

## PROGRAMME NOTES

### La Création du monde (The Creation of the world)

Darius Milhaud first became intrigued with jazz in London, when he heard an American band playing in a Hammersmith dance hall. During his 1922 trip to America he heard the Leo Reisman band and the Paul Whiteman orchestra. He travelled to Harlem, listened to the jazz musicians of the day and returned to Paris complete with modern recordings.

La Création du monde was completed in 1923, and premiered in the Théâtre des Champs - Elysées. Conceived as a ballet, Milhaud worked with scene designer Fernand Léger (Ballet Mécanique), writer Blaise Cendrars, and choreographer Jean Börlin.

Immediate critical reaction to La Création was that it was frivolous and suited more to dance hall than concert hall. But as Milhaud noted dryly in *Notes Without Music*: "Ten years later the selfsame critics were discussing the philosophy of jazz and learnedly demonstrating that La Création was the best of my works."

### Histoire du Soldat (The Soldier's Tale)

Histoire du Soldat was a collaboration between Igor Stravinsky and C.F. Ramuz. The production revolved around a theatre piece which could be produced on a limited budget for and about common people. The plot, derived from the Faust legend, unfolds as the soldier swaps his violin to the Devil for a book which holds the key to success and wealth. A series of battles between good and evil is presented through music, text and dance. Eventually the Soldier's greed gets the upper hand and, thus, the Devil's bargain is consummated.

Histoire du Soldat received its premiere on the 28th of September, 1918 in Lausanne's Théâtre Municipal. The original handbill list M. Ernest Ansermet as conductor as well as the cast of characters and members of the orchestra. Influenced by American jazz, Stravinsky chose an ensemble of six players plus a percussionist. It is interesting to note that in this work as well as La Création du monde, we see the very early beginnings of today's modern drumkit. The production was carried out on a shoestring budget, with Stravinsky as rehearsal pianist. Histoire du Soldat has become a favourite of the W.A. Conservatorium Chamber Players. Stravinsky's own description of the work was characteristically simple and direct. It was: "to be read, played, and danced."

Gary France

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

## W. A. CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

### 20th Century Classics

W.A. Conservatorium Chamber Players

W.A. Conservatorium Contemporary Ensemble

Anthony Maydwell Conductor

April 7, 1991 5:00 pm

Music Auditorium

2 Bradford Street  
Mount Lawley W.A.6050

Programme

La Création du monde 1923

DARIUS MILHAUD

The W.A. Conservatorium Contemporary Ensemble

Anthony Maydwell - Conductor  
Pal Eder - Violin  
Suzanne Wisjman - Cello  
Peter Suzuki - Alto Saxophone  
Darryl Poulsen - French Horn  
Kerrily Morrison - Trumpet  
Gary France - Percussion  
Cathy McCorkill - Clarinet  
Ann Gilby - Oboe  
Helen McLaughlin - Flute  
Erika Toth - Violin  
Richard Lynn - Bass  
Marie Hultberg - Bassoon  
Andrew Ross - Trombone  
Simon Lilly - Trumpet  
Alison Eddington - Timpani  
Samantha Heath - Clarinet  
Brian Warren - Flute  
Cecilia Sun - Piano

Interval

*There will be one 20 minute interval to reset the stage.*

The Soldiers Tale 1918

STRAVINSKY / RAMUZ

The W.A. Conservatorium Chamber Players

Anthony Maydwell - Conductor  
Geoffrey Gibbs - Narrator  
Pal Eder - Violin  
Cathy McCorkill - Clarinet  
Marie Hultberg - Bassoon  
Kim Harrison - Cornet  
Andy Ross - Trombone  
Richard Lynn - Bass  
Gary France - Percussion

The Soldiers Tale 1918

STRAVINSKY / RAMUZ

Part One

- 1 *The Soldier's March*
- 2 *By the banks of a stream*
- 3 *Airs by a stream...*
- 4 *The Devil enters...*
- 5 *The Soldier's March*
- 6 *The Soldier returns to his homeland*
- 7 *Pastorale*
- 8 *The Soldier confronts the Devil*
- 9 *Little Pastorale*
- 10 *The Soldier exploits his acquisition greedily but soon comes to realise his foolishness*
- 11 *Airs by a stream:*  
*The Soldier reminisces*
- 12 *He regains his violin*
- 13 *Little Airs by a stream*

Part Two

- 14 *The Soldier's March*
- 15 *The Soldier travels afar*
- 16 *Royal March*
- 17 *The Soldier visits the King*
- 18 *The Soldier plays cards with the Devil*
- 19 *Little Concert*
- 20 *The Princess dances:*  
*a Tango, a Waltz, a Ragtime*
- 21 *The Devil's Dance*
- 22 *Little Chorale and the Devil's Song*
- 23 *Grand Chorales...*
- 24 *The Devil's Triumphal March*