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**Introducing Melbourne Recital Centre's  
LOCAL HEROES 2012  
21 ensembles, over 70 performances, 1 stunning venue**

**MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 2012** – Every musician has a story, every ensemble has its supporters, and every hall has a spirit. Bringing all these important components together, Melbourne Recital Centre is launching **Local Heroes**, an umbrella program of 21 ensembles, presenting over 70 concerts in 2012.

Dedicated to providing Melbourne communities the chance to hear a diverse range of musical genres, ensembles and repertoire, Local Heroes brings together musicians from Melbourne with a few interstate friends to present their concerts series at Melbourne Recital Centre. Most tickets are around \$35 for a 70-minute concert, or less if part of a package or subscription.

Local Heroes is a natural evolution of the Centre's vibrant chamber music program. Local Heroes makes it easier for audiences to discover the breadth and depth of Melbourne's music scene, with flexible and discounted concert packages, a blog ([melbournelocalheroes.com.au](http://melbournelocalheroes.com.au)) to read about and engage with their Local Heroes. Of course, there's always the option to simply drop in and see who's playing this week. Melbourne Recital Centre invites you to discover your Local Heroes and follow their adventures throughout 2012.

**Benaud Trio** inaugurates Local Heroes on 11 February with a program called *East Meets West*. One of the first ensembles to perform at the Centre's smaller hall The Salon, they have built a wonderful audience around their warm and accessible concert repertoire. This concert features Copland's *Vitebsk*, Bunch's *Swing Shift* and Takemitsu's calming *Between Tides*.

Well-known for their unique collaborations with friends, **Ensemble Liaison** return with another stellar season of artists to enjoy. Their first concert on 22 February is a rare treat – *An Evening of American Song* – featuring celebrated husband and wife team, soprano Cheryl Barker and baritone Peter Coleman-Wright.

**Syzygy Ensemble's** series for 2012 is a tribute to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Schoenberg's era-defining *Pierrot lunaire*, a dark world of masquerades and Commedia dell'Arte. Syzygy's concert on 29 February presents a unique program inspired by the dark depths of night, including works by Brett Dean, Toshio Hosokawa, and Claude Debussy, whose Cello Sonata was originally entitled *Pierrot Furious with the Moon*.

For more information about the Local Heroes program look out for the Local Heroes' brochure at Melbourne Recital Centre, or see [www.melbournerecital.com.au/localheroes](http://www.melbournerecital.com.au/localheroes).

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