



West Australian
Symphony Orchestra

SATU VÄNSKÄ'S MOZART

MATINEE SYMPHONY SERIES

Thursday 10 April 2025, 10.30am & 1.30pm

Heath Ledger Theatre, State Theatre Centre of WA


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West Australian Symphony Orchestra respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and Elders of Country throughout Western Australia, and the Whadjuk Noongar people on whose lands we work and share music.

MATINEE SYMPHONY SERIES

Satu Vänskä's Mozart

Lili BOULANGER arr. **Bernard ROFE** *D'un matin de printemps* (6 mins)

Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART Violin Concerto No.3 (24 mins)

Allegro

Adagio

Rondeau (Allegro – Andante – Allegretto – Allegro)

Luigi BOCCHERINI Symphony in D minor *La casa del diavolo* (22 mins)

Andante sostenuto – Allegro assai

Andantino con moto

Andante sostenuto – Allegro con moto

Satu Vänskä director/violin

This concert does not contain an interval.

WASO Serenades the City with the support of City of Perth.

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Correct at time of printing. * Instruments used by these musicians are on loan from Janet Holmes à Court AC. We greatly appreciate the support of our musicians' Duet partners, acknowledged on page 15.

West Australian Symphony Orchestra

Engage | Excite | Experience | Educate

From the centre of Perth to the furthest corners of the state, we have provided the soundtrack to life in WA since 1928.

As the State Orchestra, Perth's first and finest, WASO is the largest employer of performing artists in Western Australia and reaches two million people with musical experiences each year on stage, in our community, and online.

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About the Artists

Satu Vänskä

Director/Violin

Satu Vänskä is Principal Violin of the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO). She regularly performs as lead violin and soloist with the ACO.

Satu was born to a Finnish family in Japan, where she began violin lessons at the age of three. Her family relocated to Finland when she was 10 and she continued her violin studies with Pertti Sutinen at the Lahti Conservatorium and the Sibelius Academy in Finland, and later at the Hochschule für Musik in Munich as a pupil of Ana Chumachenko where she finished her diploma.

She was named 'Young Soloist of the Year' by Sinfonia Lahti in 1998, and a few years later was prize winner of the 'Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben'. From 2001, Satu played under the auspices of Lord Yehudi Menuhin's Live Music Now Foundation, which gave her the opportunity to perform with musicians including Radu Lupu and Heinrich Schiff.

In addition to performing as Principal Violin with the ACO, Satu performed as orchestra leader and soloist in the 2018 London production of Barry Humphries' *Weimar Cabaret* with the Aurora Orchestra at the Barbican Centre. She has appeared as a soloist with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Arctic Chamber Orchestra, and in recital at the Sydney Opera House and the Melbourne Recital Centre, opening their Great Performers Series in 2019. Prior to working with the ACO, Satu performed with the Munich Philharmonic and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra.



She is the director, frontwoman, violinist and vocalist of electro-acoustic ensemble ACO Underground, also known as Satu In The Beyond, and, as a violinist and singer, has collaborated with artists that include Barry Humphries, Meow Meow, Jonny Greenwood, The Presets, Jim Moginie and Brian Ritchie in settings ranging from New York's Le Poisson Rouge and Sydney's Oxford Art Factory to Slovenia's Maribor Festival and the US Tanglewood Festival. Satu also performed as vocalist in the soundtracks and live performances of *Mountain and River*, the ACO's acclaimed cinematic collaborations with director Jennifer Peedom.

She plays the 1728/29 Stradivarius violin on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund.



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About the Music

Lili Boulanger
(1893-1918)

D'un matin de printemps (Of a Spring Morning)

Arranged for small orchestra by Bernard Rofe

In Paris, on 9 June 1921, Nadia Boulanger presented a concert in memory of her younger sister, Lili Boulanger, who'd died three years before at the age of 24. The program included the radiant and mercurial *D'un matin de printemps*, one of the last works Lili completed in her own hand. (Her *Pie Jesu*, possibly part of a projected Requiem, was dictated from her deathbed).

In the accompanying lecture, poet Camille Mauclair painted a paradoxical portrait – referring to Lili as ‘a child’, fragile, charming and suffering from a lifetime of chronic illness, but also a genius, whose music surpassed the challenges of her short life. Critics (and listeners), assuming that the music of a sickly young woman should echo her ‘frail grace’, have long been surprised by its expressive intensity, rich colours and often ambitious scope.

Lili Boulanger herself was a confident, lively and ambitious personality. Born into a professional musical family, at 19 she became the first woman to win the coveted **Prix de Rome** – a remarkable achievement given the misogynistic atmosphere of the Paris Conservatoire. This led to an exclusive contract from the publisher Ricordi and the foundation of a flourishing career.

D'un matin de printemps shares its opening motif with a ‘mirror’ work, *D'un Soir triste* (Of a Sad Evening), and both were conceived simultaneously in solo, piano trio and large orchestral versions – speaking to Boulanger's business instinct as well as the flexibility and strength of her musical ideas.



Boulanger's music has been compared to that of Claude Debussy, especially in her approach to harmony, prioritising sensation over function. But listen to the strings' ‘crunchy’ repeated chords in the lively opening to *D'un matin de printemps* and it's easy to imagine that, if she'd lived, she would have been at home with composers such as Darius Milhaud and Francis Poulenc, and ‘**Les Six**’ might well have been ‘**Les Sept**’.

In its solo version, *D'un matin de printemps* was pragmatically published ‘for violin (or flute) and piano’. But Boulanger's orchestration reveals she had the flute's sonority in mind for the light and agile principal theme – only in the mysterious but ‘ardent’ central section does the sound of a solo violin take over. Choices such as these are reflected in Bernard Rofe's new arrangement as he seeks to illuminate Boulanger's melodic lines and astringent harmonies, while ‘retaining more than a splash of her orchestral colour’.

Yvonne Frindle © 2025

COMPOSED: 1917-18

FIRST PERFORMANCE:

13 March 1921, Paris; Rhené-Baton conducting the Orchestre des Concerts Padeloup (version for large orchestra).

FIRST WASO PERFORMANCE:

This is the first performance of Bernard Rofe's arrangement.

INSTRUMENTATION:

two flutes, two oboes, bassoon, two horns and strings.

Glossary

Les Six – group of French composers, active in the early 1920s: Auric, Durey, Honegger, Milhaud, Poulenc and, the sole woman, Tailleferre. With Satie as inspiration, Cocteau as promoter, and an *enfant terrible* sensibility, Les Six aimed for brevity and wit, and often sought out whimsical subject matter.

Prix de Rome – French scholarship prize, established for artists in 1663 and expanded to include composers in 1803; winners received a residency at the Villa Medici and a pension. Finalists were required to compose a cantata on a set text in just four weeks.

About the Music

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Violin Concerto No.3 in G, K216

Allegro

Adagio

*Rondeau (Allegro – Andante – Allegretto
– Allegro)*



Mozart's father once suggested to him that the best way to introduce himself in a place where he wasn't known was to play a violin concerto. We think of Mozart as a pianist, and all many people know about his violin playing comes from letters written to him by his father, Leopold, one of the leading violin teachers of the time, exhorting him not to give up practising, and claiming that he could, if he worked at it, play like the finest violinist in Europe. Mozart composed all but the first of his five violin concertos, including this one, in a sustained burst in 1775 when he was 19. They have sometimes been regarded as attempts to please his father, rather than himself. Yet none of his piano concertos up to this time show the maturity of conception of the last three of these violin concertos, the ones in G major (K216), D (K218) and A (K219).

Of the numberless violin concertos composed in the 18th century, the standard modern 'symphony concert' repertoire retains only a few of Vivaldi's, those of J.S. Bach, and Mozart's. Mozart's violin concertos are standard because they are very good music. Listening illustrates this better than words, but part of it is that the musical ideas are so strong, and there are so many of them. Yet Mozart, even at this age, can organise his many ideas concisely and convincingly. Composing operas, his main preoccupation, has already taught him

how to make the soloist the protagonist in a drama.

The solo violin parts of these concertos put musical substance, and idiomatic writing for the instrument, ahead of virtuoso display. This wasn't because Mozart's own violin technique was limited. The concertos were possibly intended not for him but for his Salzburg colleague Antonio Brunetti (first violin and soloist in the Court Orchestra). Both men certainly played at least some of them, and Brunetti himself said, 'Mozart could play anything.'

The Concerto in G major is in many ways the most endearing of Mozart's violin concertos, the most intimate, charming and sensual in expression. Here Mozart displays the assurance to transcend the more conventional, sometimes short-winded style of the first two concertos.

To begin this concerto, Mozart reuses music from the aria 'Aer tranquillo' of his opera *Il re pastore*, composed five months earlier. There's a flood of contrasting ideas, and the solo violin becomes a willing contributor to the thematic richness. This violin concerto anticipates the mature piano concertos in the variety of exchanges between solo and orchestra, and within the orchestra, setting off strings against oboes and horns in the **development**. Here the first oboe takes

over as the brilliant high voice. Eventually the violin takes over the oboe phrase and leads the music towards the reprise, its solo role, as if a singer, underlined by a brief passage of **recitative**.

Whereas the first movement is energetically playful, the second is rapturous. This is the type of Mozart slow movement aptly described as 'dreamy', like that of the Piano Concerto in C, K467 (used in the film *Elvira Madigan*). The similarities include the broken **triplet** accompaniment, muted strings and pizzicato bass.

The *Rondeau*, in a jaunty 3/8 time, has a main theme which comes back five times, and is especially marked by its throwaway ending, where the horns and oboes are left on their own. Indeed, the punctuation from these instruments is a feature of the movement. Eventually the dominance of the 3/8 rhythm is broken by two fanciful episodes. The first, in a slower tempo (*Andante*), has a pizzicato string accompaniment overlapping a kind of stately pavane from the violin. This gives way immediately to a much simpler, folk-like theme in common time. This is the theme some scholars believe made Mozart and his father refer to this concerto as 'the Strassburger', the

name of a (Hungarian) folk-melody; others believe they were referring to a similar passage in the D major Concerto, K218. After this rather whimsical interruption, which we must suppose contained in-jokes more obvious to the first audiences than to us, but is delightful anyway, the *Rondeau* resumes its earlier course, but fantasy has the last word: the throwaway line gracefully waves as the concerto leaves the stage.

© David Garrett

FIRST PERFORMANCE:

Exact circumstances unknown, but the first performance was probably given by either Antonio Brunetti or Mozart himself, in Salzburg.

FIRST WASO PERFORMANCE:

13 June 1942. E.J. Roberts, conductor; Vaughan Manly, violin.

MOST RECENT WASO PERFORMANCE:

25-26 August 2017. Asher Fisch, conductor; Karen Gomyo, violin.

INSTRUMENTATION:

two flutes, two oboes, two horns, strings. four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion and strings.

Glossary

Development – in sonata form, in which the first movements of most symphonies of the Classical period are structured, the main themes are introduced in the exposition; in the development section these themes are explored according to key relationships; finally, the themes are restated and resolved in the recapitulation.

Recitative – a style of singing which follows speech-like rhythms rather than having a sense of regular metre.

Triplet – group of three notes to a single beat. A 'broken' triplet rhythm is one in which one of the triplet notes is not articulated (in this case, the first).

About the Music

Luigi Boccherini

(1743-1805)

Symphony in D minor, G.506 Op.12 No.4

La casa del diavolo (The House of the Devil)

Andante sostenuto – Allegro assai

Andantino con moto

Andante sostenuto – Allegro con moto

Stanley Sadie, in his editor's article on Boccherini in the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, makes a big claim for this composer: 'the chief representative of Latin instrumental music during the Viennese Classical period'. Yet, in spite of a recent flurry of performances and recordings, familiarity with Boccherini has not spread to the musical public at large.

In some ways we hear less of him than we used to: 'the' Boccherini Minuet seems to turn up less frequently these days, as does 'the' Boccherini Cello Concerto, once a staple of almost every cellist's repertoire. The Minuet, usually heard played by a string quartet, is actually from one of the more than 100 string quintets with a second cello. Boccherini was the most prolific of all major composers of chamber music, and the quintets are his most substantial single body of works (though not by much: there are 90-odd string quartets by him as well).

In some ways the most interesting thing about Boccherini, from a biographical point of view, is that, like Domenico Scarlatti and Farinelli before him, he was an Italian musician who spent much of his career in Spain. The results in his music are obvious in the **fandangos** and other Iberian dances he introduced from



time to time; in his use of the guitar in chamber music; and in travelogues using the night watch music of Madrid. This last became virtually a Boccherini theme tune – so much so that the 20th-century Italian, Luciano Berio, has composed an orchestral piece with five of Boccherini's versions of this 'ritirata' (a call to the soldiers to 'retreat' to their quarters) being heard simultaneously.

Too much emphasis on Spain would conceal what Stanley Sadie emphasises: that Boccherini composed in the *lingua franca* of the Viennese Classical period, including some of the emotional tumult associated with the 'Storm and Stress' movement. This was best captured by the contemporary who called him 'the wife of Haydn', referring no doubt to the sensuous, pliantly Latinate quality of his melody and harmony. (Sadie refers to its pervading charm, gentleness or even effeminacy.) By contrast with Haydn or Mozart, Boccherini tended to be increasingly preoccupied with delicate effects of harmony, texture and rhythmic figuration, at the expense of structural direction and strength. The results are often delightful on their own terms.

The Symphony heard in this concert, one of 18 by Boccherini, is his best known, thanks to its title and the music to which this refers. 'The House of the

Devil' is of course Hell, where Don Juan was dragged in punishment for his sins. Boccherini's subtitle to the last movement of the Symphony explains the connection: 'Chaconne representing Hell and composed in imitation of Mr. Gluck's in his *Le Festin de pierre*'.

This 'Stone Banquet' was Gluck's ballet (1761) on the Don Juan legend, and Boccherini did more than just imitate it. He lifted some of Gluck's music wholesale. (Gluck himself was to do so as well, borrowing his own Don Juan music for the furies in the 1774 Paris revision of his opera *Orpheus and Euridice*.)

Boccherini meant to pay tribute to Gluck, who encouraged his first steps as a composer. But Boccherini's last movement is not a **Chaconne** – instead of repeating the basic material (as Gluck does), it is structured more like sonata form. This is only one of the remarkable features of this Symphony. The same slow introduction is used for the first movement and the third, in an anticipation of cyclical form. Much of the music is vehement, but different in character from the minor key symphonies of Mozart and Haydn.

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YEAR/DATE OF COMPOSITION: 1771.

FIRST WASO PERFORMANCE:

This is WASO's first performance of the Symphony.

INSTRUMENTATION:

two oboes, bassoon; two horns, harpsichord and strings.

Glossary

Chaconne – a kind of continuous variation in a slow triple metre over a simple repeated bass line or series of chords. Chaconnes were often quite long, increasing gradually in complexity, finally coming to a high point and then diminishing to a quiet ending. They provided extended opportunity for expressive gestures.

Fandango – a Spanish dance in triple time, danced by a couple to the accompaniment of castanets and guitar.

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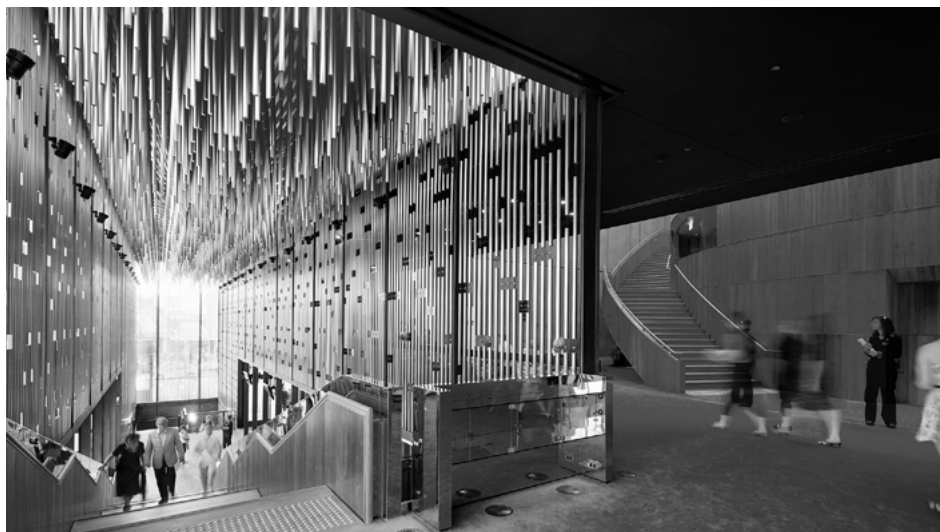
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WASO in the Community

Fostering Musical Talent

The Crescendo program is WASO's award-winning community engagement and education initiative that offers free music education at two Kwinana schools, aiming to engage, educate, and empower students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Launched as a pilot program in 2014, Crescendo has since expanded into a full-scale music education program. Today, students from Pre-Primary to Year 6 receive musicianship lessons, with the opportunity for Years 4 to 6 to learn violin or cello. In addition to their lessons, students are invited to attend WASO performances and enjoy various in-school performances by WASO musicians.

In 2024, the Crescendo Program celebrated its 10th anniversary, culminating in an extraordinary end-of-year concert. The concert featured students from all year levels joining together in song, with each group performing their own number, complete with choreography. A standout moment was the Year 6 students' beautiful rendition of *Long Live* performed with AUSLAN – a deeply moving experience. The concert concluded with two whole-school numbers: *Our Song* from Deborah Cheetham's *Dhungala Songbook* and Journey's *Don't Stop Believin'*, which incorporated Solfa (a musical tool used to teach children about melody, key, and pitch). The 2024 concert also marked the first inclusion of cello students in the string ensemble.

The 2025 Crescendo program is off to a fantastic start, and each lesson reveals the students' remarkable potential as musicians. For instance, just four weeks into lessons this year, the senior students



were already singing in 3-part harmony – an exceptional achievement! The students are currently working towards performing in 5-part harmony at the 2025 End of Year Concert.

This year, WASO has several exciting experiences in store for the students. Senior students will attend a WASO concert featuring the music of John Williams, and perform in the Crescendo Mid-Year Concert at Koorliny Arts Centre, while the junior students will get to experience a *Brass and Beats* performance later in the year.

Crescendo continues to make a significant impact on the lives of its students, providing them with the opportunity to discover their musical talents while fostering a sense of community and empowerment. With each lesson, concert, and milestone, Crescendo proves that music has the power to inspire, unite, and transform, creating a bright future for both the students and the communities they belong to.

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Through our Giving Circles, supporters deepen their connection with WASO and the musicians who bring each performance to life.

Members enjoy exclusive opportunities to go behind the scenes and discover the artistry that shapes every concert. In March, our members were invited to attend an open rehearsal for *Die Fledermaus*, offering a rare glimpse into the preparation and collaboration that brings each performance to life.

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Shigeru Komatsu (Cello)

Louise Sandercock
(Violin)

Fotis Skordas (Cello)

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Peggy & Tom Stacy – Cor Anglais and Piccolo

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