

MEDIA RELEASE: FEBRUARY 2012 – for immediate release

selby & friends

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Selby & Friends 2012 Season Opener– *A Ghost at the Café*



"This concert encapsulates the chamber music experience: intimate, involving music among friends." SMH

"These musicians set a high, consistent, and thoroughly professional benchmark." The Age

"The youthful Newman once again proved that he is an exceptional cellist." The Strad

Selby & Friends is pleased to announce *A Ghost at the Café*, the first tour of the 2012 season, featuring critically acclaimed soloists and chamber musicians Clancy Newman (Cello), Sophie Rowell (Violin) and Artistic Director, Kathryn Selby (Piano). Rowell is the exceptional former leader of the ASQ, Newman has recently been called "exhilarating" and "dazzling" and Selby is considered Australia's "formidable" "pre-eminent chamber music pianist".

With a new look and feel, Selby & Friends presents chamber music with a difference with a music festival-style experience and engaging on-stage interaction with the performers amongst whom feature some of Australia's finest musicians.

A Ghost at the Café is an exciting program, including two giants of the piano trio repertoire with Beethoven's 'Ghost' and Shostakovich's epic second trio, plus to open, the charming and good-humoured Miniatures by the English master Frank Bridge and the explosively entertaining cult hit 'Café Music' by Paul Schoenfield, a personal favourite of both Selby and Newman filled with jazz, folk and ragtime.

In talking of Café Music, Newman has claimed "If one were to claim that the mark of "greatness" in a piece is defined by whether it is still performed and enjoyed hundreds of years after its creation, then I think that Café Music will ultimately come to be regarded as the greatest American piano trio of the twentieth century."

Of the upcoming performances of *A Ghost at the Café*, Selby is thrilled to have such talented and lauded guest artists as Rowell and Newman joining her on stage for the first time, saying of the upcoming tour

"Both Sophie and Clancy are not just brilliant soloists but extraordinary chamber musicians, communicating eloquently in both medium. It will be a real thrill to share this wonderful program of cult favourites with them both."

A Ghost at the Café
Kathryn Selby (Piano)
Sophie Rowell (Violin)
Clancy Newman (Cello)

Frank Bridge - Miniatures Set 2
L v Beethoven - Piano Trio No. 5 in D major, "Ghost" Op.70 #1

Paul Schoenfield - Café Music

Dmitri Shostakovich - Piano Trio in E minor, Op.67

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Adelaide – Sunday 18th March @ 2:30pm, Elder Hall, University of Adelaide

Canberra – Monday 19th March @ 7:30 pm – Fairfax Theatre, NGA

Melbourne – Wednesday 21st March @ 7:30pm – BMW Edge Theatre, Federation Square

Sydney – Thursday 22nd March @ 7pm – City Recital Hall, Angel Place

Bowral – Saturday 24th @ 5pm – Performing Arts Centre, Chevalier College

Turrumurra – Sunday 25th March @ 2pm – Turrumurra Uniting Church

Tickets range from \$44 - \$68.

Media enquiries and interviews please contact Courtney Johnson on 0401 633 831 or

Courtney@selbyandfriends.com.au

Further details and hi-res images: www.selbyandfriends.com.au

Sophie Rowell, violin

Born in Adelaide, Sophie Rowell studied at AIM and at the Cologne Hochschule for Musik with the Alban Berg Quartet. She has also participated in masterclasses with renowned violinists and chamber musicians, including Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Walter Levin (LaSalle Quartet) and Norbert Brainin (Amadeus Quartet.) In 2000, Sophie won the Symphony Australia Young Performer's Award, and has since had solo engagements with all the major Australian orchestras, and in France. As the first violinist of the Australian String Quartet (formerly Tankstream Quartet 2000-2006) she has given concerts and been broadcast throughout Australia, Europe, North America, Japan and New Zealand.

Clancy Newman, cello

Cellist Clancy Newman, first prize winner of the 2001 Walter W. Naumburg International Competition and recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2004, has had the unusual career of a performer/composer. He has performed as soloist throughout the US, as well as in Europe, Asia, and Australia, and he has been a member of Chamber Music Society Two of Lincoln Center and Musicians from Marlboro. He is currently a member of the Chicago Chamber Musicians and the Weiss-Kaplan-Newman trio. As a composer, he has been featured on the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's "Double Exposure" series and the Chicago Chamber Musicians' "Freshly Scored" series, and has received commissions from Astral Artists, the Barnett Foundation, the Carpe Diem String Quartet, and the UBS Chamber Music Festival of Lexington

Artistic Director and Pianist, Kathryn Selby

Hailed by the Australian press as a '*formidable talent*' and most recently, '*Australia's pre-eminent chamber music pianist*', Miss Selby is the artistic director of both the popular nationally touring Selby & Friends concert series and the *A Little Lunch Music* series at Sydney's City Recital Hall Angel Place, and is the recipient of the prestigious Churchill and Australia Council Fellowships. She began her piano studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and then attended the famed Curtis Institute of Music and Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia, and earned her Master's degree from New York's Juilliard School. Selby has won numerous international competitions and recorded extensively for ABC Classics and Naxos. Her ensembles, TRIOZ and Macquarie Trio have been extremely successful with TRIOZ as the first ensemble in-residence at City Recital Hall Angel Place and Macquarie Trio in-residence at Macquarie University for 16 years. Selby has been touring nationally for over 20 years, presenting concerts and encouraging young musicians. Selby is Patron of the Sydney University Symphony Orchestra and teaches at Sydney Grammar School.

Children admitted free

In a far-sighted initiative, Australian families can now foster in their children an early appreciation and love of classical music in fine venues, through Selby & Friends' offer of free tickets for children 12 years and under. Note: Bookings for children must be done through the S&F office on (02) 9969 7039.