

## Programme

### *Darkness and Light*

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| 1. <i>Contrapunctus I</i> from <i>Die Kunst der Fuge</i> , BWV 1080 | Johann Sebastian Bach                    |
| 2. <i>City of Stars</i> , from <i>La La Land</i>                    | Justin Hurwitz                           |
| 3. Adagio from <i>Toccat, Adagio &amp; Fugue</i> , BWV 564          | Johann Sebastian Bach / Myra Hess        |
| 4. Étude in C Minor, Op.25 No.12                                    | Frédéric Chopin                          |
| 5. <i>Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ</i> , BWV 639               | Johann Sebastian Bach / Ferruccio Busoni |
| 6. <i>Precipitato</i> from Sonata No.7 in B-Flat Major, Op.83       | Sergei Prokofiev                         |
| 7. <i>Mia and Sebastian's Theme</i> , from <i>La La Land</i>        | Justin Hurwitz                           |
| 8. Für Alina  | Arvo Pärt                                |
| 9. Ballade No.2 in B Minor  | Franz Liszt                              |

### Biography

Jacob has spent more than half of his life in Canberra. He finished studying at Narrabundah College in 2020 with a keen pursuit of mathematics and continental philosophy, also graduated with the highest overall score for music across the cohort and the Classical Music Award for 'outstanding service to the Music Department in Classical Music'. He was a scholar at the Wesley Organ School between the years 2018-2020, in which time he focused on the French Organ School. He is now in second year at Australian National University, studying a double degree in PPE and Music. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, reading theology, and is always fascinated by exploring the works of contemporary composers.

In May, Jacob will present a programme of works by Liszt and Chopin as part of Wesley Music Centre's Lunchtime Programme Series.

### Programme Notes

The programme presented here today includes a diverse range of works, from the virtuosic works by Chopin and Prokofiev to delicate works by Bach, including both original compositions, as well as transcriptions from the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century. I have also selected some contemporary works, with a work by the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, and some selections from the musical *La La Land*, so I hope there is something here for everyone.

I'd like to draw particular attention, however, to the B Minor Ballade by Liszt. Of course, Chopin pioneered the form, and his four have become a cornerstone in the piano literature. The Ballades of other composers, however, have been very much overlooked, with perhaps the exception of those by Brahms. Written around the same time as the Sonata in the same key, despite being programmed frequently by Vladimir Horowitz, the B Minor Ballade never received widespread attention.

Liszt wrote two in the form, spaced five years apart, and like those of Chopin, despite the narrative form of the work, neither composer specified the inspiration behind each of the works. It has been suggested that Chopin's Ballades are inspired by the poetry of Adam Mickiewicz. Similarly, Claudio Arrau posits that Liszt's Second Ballade was inspired by the Greek tragedy of Hero and Leander.

It is a work of exceptional calibre and prowess, and I hope you enjoy listening to it as much as I do playing it.