

ANAM RECITAL: Oliver Russell (QLD) Cello
Thursday 9 December 2021, 16:00
Rosina Dorm 1, ABBOTSFORD CONVENT

Henri Dutilleux (1916-2013) *3 Strophes sur le nom de Sacher* (1976)
(i) Un poco indeciso (ii) Andante sostenuto (iii) Vivace

Jack Symonds *Eau vivante* for cello & piano (2021)*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47) Sonata in D major op. 58 for cello & piano (1842)
(i) Allegro assai vivace (ii) Allegretto scherzando (iii) Adagio (iv) Molto vivace e allegro

Oliver Russell (QLD) cello
Leigh Harrold (Associate Faculty) piano (Symonds)
Amir Farid (Alumnus) piano (Mendelssohn)

Durations: 11 – 6 – 26

Oliver Russell completed his Bachelor of Music in Performance with Distinction from the Queensland Conservatorium studying with David Lale and Meta Weiss. In 2021 he continues his time at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) as a second-year musician training with Howard Penny. An avid chamber and orchestral musician, Oliver has performed at music festivals such as the Icicle Creek Chamber Music Festival (Washington, USA), Australian Festival of Chamber Music (Townsville, QLD), Eastern Music Festival (North Carolina, USA) and Crossbow Chamber Music Festival (Brisbane, QLD). He has performed as Principal Cello with the Queensland Conservatorium Symphony, Opera and Divertimenti Orchestras, the Eastern Music Festival Orchestra (North Carolina, USA) and is a casual cellist with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Queensland Pops Orchestra. He has also greatly enjoyed participating in programs such as the Australian Youth Orchestra and Australian International Symphony Orchestra Institute.

Whilst completing his undergraduate degree, Oliver was a finalist in the Vada Jefferies Bach Prize and a prize winner in the 4MBS Chamber Music Competition. He has also participated in masterclasses with musicians such as Johannes Moser, Finghin Collins, Umberto Clerici, Guy Johnston, Brandon Vamos and Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt as well as members of the Borodin, Australian and Goldner string quartets among others.

Aside from music, Oliver enjoys living vicariously through the Australian cricket team and Western Bulldogs AFL team, attempting to cook Gordon Ramsay recipes, and travelling.

2021 ANAM Recitals recorded in partnership with Australian Digital Concert Hall (ADCH)

**Commissioned by ANAM as part The ANAM Set (2021). The ANAM Set was funded by the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government Initiative.*

ANAM's Associate Artists are supported by Crown Resorts Foundation and the Packer Family Foundation.

3 Strophes sur le nom de SACHER – **Henri Dutilleux** (1916 – 2013)

Dutilleux composed his *3 Strophes sur le nom de SACHER* (3 Stanzas on the name of SACHER) in 1976 at the behest of Russian cellist Msitslav Rostropovich to commemorate the 70th birthday of notable patron of the arts and conductor of the Basler Kammerorchester, Paul Sacher. Dutilleux's 3 Strophes are amongst twelve works commissioned by Rostropovich for Paul Sacher, other notable composers commissioned being Britten, Lutoslawski, Berio, Boulez and Halffter.

Of particular interest in the *3 Strophes sur le nom de SACHER* is the use of a musical cryptogram based on the name SACHER or more accurately written eSACHERe. Here each letter of the name SACHER becomes a musical note in order to construct the main theme of all three of the Strophes. eS (German notation for E flat) – A natural – C natural – H (German notation for B natural) – Re (D natural in the French system and fixed do solfège). Having already written a concerto for Rostropovich, Dutilleux was well aware of the enormous capabilities of both the instrument and Rostropovich as a cellist. Dutilleux immediately pushes the boundaries of what the cello can produce by requiring that the bottom two strings be tuned down by one and two semitones respectively (G to F# and C to Bb). This extends the range of the instrument and opens the door to a completely new world of tonal colour.

Eau Vivante – **Jack Symonds**

Jack Symonds was commissioned by ANAM in 2021 to compose *Eau Vivante* (Living Water) as part of the ANAM Set. The piece was composed in July this year and was largely inspired by the late works of Gabriel Fauré. The title is a song from Fauré's late cycle *La chanson d'Ève* (The Song of Eve), which was a major source of inspiration for the piece. The original song is a surprising stream of constant semiquavers with an ever changing, quite miraculous harmony underneath illustrating Eve experiencing the purity of water for the first time. Jack Symonds' piece is an attempt to recapture that feeling but is constantly frustrated and re-directed.

Cello Sonata no. 2 in D major op. 58 – **Felix Mendelssohn** (1809 – 1847)

Mendelssohn's Second Cello Sonata was composed in 1842 and dedicated to the Russian/Polish cellist Count Mateusz Wielhorski. Of particular interest in this piece is the third movement, which encapsulates the composer's fascination with the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. The movement consists of a chorale played by the piano in Bach's style and recitative passages played by the cello which resemble the recitative of the *Fantasia in the Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue* BWV 903, and quotes its final passage. The piece as a whole is overwhelmingly positive with a great abundance of exciting dialogue between the piano and cello. The movements contrast between youthful exuberance, sweeping lyricism and fiery passion.

Oliver Russell

We acknowledge with gratitude that the production of this printed program is supported by the Estate of Audrey Urve Tuvik.

ANAM respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands spread across Australia on which we work and live. We uphold and honour their continued relationship to these sites, we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.