

Review: Piers Lane at UKARIA

Concert pianist Piers Lane's obvious joy at being back with an audience was clearly reciprocated by his enthusiasts and Chopin devotees alike.

Rodney Smith

less than 2 min read

May 24, 2021 - 11:04AM



Australian concert pianist Piers Lane. Picture: Supplied.

It's entirely appropriate concert pianist Piers Lane featured probably his favourite composer, Chopin, to celebrate his stage return after a lengthy absence and a further two weeks' quarantine following his arrival from the UK.

His obvious joy at being back with an audience was clearly reciprocated by Lane enthusiasts and Chopin devotees alike and the moment he becomes immersed in Chopin's music you can see why.

Some may have felt trepidation at the thought of all the Chopin waltzes being played end on. The whole 17 were presented in order of their composition on this occasion.

But fears were unfounded as Lane mined every musical nook and cranny to illuminate Chopin's creative genius.



Australian concert pianist Piers Lane> Picture: Supplied

Waltzes that have been routinely ruined over the years at the hands of enthusiastic amateurs, such as the A minor Op 34 No. 2 and the F minor Op 70 No. 2, emerged blinking into the light dressed in new clothes and sounding more meaningful and colourful than many would have thought possible.

And those with technical challenges that have preserved them from fumbling fingers, such as the two Grand Waltzes Op 18 and Op 42, glistened and glowed afresh.

Lane is a fastidious and meticulous artist whose command of cantabile sound, tempo rubato, delicate colourations and some of the fleetest fingers in the business, make him an ideal Chopin player.

Beethoven's Sonata Op 110 and works by Brahms and Brett Dean completed Lane's celebratory return to live music making.

Piers Lane

UKARIA Cultural Centre