

MEDIA RELEASE

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AWARD WINNING MUSICIANS PLAY HARD AND FAST FOR CHARITY!

Two of Australia's most exciting and gifted young chamber groups, the Tailem Quartet and the Benaud Trio, will present a fundraising concert for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Australia on Wednesday December 14.

The Tailem Quartet and the Benaud Trio were both finalists in the prestigious 2005 Australian Chamber Music Competition with the Benaud Trio winning the Piano Trio Prize of \$12,000. The seven players all met whilst studying at the University of Melbourne and are rapidly establishing themselves on the Australian classical music scene. The Benaud Trio were great favourites of William Lyne, Emeritus Artistic director of Wigmore Hall in London, especially when he found out that their ensemble name is derived from cricketering great, Richie Benaud. 'These boys love cricket but they come on and they're absolutely transformed, the music just takes over...I defy anybody to come into this hall and hear those boys playing and not become excited and moved and addicted to chamber music for the rest of their lives,' said Mr Lyne.

The Tailem Quartet decided on their name after passing through the quirky town of Tailem Bend on a road trip to Adelaide.

The concert will juxtapose two of Antonin Dvorak's most popular chamber works. The Tailem Quartet will perform his 'American' String Quartet Op.96, inspired by the folk music of the Western hemisphere. The Benauds will present Dvorak's impulsive 'Dumky' Trio Op.90, an epic lament drawing on the indigenous music of Dvorak's Slavonic homeland. Also on the programme is Joseph Haydn's String Quartet Op.76 No.2, known as 'The Fifths'. The concert will conclude with *Revolucionario*, a virtuosic showpiece for piano trio by Argentinean tango master Astor Piazzolla.

'In putting on this concert we hope to give the audience a lot of pleasure and at the same time, raise money for a good cause' said Lachlan Bramble of the Benaud Trio. 'Presenting our favourite music will be a Christmas treat for all Melbournians.'

All proceeds for the concert will go towards Multiple Sclerosis Society of Australia. MS is a chronic, often disabling disease that causes life long unpredictable physical and emotional effects on people. MS is increasing at a rate of 8-10% a year - a figure much higher than the rate of increase in our population. At the same time, the age of diagnosis is rapidly decreasing. This is dramatically affecting young people in the prime of their lives. The concert is being organised in response to one of the interstate performers from the 2005 Australian Chamber Music Competition being recently diagnosed with MS.

The performers are funding the concert entirely themselves. 'As musicians we wanted to help the community, and what better way than through the power of music' said Mr Bramble.

The twilight performance will commence at 7.30pm on December 14 at BMW Edge, Federation Square. Admission is free but the audience will be encouraged to make a tax deductible donation to MS Australia.

Ends

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