

MEDIA INFORMATION: 1 July 2011

For immediate release



Accompanists' Festival July 18 to 23

includes

TWO WORLD PREMIERES

FEAR

by Michael Kieran Harvey

performed in Recital by

Michael Kieran Harvey, Piano

Natsuko Yoshimoto, Violin

7pm Friday 22 July 2011

ABC Studio 520, 85 North East Road, Collinswood

Tickets: \$30, \$20, \$15 Members, \$10 students & groups of 10+ available at the door.

and

ACID TEST

by Stephen Whittington

Set Work for the 2011 Geoffrey Parsons Award

performed by

Mark Gaydon, Bassoon

with the 3 Finalists

7pm Saturday 23 July 2011

Hartley Concert Room, Elder Conservatorium, Kintore Avenue, Adelaide

Tickets at door \$20, \$15, \$10

The Accompanists' Guild is thrilled to present new works by Australian composers written especially for the 2011 Festival.

The first of the two world premières to be performed during the Accompanists' Festival and Conference is ***Fear*** composed and performed by pianist, **Michael Kieran Harvey** with ASO concertmaster, violinist, **Natsuko Yoshimoto**.

Fear is dedicated to Natsuko's "superb violin artistry". It is based rhythmically and spiritually on a collection of *haiku* by Arjun von Caemmerer entitled "Tripples". Michael's response to fear itself owes much to the writings of Bertrand Russell, not the least, "...To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom...". The work demands extreme virtuosity from both musicians.

The entire program is extraordinarily challenging as befits the renowned talents of the two performers especially in relation to the performance of 20th and 21st century music. It includes the three beautiful *Mythes* by Karol Szymanowski, *Vertical Time Study* by Japan's most famous living composer, Toshio Hosokawa, Toru Takemitsu's wondrous elegy, *Hika*, the world première of Michael Kieran Harvey's *Fear*, and, finally, the Bela Bartok masterpiece for the duo, his second *Sonata*. The recital will be recorded for future broadcast on ABC Classic FM.

The second world première during the Accompanists' Festival is *Acid Test* for bassoon and piano by Adelaide composer, **Stephen Whittington**. It is the Set Work for the 2011 Geoffrey Parsons Award to be played by all applicants with **Mark Gaydon**, principal bassoon in the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. *Acid Test* has been composed to test particularly the ensemble skills of the competing pianists.

The Award has been offered by the Guild since 1995 - the year of the untimely death of Australia's world renowned accompanist and the Guild's patron, Geoffrey Parsons. It is a demanding and realistic competition reflecting the tough expectations of the collaborative pianist and is one of the most significant awards for Accompanists in Australia. 2011 has attracted the largest number of applicants yet.

In the open auditions (Monday/Tuesday July 18/19, 5pm Bishop Hall) each competitor performs a short program plus sight reading plus *Acid Test* with Mark Gaydon as a first rehearsal. Just three competitors reach the Final to present an extended program which include *Acid Test* with Mark Gaydon.

The Jury for the Final at 7pm on July 23 in the Hartley Concert Room is chaired by Michael Kieran Harvey and includes Assoc Prof Carl Crossin OAM and Diana Harris OAM representing the The Elder Conservatorium and the Accompanists' Guild.

The Accompanists' Festival also includes lunch time concerts at Pilgrim Church on Wednesday July 20 (Michael Kieran Harvey with soprano Teresa La Rocca preceeded by Junior duos) and a full day Conference on Saturday July 23 in Cynthia Poulton Hall next to St Peter's Cathedral.

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