

# 24 HOURS

Your comprehensive guide to ABC TV, ABC2 & ABC Radio – May

## 24 HOURS RECOMMENDS

### **The Marais Project in concert Tuesday 30 May 8pm In Performance ABC Classic FM**

If you love the rich, mellow sounds of the viola da gamba you won't want to miss this concert by the Marais Project. And if you're not familiar with this wonderful instrument, here's a great opportunity to get acquainted. In this concert by the Sydney-based Marais Project you'll hear works by Marin Marais, the French viola da gamba master whose work was the impetus for the Project, Forqueray and Couperin as well as a new work for viola da gamba by Australian composer Kevin Hunt.

The Marais Project is the brainchild of viola da gamba player Jennifer Eriksson. Eriksson originally studied cello at the NSW Conservatorium before going to study viola da gamba with Jaap ter Linden at the Rotterdam Conservatorium where she completed a post-graduate degree in baroque music. She loves the music of Marais and in 2000 embarked on Marais Project to perform the complete works of Marin Marais and to provide a vehicle that enables her to bring ancient and modern music for the viola da gamba to a wider audience.

In this concert, which was recorded in October last year, Eriksson is joined by two other viola da gamba players – Catherine Tabrett, a cellist who has been studying viola da gamba with Eriksson, and Daniel Yeadon. Yeadon originally studied piano and cello, but went on to complete a physics degree at Oxford. He worked as a scientific book editor before being lured back into music performance. He trained with the European Community

Baroque Orchestra and became Principal Cello with renowned period ensemble Florilegium. He is now based in Sydney and is a regular performer in the city's period ensembles.

Joining the three viola da gamba players for this concert are early music specialists Neal Peres Da Costa on harpsichord and Tommie Andersson on theorbo and baroque guitar.

The concert begins and ends with Suites by Marais. The opening work is a suite for three viols, in six movements.

Published in 1717 this work is in marked contrast to the Suite for two viols, the last work, written around 1686. Commenting on the Suite for three viols in the concert program notes, Eriksson writes: "... The third viol part splits off from the continuo on occasion giving greater independence to the third player. Herein lies the biggest difference between the suites for two viols and the suites for three viols: in the suite for two viols the third gamba simply doubles the bass line played by the harpsichord and theorbo. The D major suite,

which we have selected to play today, demonstrates the way that Marais' music had matured in the years since he wrote the suites for two viols, one notable development being his use of the extreme ranges of the instrument."

As a contrast to the early music and to bring the viola da gamba into the 21st century Eriksson asked composer and jazz pianist Kevin Hunt to create a piece for the ensemble. His work *Mercy, Air and Joy* is in three movements and takes its form from Bach. As Hunt explains, "... we may hear what JS Bach's music may have sounded like if Louis Armstrong had been playing 'church gigs' in Germany in the 1700s!"

For more information on the Marais Project visit [www.maraisproject.com.au](http://www.maraisproject.com.au)



Viola da gamba players Jennifer Eriksson, Daniel Yeadon and Catherine Tabrett

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