leading contemporary composer, with the inspirational words of cartoonist/poet Michael Leunig.

Vexations and Devotions is the result of a Wesfarmers commission for the UWA Perth International Arts Festival and WASO and is co-commissioned with the BBC Proms. The piece will be a reflection on the nature of good and evil, darkness and light, and our estrangement in an increasingly technology-driven society. Passionate and profound, *Vexations and Devotions* layer the voices of two choirs with Dean's potent orchestral language to produce a work of powerful emotional intensity.

The commission has provided WASO with an ideal platform on which to showcase our home-grown talent and a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with a composer of this stature. Dean has been described as both a leading Australian and international composer by his peers and one of the most internationally performed Australian composers of his generation.

Helen Carroll, Manager Wesfarmers Arts said, "It's been very exciting for Wesfarmers to be able to work



with WASO on a new level with this commission. We know how difficult it can be to find the funding necessary to create major original work - it's one of the biggest challenges facing Australia's arts sector today. We see the Commission Series as a way we can help our own state's flagship arts companies take those important steps."

Vexations and Devotions will be performed at the Perth Concert Hall on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 February 2006 in a program that concludes Beethoven's mighty Ninth Symphony.

The concert features WASO Chief Conductor Matthias Bamert, Gondwana Voices and the WASO Chorus.

Bookings through WASO on 9326 0000 or www.waso.com.au



OrchestraNews

James Richard Lake Timcke, new son of WASO Programming Assistant Cassandra Lake and husband Alex Timcke (WASO Principal Timpani), was born on Saturday 5 November.



Rachel Sharp has joined the WASO in the role of Education Coordinator while **Paula Phillips** has moved into the role of Programming Assistant while Cassandra Lake is on maternity leave.

Mary-Anne Blades, Associate Principal Flute has married Adrian Brustur. The October wedding in St Georges Cathedral was a beautifully musical affair with orchestra members adding to the day.

Alex Millier has returned from a very successful first ever International Bass Clarinet Conference in Rotterdam, Netherlands. For the full story please make sure you see the next edition of *Illuminating Notes*.

With WASO leading previous encounters the recent WASO vs Darlington Social Cricket Club match was an important game and came down to the last over. Chasing an impressive total of 245 off 40 overs, DSCC scored the winning runs with a 6 off the second ball of the last over. Outstanding performers for WASO included **David Evans**, **Peter Miller**, **Mark Tooby** and some tight bowling by **John Tooby** and **Bruce Thompson**.



Andrew Tait (Double Bass), whose hobby is making double basses, loaned his specialty skills to repair visiting soloist **Jian Wang's** Cello between Masters Concerts recently. **Jian Wang's** Cello is on permanent loan to him from the family of **Mr. Sau-Wing Lam** and is over 100 years old.

Kat Clements has joined the Corporate Development department in the role of Functions & Events Coordinator.

WASO Website Launch

In an effort to make functionality and online booking easier WASO has launched its new website. Created by Vivid Group, the website promises to make concert information, booking and news easier to access. The design will also carry into the e-newsletters and will hopefully make online perusing a lot simpler.

To have a look at the changes please log on to www.waso.com.au



Ooldea postponed

The much anticipated world premiere performance of Iain Grandage's *Ooldea* by the West Australian Symphony Orchestra which was to include Elders of the Spinifex Desert was postponed. Scheduled to be performed in the concert Mahler No. 5 on 14 and 15 October, the piece was replaced by Mozart's Symphony No. 29.

The elders of the spinifex lands who were to have travelled to Perth to prepare for performances were unable to make the trip due to the emergence of sacred business in their community to which they had to attend as a matter of priority.

Keith Venning, WASO CEO said, "We find ourselves in the situation where 'culture' has taken precedence over the 'performance of culture'. As a company we are tremendously excited and enriched by the way the project has proceeded so

far and are certainly committed to realising this project at the earliest possible time, and intend announcing a new performance date shortly."

Iain Grandage, Composer-in-Residence at the WASO had been commissioned to write a work in collaboration with the Tjuntjuntjarra community, and from the meeting of two musical cultures grew the idea for *Ooldea*.

Over the past year Iain has visited the Tjuntjuntjarra community several times



Iain Grandage

to work with the elders on the score. This has been an essential element in writing the piece – not only to familiarise both Iain with the community's music and them with ours, but to ensure that cultural sensitivities and protocol are protected.

With a work of this cultural and musical importance and the theatrical elements involved, WASO will postpone its performance until 2007.

Iain Grandage, Composer-in-residence, is supported by Chevron Australia.

David Elton - Principal Trumpet



WASO's new Principal Trumpet, David Elton, originally from Sydney, had not quite finished the first year of his degree when he was offered a job with the Queensland Philharmonic (before it was amalgamated with the Queensland Symphony). He moved to Brisbane

and completed his degree at the Queensland Conservatorium.

After three years there he went to Chicago for 18 months to complete a Master of Music degree. He then returned to Sydney where he took up a year's contract with the Sydney Symphony. In 2000, he was appointed Principal Trumpet with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, a position he held for over five years. Earlier this year he came to Perth to take up the Principal Trumpet position with the WASO.

When not playing his trumpet David is likely to be found windsurfing on the Swan River with Associate Principal Evan Cromie.

Ben Folds DVD

Ben Folds sold out performances with WASO in Kings Park earlier in the year were recorded for DVD release.



WASO is pleased to announce the DVD will go on sale in music stores from 11 December. The normal retail price will be \$29.95 however all TRAX MUSIC stores will be selling it at \$24.95. Show your 2006 Subscriber Card at any TRAX MUSIC store and receive a further 10% discount. This will entitle you to buy a copy for only \$22.50.

Ben Folds returns to perform with WASO on the 25 & 27 August at the Perth Concert Hall. These concerts are expected to sell out so get in early and book your tickets now on 9326 0000.

Marilyn Phillips New Chorus Director

Marilyn Phillips was recently appointed Chorus Director of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra Chorus and began working with the choir in a contracted position on the 4 November. While the WASO Chorus already has a strong reputation, Marilyn is hoping to grow the talents by increasing numbers and developing their vocal skills.

Marilyn studied at the Royal Academy of Music, winning prizes for both piano and accompaniment. As an accompanist she has performed in most of the principal London concert halls and major venues in Western Europe and the USA. She has broadcast frequently on BBC television and radio with recordings released by the BBC and EMI.

She has worked extensively with many noted choruses including the Bach Singers, London's City Philharmonic and the BBC Singers. Marilyn was appointed Head of Music by West Australian Opera in 1995 and since that time has worked on over thirty operas with the company, including the award winning *Batavia*.

WASO CEO Keith Venning said "Every great orchestra needs to have available a great chorus. As the artistic ambition of the WASO grows under Matthias Bamert's experienced direction, we are committed to building the WASO Chorus into a significant performing ensemble. Having someone with the skills and experience of Marilyn Phillips in charge of the chorus at this important phase in its development is a great coup for the WASO. We look forward to many exciting choral concerts in the coming years."

The WASO Chorus is supported by the Alcoa Foundation.

Mozart Celebrations Tour



To celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, RAC Travel in conjunction with Emirates Airline have put together a special fully escorted Mozart Celebrations Tour. The tour, departing on Friday 24 March 2006 for 20 days, will take in Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Hungary and Slovakia.

Highlights of this trip include a seven-night classical music themed Deluxe River Cruise along the River Danube on board the five-star MV Mozart. The cruise will make daily stops in Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava and more. Another highlight will include attending an evening performance at the Vienna State Opera House.

Stopover packages to Dubai, the home of WASO's Principal Partner Emirates, are also available for on the way to and from Europe.

To find out more and to book your place at an information seminar on 11 January 2006 call RAC Travel on 13 17 03 and press 4.

Nigel Kennedy Lights up Kings Park

Flamboyant violinist Nigel Kennedy is renowned for his take-no-prisoners approach to the music of Vivaldi. On paper, this all-Vivaldi program – four violin concertos followed by the omnipresent *The Four Seasons* – seems conventional. Nothing, however could be less conventional than a Nigel Kennedy concert. Kennedy is a showman and a genius, a performer with passion. Only one thing is certain when this spontaneous and fearless musician takes to the stage – you're in for a dazzling display of virtuosity with Kennedy's trademark charisma.



Nigel Kennedy will perform on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 March 2006 in the Kings Park & Botanic Gardens. Gates open at 5pm with the concert beginning at 7:30pm.

Bookings through WASO on 9326 0000 or www.waso.com.au

WASO

West Australian
Symphony Orchestra
MATTHIAS BAMERT CHIEF CONDUCTOR