

Murray River Fine Music
proudly presents

2025 Concert Series

2PM
SUNDAY
2 NOVEMBER 2025
THE CUBE,
WODONGA

楽 Duo Gaku

Timeless melodies

From the Artistic Director

Welcome to our last Murray River Fine Music concert for the year, which is also the first official outing for Duo Gaku 楽. Kaori and I have been wanting to explore the violin and piano repertoire after many years focusing on trio repertoire with Orpheus Trio, and are delighted to present this varied program featuring Stravinsky's charming take on the 18th century, a new work by Gordon Kerry, and Brahms's towering masterpiece.

Thanks for all of your support – we look forward to unveiling our exciting plans for 2026 soon.

Helena Kernaghan

Artistic Director and CEO
Murray River Fine Music

Program



INTRODUCTION & WELCOME –

Gordon Kerry
Artistic Advisor
Murray River Fine Music

IGOR STRAVINSKY (1882–1971)

Suite italienne
Introduzione
Serenata
Tarantella
Gavotta con due variazioni
Scherzino
Minuetto - Finale

GORDON KERRY (born 1961)

Sonata No.2 for violin and piano
Lento calmo – un poco più mosso
Moderato
Adagio

Commissioned by
Carolyn Masel for Duo Gaku

INTERVAL

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833–1897)

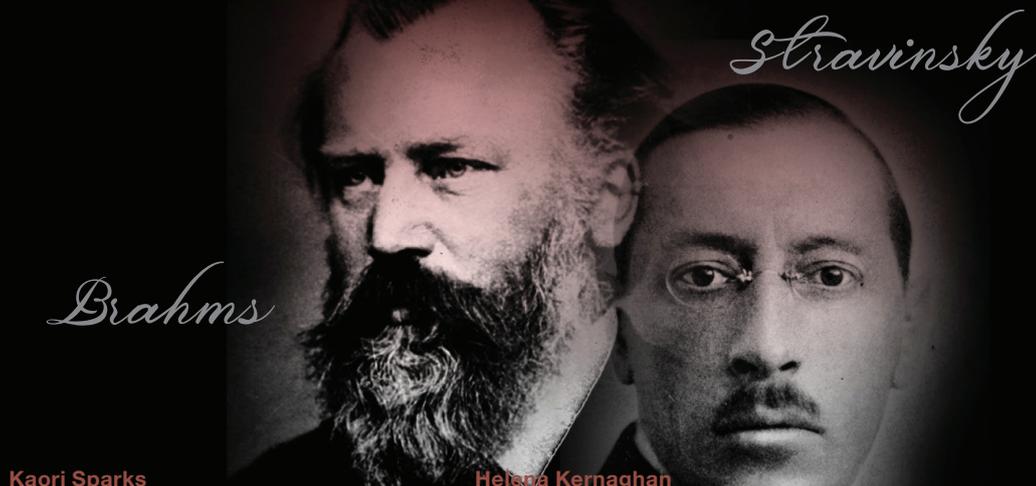
Sonata No.3 for piano and
violin in D minor, Op.108
Allegro
Adagio
Un poco presto e con sentimento
Presto agitato

Join us in the foyer afterwards to meet the artists. Young pianists Brigita Serbinek and Louie Giblin will perform.



murray river
fine music

About the Artists



Kaori Sparks



Kaori Sparks (née Nogi) was born in Japan. She began playing the violin at the age of four and piano at the age of seven. She studied at

Musashino Music University in Tokyo, receiving honours for violin, violin-piano duet, chamber music, and orchestra performance. She performed many concerts as a selected student of the University, and graduated in 2002.

Kaori toured Europe as a member of the Tokyo-Budapest String Quartet and Tokyo-Budapest Ensemble five times between 2004-2006, under the directorship of concert clarinetist and conductor Kálmán Berkes. She also performed with the Salzburg Festival Orchestra and Hungarian National Orchestra during this time.

After the busy life going back and forth between Europe and Japan, Kaori scaled back her concert performances in 2007 and concentrated on teaching. She and her family relocated to Albury, Australia in early 2009.

In March 2011, northern Japan, including Kaori's home prefecture of Fukushima, suffered significant damage from a major earthquake. This prompted Kaori to organise three charity concerts throughout the year around Albury, with the generous support of many local classical musicians. It was at the last of these performances that she met and played with pianist Helena Kernaghan.

In early 2012, Kaori and Helena, along with cellist Sam Goble, formed the Orpheus Trio. The group has performed extensively around regional Victoria and southern New South Wales, as well as Melbourne. Kaori also opened her own music studio in Thurgoona in 2013, resuming the teaching of violin and piano. She is very passionate about chamber music and has collaborated with accomplished musicians, including clarinetist David Griffiths, violinist Markiyana Melnychenko and violist Simon Oswell.

Helena Kernaghan



Helena Kernaghan finished her Masters in Music Performance at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2005 after studying with Donna Coleman and

Caroline Almonte. Helena soon established herself as an accomplished chamber musician, accompanist and soloist.

In 1997, she formed the Abraxas Piano Trio, which featured Sam Goble on cello, and this was when Helena and Sam first began collaborating on musical projects. Performance highlights during this time included performing as a soloist in Messiaen's *Oiseaux exotiques* at Government House, a duo piano recital with Will Poskitt of Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du printemps* at the ABC's Iwaki Auditorium, and soloist in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with The Opus 21 Big Band.

Since 2006, Helena has lived in Albury, enjoying the challenge of teaching and maintaining an active performing life. Helena was the founding artistic director for the Albury Chamber Music Festival (2016-2019), where she worked tirelessly to bring live performances of classical music to her hometown. Helena has continued her work in this field as artistic director for Murray River Fine Music, the border region's newest and most exciting music performance and education venture.

Helena is a gifted and versatile accompanist and, in recent times has collaborated with a variety of artists, including Dutch thereminist Thorwald Jørgensen, American pianist Donna Coleman, Australian soprano Merlyn Quaife, and tenor Shanul Sharma.

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COMING UP

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Murray River Fine Music acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pays its respects to their Elders past, present and future.