

# Right note for recital

## Cello and Piano Recital

David Pereira and Susanne Powell.  
Wesley Music Centre. March 1.

**T**his duo-recital presented last weekend by two of Canberra's most distinguished musical artists made a memorable start to the city's 2008 concert season. It was a program of six widely varied compositions provided to an appreciative audience, starting with a finely shaded performance of J.S. Bach's *Sonata in G, BWV 1027*. Although originally written for the viola da gamba, it is eminently suited to the cello. With the modern piano bringing a more appropriate tonal support to the cello than the original cembalo, this was a stylish and highly enjoyable performance.

The *Como una Fantasia* for solo cello by Josquin Rodrigo displayed David Pereira's technical command of his instrument and the underlying Spanish expression of the music, and it made an attractive bridge to the most substantial work of the program, Schubert's *Arpeggione Sonata in A major D.821*. This work received a most appealing realisation with a perfect partnership between cellist and pianist.

The second half started with a lively performance of Bohuslav Martinu's amusing *Variations* on a theme of Rossini, followed by a bright suite of five movements titled *Rags, Piece and Tango* by Australian composer Elena Kats-Chernin. The playing was so engaging that they provided a relaxing interlude before the more serious expression of Benjamin Britten's *Cello Sonata in C, Op 65*, which was the final item on the program. It made a memorable conclusion to a fine concert.

W.L. Hoffmann