

CONCERT 1st June 2020

Hello WHO players and friends,

Let us begin today's musical feast with a couple of short pieces chosen for your listening pleasure.

The first is the Beethoven Rondo in B flat major for piano and orchestra. There is a wonderful recording of this work on YouTube performed by Sviatoslav Richter, the great Russian pianist, and the Vienna Phil. conducted by Kurt Sanderling and recorded in 1963. This must have been a favourite of Richter's, as he has recorded it many times over his extensive career. Beethoven originally intended this to be part of the second piano concerto but then published it as a stand alone Rondo. The middle section is of course well recognised as the theme music for John Cargher's radio program.

When I first began playing with the ABC Variety or recording orchestra (later to be known as Brian May and the ABC Showband) our home studio was on the corner of Lonsdale and Williams Streets in the city. John would, along with other radio luminaries, be there preparing for his weekly programs. We often chatted about music at lunchtime or breaks. He never failed to amaze me with his memory of dates, names and great performances dating back to the turn of the century. His programs on ABC 774 and then National began in 1966 and in 1976 became the longest continuously running radio program presented and produced by the same person. All the music for his two programs: 'Music for Pleasure' and 'Singers of Renown' were sourced from his own record collection. His programs spanned 42 years in the life of Melbourne music and his last program went to air on the 27th of April 2007. John died three days later. Enjoy this recording with Richter. There are no visuals so you can close your eyes for about 10 minutes and bathe in the genius of arguably the greatest of all composers.

The second work is from a composer of whom few may have heard. Emily Mayer was a German composer born in 1812, dying in Berlin in 1883. I feel she has never, like so many female composers right up to our Florence Beatrice Price, (we will perform her concerto sometime!!) enjoyed the celebrity and recognition of her male counterparts. YouTube her "Faust Overture" and you will find a piece with strong harmonic structure and forward-looking form and orchestration. Although very much influenced by the Vienna School, Emily is always able to find her own voice. This work was written in 1880, three years before her death, and is included in an output, which contains eight symphonies, 15 overtures, many songs and multiple chamber works.

The main work in this week's program is by another rarely heard composer. It is the "Sinfonia Concertanti" by Francois Devienne, performed by the Consortium Classicum Rundfunk Orchestra directed by Wolf-Dieter Hauschild. This is a composition in three movements for solo flute, oboe, horn, bassoon and orchestra. The title refers to a work composed usually in the classical period (with some notable exceptions including of course JS Bach) as a solo vehicle for two or more instruments and orchestra. Probably stemming from the Concerto Grossi in the Baroque period, the title was most popular in Paris during the later 18th century. Of course the best known is the Mozart S.C. for violin and viola. I think you will enjoy this delightful work, with the soloists displaying wonderful technique and musicianship.

All these three works are audio only in memory of the late great John Cargher. We seem to have lost the art of listening without watching but it is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in the aural experience of beautiful music.

To finish, a touch of fun with the king of Andre Rieu trumpet playing style. YouTube Jazz concerto with Arik Davidov. If the rendition of Bach Arioso doesn't grab you try "Funk on a G String" or Schubert's "Ave Maria". These performances are conducted by Aviv Ron and the Israel Chamber Orchestra. Enjoy!