

MEDIA INFORMATION: 27 JULY 2010  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MICHAEL IERACE**

and

**AMIR FARID**

**DUO PIANO RECITAL**

**Pilgrim Church**

**Tuesday August 24th  
at 7.00pm**



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### **Geoffrey Parsons Award Winners Unite**

The Accompanists' Guild of South Australia is proud to support two of the recent Geoffrey Parsons Award winners in their second program of works from the duo piano repertoire.

**Michael Ierace** (2004 Award winner) and **Amir Farid** (2007 Award winner) first met in Adelaide in 2005 as state representatives and competitors in the MBS National Final of the Young Performer of the Year Award. South Australian, Michael, took out the prize on that occasion and soon after won the premier awards from the Elder Conservatorium --- the Elder Overseas Scholarship and the David Galliver Award.

Victorian, Amir won significant awards including the Piano Trio prize at the 2005 Australian Chamber Music Competition with the Benaud Trio ( now a successful chamber ensemble with its own national subscription series) , as an accompanist, for best pianist at the 2006 Mietta Song Recital and, as a soloist, winning the 2006 Australian National Piano Award.

Michael and Amir took up post graduate positions at the Royal College of Music in London. By coincidence they both studied with the same teacher, Professor Andrew Ball. Their musical partnership arose as a result of their RCM studies - as Amir said...

*I guess it was an ideal situation to be in to form a duo ---two Aussie pianist friends studying at the same institution with the same teacher with a duo piano subject on offer for credit towards our postgraduate course. Why not? Michael agreed - being an avid chamber musician he commented that he hadn't ..... done much duo work and most of the rep is great stuff!*

Australia's newest virtuoso piano duo performed their first recital in July 2009 in Adelaide. The second recital was prepared for 2010 in Melbourne (July 25) and Adelaide (August 24). The program includes Mozart's *Two Piano Sonata*, the Brahms *Haydn Variations* and Rachmaninoff's *Second Suite*.

Summary, biographies and photos follow

# Geoffrey Parsons Winners Unite

*Multiple Award Winners*

**Michael Ierace** (Geoffrey Parsons Award 2004)

**Amir Farid** (Geoffrey Parsons Award 2007)

*Royal College of Music London Graduates with Distinction - Australia's latest Virtuoso Piano Duo*

**Tuesday August 24 at 7 pm** Pilgrim Church

**Program:** Mozart *Two Piano Sonata*; Brahms *Haydn Variations*; Rachmaninoff *Second Suite*

**Tickets at the door**

**Prices:** \$15, \$10 concession & affiliates, \$5 students, \$4 each - teacher/student groups and families of 5 or more, AGSA members free

**Presented by The Accompanists' Guild of SA Inc**



Supported by Recitals Australia

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**Photos include**

1. Ierace & Farid together
2. Michael Ierace with bio
3. Amir Farid with bio



**Michael Ierace and Amir Farid - Duo Pianists**



## Michael Ierace

Michael Ierace has recently completed his studies with distinction at the Royal College of Music (RCM), with Andrew Ball.

Born and raised in Adelaide, Australia, he completed his university education through to honours level with teacher Lucinda Collins before moving to London in September 2007 with support from the prestigious Elder Overseas Scholarship. Michael had much success in local and national competitions including winning the *Doris West Concerto 2002*, *Geoffrey Parsons Award 2004* and the *MBS South Australian and National Young Performers' Awards 2005*. He has performed in Italy (Albano Festival), Malaysia, Austria (*Allegro Vivo* summer course plus numerous performances) and throughout the UK and has participated in master classes with Leif Ove Andsnes, Boris Berman and Piers Lane.

Since moving to London, Michael has been awarded the *Coutts & Co Award for Keyboard* as winner of the *Royal Over-Seas League Keyboard Final*, 2<sup>nd</sup> place plus specialist awards in the International Haverhill Sinfonia Soloists' Competition and a place on the Phillip & Dorothy Green Young Concert Artist scheme. He has been selected as an RCM Rising Star and was recently awarded the Hopkinson Silver medal in the Chappell Medal Competition, the RCM's most distinguished piano competition. Michael has performed in the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Cadogan Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. On a home visit to Adelaide in 2009, Michael made his professional debut with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in the presence of the Premier of South Australia and the Polish Ambassador.

In September 2010, Michael will return to London as an RCM Junior Fellow.



## Amir Farid

Winner of the 2006 Australian National Piano Award, pianist Amir Farid has been described as “a highly creative musician – a pianist of great intelligence and integrity. He brings strong musical substance to all that he does, imbuing it with his own particular experience and understanding”, and who “in a well-populated field...distinguishes himself for all the right reasons”.

In 2004 Amir completed his B. Mus (Hon) at the University of Melbourne under the guidance of Ronald Farren-Price, and later attended the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), studying with Rita Reichman, Geoffrey Tozer and Timothy Young. In 2009, he graduated with distinction as a Scholar supported by the Gordon Calway Stone Memorial Award at the Royal College of Music London, studying with Andrew Ball.

He has performed concerti with the Sydney Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria, Melbourne Youth and ANAM Orchestras, including Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl with the Melbourne Symphony in front of a capacity 13,000 strong crowd.

As a chamber musician, Amir is pianist of the acclaimed Benaud Trio ([www.benaudtrio.com](http://www.benaudtrio.com)), winning the Piano Trio prize at the 2005 Australian Chamber Music Competition, and with whom he undertook a residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada. As an accompanist, he was winner of the prize for best pianist at the 2006 Mietta Song Recital award, and the 2007 Geoffrey Parsons Award.

Amir is the recipient of various awards and scholarships, including the Australian Music Foundation, the Ian Potter Cultural Trust, the Royal Overseas League, the Swiss Global Artistic Foundation, the Tait Memorial Trust and the University of Melbourne's Donovan Johnson Memorial Scholarship.

<http://www.amirfarid.com>