

A UNIQUE MUSIC SOCIETY

THE SYDNEY MOZART SOCIETY'S LEGACY BY LAURA-JAY MATHISON



"It is quite an achievement that the voluntary organisation formed 67 years ago is still able to provide the community with the opportunity to hear, year on year, a showcase of the depth of professional talent present in Australia's musical life", says current President of the Sydney Mozart Society, Richard Coleman.

When David Worobin OAM emigrated to post-war Sydney from England, he immediately saw a need for concerts performing music of the 'golden age' of chamber music. Born in London to parents who emigrated from Russia, he had a deep knowledge and appreciation of music, especially music of Mozart's era. In

1950, while working as a french polisher for Amalgamated Wireless he, along with several other Sydney music lovers, founded the Sydney Mozart Society.

The Society is not for profit, funded by members and run by volunteers. It presents an annual program of six chamber music concerts, performing music of the 18th and 19th centuries. It also has a long association with Fine Music. Soon after the station's launch in December 1974, David Worobin began presenting a Tuesday concert program featuring his favourite pieces, followed by a weekly Sunday afternoon mainly-Mozart program named *Amadeus*, which was later presented by Martin Cooper OAM (the current Artistic Director). By all accounts, David Worobin was delighted with Fine Music and the opportunities it afforded, remarking, "It's given so many an opportunity to participate and they're such a very amiable, dedicated group of people". David Worobin retired as President at the age of 90 in 1992 and the role passed to Martin Cooper who was, to the regular audience, the 'face' of the Sydney Mozart Society for over 20 years.

The Society's first ventures were small concerts in private homes. One businessman even converted part of his home into a small

baroque theatre for this purpose. Concerts are now held in the Concourse Concert Hall, Chatswood. Most of Australia's leading chamber groups have performed with Sydney Mozart Society and distinguished Australian violinist Donald Hazelwood AO OBE, also a Patron, was a frequent performer at the Society's concerts in various ensembles over the years. The Society has also collaborated with Sydney Musica Viva Younger Group and the Australia Ensemble and it currently sponsors the Ryde Eisteddfod.

Current President Richard Coleman says: "We have valued over the years the opportunity for many of our concerts to be recorded by Fine Music FM volunteers, providing an historical record of music performed locally by many artists. The inspiration across the generations of chamber music of the 18th and 19th centuries, with Mozart at its core, will always endure."

Go to www.sydneymozartsociety.com for more information on the Sydney Mozart Society and its concerts.

Listen to *Fine Music at the Mozart Society* at **2pm on Friday 23 June** featuring music recorded over the years at Sydney Mozart Society concerts by Fine Music volunteers.