

ASQ SET TO OFFER UP AN EMOTIVE PROGRAM WITH ITS “SPEECHLESS TOUR” IN MAY

Hot off the heels of their first National Season tour, the Australian String Quartet (ASQ) is set to embark on its *Speechless* tour with an emotionally charged concert program featuring stunning works by Schubert, Berg and Mozart.

The Quartet, comprising violinists Kristian Winther and Ioana Tache, violist Stephen King and cellist Sharon Draper take to the stage to share a program inspired by the communicative power of songs without words.

The cornerstone work, Peter Lichtenthal’s string quartet adaptation of Mozart’s *Requiem*, offers audiences across Australia a rare opportunity to hear a string quartet adaptation of Mozart’s *Requiem Mass in D minor*.

Written in the 18th Century after Mozart’s death, Lichtenthal’s arrangement distilled his idol’s *Requiem* into a wordless, pristine string quartet masterwork, transforming it from profoundly religious into a beautiful, abstract work of art.

The *Speechless* program opens with Schubert’s unfinished twelfth quartet *Quartettsatz* in C minor and is followed by Berg’s six-movement *Lyric Suite* – an emotive piece that is set against the backdrop of Vienna at the end of the 19th Century and borne from a doomed love affair.

ASQ violist Stephen King said "Music begins where speech falters - it is an international language where a composer, through a performer, can express their inner-most thoughts. These works do just that – scaling the highs and lows of love, death and joy."

The Quartet will open the concert series in Brisbane on Wednesday, May 21, before touring to Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Ballarat.

Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Adelaide, the ASQ was established in 1985 and has had a major impact on the musical life of Australia, commissioning, premiering and performing many works by leading Australian composers. The Quartet’s busy performance calendar for 2014 comprises its National Season featuring four unique concert programs presented Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney; its own boutique festivals in the Southern Grampians and Margaret River; regional touring and prestigious invitations to collaborate with leading artists and organisations including the Adelaide International Guitar Festival in June.

For further information, visit the website at www.asq.com.au or phone 1800 040 444 for details.

ENDS

Tour dates and venues

Brisbane – Wednesday, May 21, at the Conservatorium Theatre

Perth – Friday, May 23, at the Perth Concert Hall

Adelaide – Monday, May 26, at the Adelaide Town Hall

Melbourne – Tuesday, May 27, at the Melbourne Recital Centre

Sydney – Friday, May 30, at the City Recital Hall Angel Place

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