

Chamber Music Premiere

Sunday 17th April at St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo, sees the first performance of a new chamber music composition: "Seven Fragments after Paul Celan" by local composer, Rohan Phillips.

An ensemble of nearly 20 players has been assembled for this concert including local instrumentalists and singers, with additional players coming up from Melbourne.

Rohan, who studied composition with Larry Sitsky at the A.N.U., will be directing this performance. He is also known as the conductor of the Bendigo Choral and Bendigo Youth Orchestra, but has continued to find time to compose music. He has recently had works performed by the St Paul's Cathedral choir, the Bendigo Chorale, percussionist Timothy Phillips (who will take part in this concert) and flautist Mardi McSullea, and the Bendigo Symphony orchestra performed his "Introitus: Omnia tempis habent" in April, 2003.

Written over two years, 'Seven Fragments after Paul Celan' is his largest work to date. The work explores text by German-language poets Paul Celan (1920-1970) and Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926), yet remains more or less abstract in its conception. The 'fragments' of the title may be likened to an archaeological dig; where a larger picture or mosaic is pieced together from small parts.

Another aspect of the Fragments is that they were written to be modular: parts of the composition could be performed in isolation, a selection may be played, or (as will be the case at St Paul's) the whole set of 7 may be performed.

Also included on the programme will be the percussion duo "Rrrr..." by Mauricio Kagel performed by Timothy Phillips and Stephan Fitzgerald.

The concert will start at 3.00pm at St Paul's Cathedral, Myers Street, Bendigo. Tickets will be available at the door: Adults \$18, concession \$15.

Anyone after further information is invited to phone 5444 1818, or visit www.rohanphillips.com.au