



Share the Chair player review

On an icy June afternoon in the city, musicians from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra welcomed members of the Melbourne Youth Orchestra to step on stage at the Melbourne Town Hall and 'share' their chairs. For the final event in MSO's education week, the combined forces presented Rachmaninov's *Die Toteninsel* (Isle of the Dead) and Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 3* in a public concert on Saturday, June 18.

Although a fantastic culmination of a great deal of hard work and focus, the concert was but one part of a program that had a reduced MYO undertaking some extensive preparation before meeting the MSO in full rehearsals. To witness the streamlined approach of these seasoned performers to the concert preparation process at any distance is a wonderful opportunity, but for the MYO players, the chance to do so by their sides as part of that process was a privilege. These rehearsals provided an unmatched insight into the workings of a professional orchestra, and the MYO's determination to rise to this elite standard did not go unnoticed by their professional counterparts.

The Saturday night performance was electric, charged with the experienced commitment of the MSO alongside the freshly inspired and motivated vigour of the MYO, and will certainly be remembered by those young musicians who took part for a long time to come.

- Jennifer Mills, Cello