

MEDIA RELEASE

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MUSOS TUNE UP FOR THE SALVOS

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 **Salvation Army Christmas Appeal** on Wednesday December 20.

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 favorites of William Lyne, Emeritus Artistic director of Wigmore Hall in London, especially when he found out that their ensemble name is derived from cricketing 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 programme '*Raz to Jazz*' will **showcase both old and new music**. The Tailem Quartet will perform Ludwig van Beethoven's String Quartet Op.59 No.1 '*Razumovsky*'. Known for its sorrowful slow movement and festive finale, the work is one of the highlights of the string quartet repertory. After interval the Benaud Trio will perform *Swing Shift*, a new work by New York based hotshot composer Kenji Bunch. The piece skillfully depicts New York City in the hours between dusk and dawn and incorporates elements of ambient jazz, swing and techno. 'Swing Shift has driven the Benaud Trio in a bold and exciting new direction,' said pianist Amir Farid.

The **Salvation Army** is one of Australia's best loved and well respected charities, providing services that are as wide-ranging and diverse as the areas of need in the community. The Salvation Army is particularly busy at Christmas, every year assisting more than 300,000 people across Australia. 'In organising this concert we want to celebrate Christmas with wonderful music but also support those who are in need,' said Merewyn Bramble of the Tailem Quartet. The performers are funding the concert entirely themselves.

The twilight performance will commence at 7.30pm on December 20 at BMW Edge, Federation Square. Admission is by tax deductible donation to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Ends

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