



*Australia's renowned Team of Pianists presenting*

*the new Schimmel  
Concert Grand Piano  
K 256*

Robert Chamberlain  
Max Cooke  
Darryl Coote  
Rohan Murray

Guest clarinettist:  
Craig Hill



BRAHMS · CHOPIN · DEBUSSY · SAINT-SAËNS  
SCHUMANN · GOTTSCHALK · VINE

# *The Team of Pianists*

Acclaimed both for its high standards of artistry and professionalism, the Melbourne-based Team of Pianists has captivated audiences in Australia and internationally since 1984. Comprising four partners who are experienced performers, lecturers and music examiners, the Team has unquestioned commitment to the highest artistic standards. Its many concerto performances, chamber recitals, CDs and broadcasts have enjoyed constant audience support. The Team is also committed to promoting young musicians through its many masterclass and competition programmes in metropolitan and regional areas.

The Team has already produced eight CDs covering a wide range of music including a number of exciting, yet rarely recorded, works as well as various publications on the art of piano playing, together with innovative videos. Recently, the members of the Team were chosen to become Artists-in-Residence for the National Trust at Glenfern, the National Trust's centre for the arts and culture. There the Team has established the Glenfern Piano Institute, which offers educational programmes. These include the Spring Piano School for primary and secondary school-age students, Weekend Retreats for adult piano students, together with masterclasses by Australian and International artists.

## *Robert Chamberlain*

**ROBERT CHAMBERLAIN**  
Robert is a versatile and accomplished pianist, with interests ranging from period performance to contemporary music and with specialisations including chamber and ensemble music of all kinds. He studied for Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Australia under Max Cooke, as a winner of the Apex/Robert Stolz Scholarship in Vienna, and also at the Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada, where he worked with many distinguished artists.

Concert engagements in recent years have included piano and violin duo concerts with Isin Cakmakçioğlu in Turkey, Malaysia and Australia, period instrument collaborations on the music of Brahms with clarinetist Craig Hill (most recently at the 2005 Barossa Music Festival), numerous contemporary music projects including recordings, performances and an Australia Council funded mentorship with the contemporary music ensemble re-sound, as well as many chamber and solo recitals, recordings and broadcasts exploring many facets of the traditional repertoire. In the past few years he has played a leading role in developing the Team of Pianists' innovative Glenfern Piano Institute educational programmes.





## *Max Cooke*

**MAX COOKE**

Max Cooke OAM (Order of Australia Medal) is a leading figure in music performance and education, and has taught many talented students who have gone on to pursue careers as professional pianists. Professor Cooke's own performances have brought him together with famous musicians and conductors. As Director of the Team of Pianists, he has given and organised many recitals in Australia and overseas, produced eight CDs and two videos. His career involves performance and teaching, and he has produced a number of publications, including the books *Tone, Touch And Technique* accompanied by CDs, DVDs and videos. He has lectured on these publications in Europe and England as well as in Australia. In 1951, Max was invited by Professor Bernard Heinze to return to the Melbourne University Conservatorium as a member of staff, where he continues to teach to this day. In 1988 he was invited to become a Fellow of the Australian College of Education. In the Queen's Birthday Honours Lists of 1998, he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to music and to education. In 2001, he received the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Federal Service Cross) from the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Johannes Rau, which makes him an Officer of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic.



## *Darryl Coote*

**DARRYL COOTE**

Darryl pursues an active career as a solo pianist, chamber musician, concerto soloist, teacher, examiner and adjudicator. Following piano studies with Max Cooke at the University of Melbourne, where he obtained Bachelor's and Master's degrees, he then studied with Kurt Bauer at the Musikhochschule in Hanover, Germany. As a performer, Darryl has appeared in many parts of Australia as well as abroad. An accomplished chamber musician, he has worked with instrumentalists and singers such as Anne Gilby (oboe), David Thomas (clarinet), Phillip Miechel (clarinet), Ian Morgan (clarinet), Judith Hickel (violin), Charles Castleman (violin), Miwako Abe (violin), Merlyn Quaife (soprano) and Sally-Anne Russell (mezzo-soprano). He has been the recipient of a number of prizes and awards, including the Allans Award, the national Hephzibah Menuhin Memorial Scholarship, a Queen Elizabeth Award and was Victorian State winner of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Instrumental and Vocal Competition.





## *Rohan Murray*

### **ROHAN MURRAY**

Rohan Murray has rapidly established himself as an artist of the highest quality. He completed the Master of Music Performance degree at the Victorian College of the Arts with First Class Honours, studying with Max Cooke OAM and Michael Kieran Harvey. Rohan is a member of the Golden Key Honour Society, and was a grand-finalist and prize-winner at the 2000 Australian National Piano Award. Rohan performed in Europe and Asia and in 2003 he gave a series of lecture-demonstrations and performances in Kuala Lumpur. His performances have been the subject of broadcasts on the prestigious Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Classic FM as well as on the Team of Pianists' CD release, Sparkling Keys. Rohan is well established as an exponent of contemporary solo repertoire. In 2005 Rohan was invited to perform in the Melbourne International Festival and has given a number of world premiere performances.



## *Craig Hill*

### **CRAIG HILL (GUEST CLARINETTIST)**

After formative studies with Phillip Miechel at the Victorian College of the Arts, Craig Hill was a recipient of a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship and completed postgraduate studies at the Freiburg Musikhochschule with Dieter Klöcker. Following solo performances with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra in 1997, he has come to national recognition for his performances on period clarinets from the baroque to late romantic, appearing at festivals throughout Australia and the United States. A member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra since 1992, Craig Hill performs contemporary and twentieth-century music with Melbourne's Astra choir and ensemble. Craig teaches at the Australian National Academy, the Victorian College of the Arts and the University of Melbourne. His partnership with Robert Chamberlain extends over a decade and has encompassed recitals, radio broadcasts, and festival appearances.



# Programme Notes

## **JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)**

### **16 waltzes for piano four hands, Opus 39**

Brahms composed his first version of the sixteen waltzes Op. 39 in 1865 for piano four hands, with the solo piano version not appearing until two years later. These charming miniatures present many facets of the waltz-form.

## **FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN (1810-1849)**

### **Etude in C minor, Opus 10 No. 12 (Revolutionary)**

Chopin wrote two sets of etudes, Opus 10 and Opus 25, with 12 etudes in each Opus respectively. They remain some of the most important studies as well as concert pieces in the piano literature.

## **CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862-1918)**

### **Reflets dans l'Eau (Images 1, 1905)**

The two volumes of Debussy's Images clearly exemplify his concern to evoke images. In the words of Robert E. Schmitz, a researcher on Debussy: "In contrast to his earlier works for solo piano, these images are considerably more abstract in their inspiration and design. Here imagery is a function of objects upon the mind, creating metaphors to enliven these ideas by lending them a hypersensitive form."

## **CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921)**

### **Sonata for clarinet and piano, Opus 167 (1921)**

A prolific composer, formidable pianist and, according to some writers, Saint-Saëns was perhaps the most precocious of all musical child prodigies. His craftsmanship stood him in good stead in his chamber music too, especially in the three sonatas for wind instruments (clarinet, oboe and bassoon), all of which date from 1921. The Sonata for clarinet was apparently written on a journey from Paris to Algiers in that year.

## **ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810-1856)**

### **Romance in F sharp major, Opus 28 No. 2**

When Schumann used the title "Romance" for his smaller piano works, as he did on several occasions, the beauty of his melodic lines and the subtleties of his harmonies are always successful in carrying us from everyday experiences into an imaginary world. The Romance in F sharp major is the second of a set of three.





### **LOUIS MOREAU GOTTSCHALK (1829-1869)**

#### **The Banjo: Grottesque Fantasie, American Sketch (1854-1855)**

Louis Moreau Gottschalk was one of the first American composer-pianists. A native of Louisiana, he travelled to Paris at an early age and spent much of his short life of 40 years as a piano virtuoso, touring and performing to great public acclaim. His compositions included operas and symphonies, but it is in his piano pieces that his inspiration from Afro-American and Creole sources is most apparent.

### **CARL VINE (b. 1954)**

#### **Piano Sonata No. 1 (1990)**

Carl Vine has established himself as one of the world's finest composers. His catalogue includes some twenty works for dance, music for film and theatre, electronic music and numerous solo instrumental and chamber works. In more recent years, he has emerged as a composer of major orchestral works, with six symphonies to his credit and others planned. In 2005 Carl was awarded the Don Banks Music Award, the highest accolade that can be given to an artist by the Music Board of the Australia Council for the Arts.

## *The Art of Perfection*

### **THE ART OF PERFECTION**

Total commitment to the job, the urge to find new and innovative solutions and the ability to persevere and finally implement them are all in a day's work for our piano master craftsmen. The latest construction of our Konzert series is just one example: our engineers experimented on 400 prototype grand pianos and developed more than 600 hammer head variations before reaching a consensus. Every new grand piano that Schimmel produces is the result of decades of research and feedback, combined with the traditional artistry of our master craftsmen. It is a symbiosis that stretches back over a century. The result of the work and commitment of our 220 employees is perfectly made instruments, that bear a combination of excellent design details, which can hardly be found in the world of pianos. And that is a record our master craftsmen are very proud of.



*Australia's renowned Team of Pianists presenting the new Schimmel Concert Grand Piano K 256*

**JOHANNES BRAHMS**

**16 waltzes for piano four hands, Op. 39**

**Darryl Coote - primo,**

**Max Cooke - secondo**

- |                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. No. 1 in B major       | 0'54" |
| 2. No. 2 in E major       | 1'17" |
| 3. No. 3 in G sharp minor | 0'37" |
| 4. No. 4 in E minor       | 1'14" |
| 5. No. 5 in E major       | 1'28" |
| 6. No. 6 in C sharp major | 1'08" |
| 7. No. 7 in C sharp minor | 1'45" |
| 8. No. 8 in B flat major  | 1'21" |
| 9. No. 9 in D minor       | 1'05" |
| 10. No. 10 in G major     | 0'30" |
| 11. No. 11 in B minor     | 1'14" |
| 12. No. 12 in E major     | 1'35" |
| 13. No. 13 in C major     | 0'39" |
| 14. No. 14 in A minor     | 1'16" |
| 15. No. 15 in A major     | 1'14" |
| 16. No. 16 in D minor     | 0'54" |

**FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN**

**Rohan Murray - piano**

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 17. Etude in C minor,<br>Op. 10 No. 12 (Revolutionary) | 2'19" |
|--|-------|

**CLAUDE DEBUSSY**

**Darryl Coote - piano**

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 18. Reflets dans l'Eau<br>(Images 1, 1905) | 5'23" |
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**CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS**

**Sonata for clarinet and piano, Op. 167**

**Guest clarinetist - Craig Hill,**

**Robert Chamberlain - piano**

- |                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| 19. I Allegretto       | 4'55" |
| 20. II Allegro animato | 2'05" |
| 21. III Lento          | 4'36" |
| 22. IV Molto allegro   | 5'34" |

**ROBERT SCHUMANN**

**Max Cooke - piano**

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 23. Romance in F sharp major,<br>Op. 28 No. 2 | 3'42" |
|---|-------|

**LOUIS MOREAU GOTTSCHALK**

**Robert Chamberlain - piano**

- |               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| 24. The Banjo | 4'17" |
|---------------|-------|

**CARL VINE**

**Piano Sonata No. 1 (1990)**

**Rohan Murray - piano**

- |                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| 25. Movement 1 | 8'43" |
| 26. Movement 2 | 9'06" |

The **TEAM OF PIANISTS** gratefully acknowledges Schimmel Pianos and Bernies Music Land for their assistance in the production of this recording.

*CREDITS*

Recorded in the studio of Move Records at Eaglemont, on October 17-21, 2005.

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*Front cover photograph/illustrations:*  
Courtesy of Schimmel Pianos, Germany  
and Bernies Music Land

*Graphic Design:* Susanna Salge  
(Schimmel Pianos, Germany)

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- |         |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|
| MCD 029 | Pianists of Excellence       |
| MCD 046 | Mozart at Melbourne          |
| MD 3031 | Peter Sculthorpe Piano Music |
| MCD 042 | Hamilton                     |
| MD 3158 | Teamwork                     |
| MCD 064 | Homage to Brahms             |
| MCD 106 | Worlds Apart                 |
| MCD 239 | Sparkling Keys               |