

Anima Eterna Brugge Beethoven's Symphonies

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Anima Eterna Brugge, Belgium



Photo: Anima Eterna Brugge © Alex Vanhee

"Anima Eterna's playing held me on the edge of my seat... You are left with the words 'life-affirming'"
Gramophone Magazine

"The blazing optimism of Beethoven's vision rings anew in the rasping brass, fizzing winds and searing strings of van Immerseel's 'original' vision."
Classic FM Magazine

Anima Eterna Brugge, one of Europe's leading orchestras, will showcase the first ever Beethoven symphonic marathon to be performed in Australia on period instruments. Conducted by **Jos van Immerseel**, this historical event will take place over four nights at the City Recital Hall, with Beethoven's exuberant Ninth raising the roof of the Sydney Opera House on Sydney Festival's closing weekend.

Seven years after the release of their award-winning compilation of the complete symphonies, Anima Eterna Brugge have only ever performed the complete collection of Beethoven's works as a marathon performance three times, in Belgium, Holland and Mexico. In a genuinely thrilling performance staged in Australia exclusively for Sydney Festival, audiences will be treated to a real sense of the warmth, humour, and compassion of Beethoven's Symphonies and Overtures.

Founded in 1987 by outstanding period keyboard player Jos van Immerseel, the Belgium-based orchestra specialises in historically informed performance. The dedicated team of musicians thoroughly researched the music's original interpretation right from its sources, performing conventions, original instruments, handwritten notes and secondary literature. Anima Eterna Brugge sets out to reflect the composer's intentions exactly the way they were originally heard.

Playing on period instruments has its own challenges, as Cellist **Sergei Istomin** explains, *"gut strings are not very easy strings to play because they are alive, alive in such a way that humidity affects them and we have to retune a lot."* Van Immerseel clarifies why period instruments and research is essential by saying *"playing a score of anachronistic instruments does not harm the score because that goes on existing, and it can always be played differently. But gradually, if performers depart too much from the score, a false image is created in the collective memory. So that Beethoven begins to be seen as a precursor to Tchaikovsky"*.

Sydney's own Australian Brandenburg Choir will join the orchestra for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the Sydney Opera House. From its elegant opening notes to its triumphant climax, Beethoven's Symphonies broke new ground and changed the face of symphonic music forever.

MEDIA RELEASE

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sydneyfestival.org.au



A long overdue honouring of a magnificent work of art, *Anima Eterna Brugge Beethoven's Symphonies* has all the ingredients in place for a transcendent concert experience.

Where City Recital Hall & Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

When 20-23 & 25 January, 8pm

CITY RECITAL HALL

Overture to the Creatures of Prometheus, Symphonies 1 & 2

20 January at 8pm

86mins including interval

Symphonies 4 & 3

21 January at 8pm

95mins including interval

Symphonies 8 & 7

22 January at 8pm

85mins including interval

Symphonies 6 & 5

23 January at 8pm

93mins including interval

Price Premium \$89
A Reserve \$79
B Reserve \$59/\$53
Restricted View \$35

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
City Recital Hall 02 8256 2222
<http://sydneyfestival.org.au/anima>

CONCERT HALL SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Symphony 9

25 January at 8pm

64mins no interval

Price: Premium \$119
A Reserve \$99
B Reserve \$69/\$62
C Reserve \$59/\$53

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
Sydney Opera House 02 9250 7777
<http://sydneyfestival.org.au/anima>

Co-presented with Sydney Opera House.

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