



Victorian College of the Arts
Media Release 2008
Tuesday 2 September

VCAMUSIC presents

A concert celebration of 30 years of VCA Secondary School
Friday 12 September, 7.30pm

The **VCA Symphony Orchestra** and the **VCA Secondary School Choir** are presenting a stunning concert on September 12 at the Melbourne Town Hall to celebrate the **30th Anniversary** of the **VCA Secondary School (VCASS)**. The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, in conjunction with the VCA, has been a leading educator and trainer of talented dancers and musicians for thirty years. The 130-member youth choir is under the leadership of Ms. Clare Preston, the Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Marco van Pagee, Head of Orchestral Studies, VCA.

VCASS is a unique partnership between a state secondary school and a tertiary institution. In June 2009 VCASS moves to its new world class facility at 57 Miles Street, Southbank.

"We are a forward looking school but celebrate our history and foundations. It is important to all of us that our school not only knows where it is going but also the vision and dream it was founded on...we continue to outstrip all expectations of our school - but of course meet our own high expectations each day." **VCASS Principal Colin Simpson / vcass.vic.edu.au**

Schubert - *Mass in G Major*
Shostakovich - *Symphony No. 11*

Friday 12 September, 7.30pm
Venue: Melbourne Town Hall
90-120 Swanston Street, Melbourne
Cost: \$10 (incl GST) at the door
Enquiries: 03 9685 9423

Schubert Mass in G Major

Schubert's Mass No. 2 in G major was composed in 1815 and is the best known of his three "shorter" mass compositions. The mass was composed in less than a week (2 to 7 March 1815) and was originally modestly scored for string orchestra and organ. However, in the 1980s a set of parts for the Mass were discovered at Klosterneuburg which are dated later than Schubert's full score. They not only include minor changes throughout the work, which would apparently represent Schubert's "final" intentions, they also include trumpet and timpani parts. Apart from some passages for the soprano soloist, the solistic interventions are very modest. Characteristically for Schubert, he is more interested in an over-all devotional mood of a religious composition than in individualistic romantic text-expression (as Beethoven for example would use in his masses).

Shostakovich Symphony No. 11

The Symphony No. 11 in G minor (Opus 103; subtitled *The Year 1905*) by Dmitri Shostakovich was written in 1957 and premiered by the USSR Symphony Orchestra under Natan Rakhlin on 30 October 1957. The symphony was conceived as a popular piece and proved an instant success in Russia. The work's popular success, Shostakovich was awarded a Lenin Prize for it in April 1958, marked the composer's formal rehabilitation from the Zhdanov Doctrine of 1948. The subtitle of the symphony refers to the events of the Russian Revolution of 1905. The symphony's four movements — Adagio (The Palace Square), Allegro (The 9th of January), Adagio (Eternal Memory) and Allegro non troppo (Tocsin) — are played without break and last approximately one hour. The Eleventh Symphony is sometimes dubbed "a film score without the film". The musical images are indeed of an immediacy and simplicity unusual even for Shostakovich the epic symphonist, and an additional thread is provided by the nine revolutionary songs which appear during the work.

Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts, The University of Melbourne
234 St Kilda Road, Southbank, Victoria 3006, Australia
Telephone 61 3 9685 9300 Facsimile 61 3 9682 1841 www.vca.unimelb.edu.au
Cricos Provider Code 00116K ABN 84 002 705 224

VCAARTDRAMADANCEFILM&TVMUSICPRODUCTION