

KIRTLEY LEIGH (Walker-Halstead) SOLO VIOLIN & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

www.paradiseconcerts.com kirtley.leigh@yahoo.com +61 439 763 810 DOB December 19, 1960

189-191 Stanton Rd. Smithfield, Queensland 4878 AUSTRALIA

BIOGRAPHY American-born, Dual National, American/Australian violinist Kirtley Leigh has a career that has taken her across the globe, as soloist, in chamber concerts, recitals, and orchestras worldwide. Her performances have been celebrated in over 20 countries. She was born and educated in the USA and called Atlanta home. She has played violin professionally since the age of 16- having begun lessons at the age of 5. She currently resides in Australia.

EDUCATION Bachelor of Music (honours) Degree Indiana University (1982)-Performance, Master's Degree credits (1983)

TEACHERS Josef Gingold, Joseph Silverstein, Dorothy DeLay, John Harding

Early tuition- Kathleen De Berry Brungard-author/composer of the innovative string series books, *Orchestral Expressions*, Alfred Music, that are recognized as the main string teaching curriculum in many states. **Ronda Respass**- Principal Second Violin Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

MASTERCLASSES Henryk Szering, Joseph Silverstein, Menachem Pressler, Janos Starker, Stephane Grappelli, Itzhak Perlman, Nigel Kennedy, James Buswell and others

AWARDS American Federation of Music Prize/Recitalist New York 1982
RADF award in recognition of cultural excellence in Cairns, Queensland, Australia 2007

ORCHESTRAL

1978-1983 USA Various freelance extra section violin positions while studying at Indiana University

1983-1990 Hong Kong, Europe

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| Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra | - <i>Associate Leader/Concertmaster</i> 1983-1987 |
| Kline Komodie Orchestra, Amsterdam | - <i>Leader /Concertmaster</i> 1988 |
| Het Gelders Orkest, Arnhem, The Netherlands | - <i>Associate Leader/Concertmaster</i> , 1988 |
| Stavanger Symphony Orchestra (Norway) | - <i>Principal Second Violin</i> 1988-1990 |
| Pollensa Chamber Orchestra, (Spain) | - <i>Leader/Concertmaster</i> 1988 |
| Bergen Philharmonic (Norway) | - <i>guest</i> 1990 |

1990-2004 United Kingdom numerous Chamber and Symphony Orchestras, including

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| London Chamber Symphony- | <i>Principal Second Violin</i> , |
| Midlands Philharmonic- | <i>Assistant Leader/Concertmaster</i> |
| Academy of London, | <i>Principal Second Violin</i> |
| Oxford Orchestra, | |
| European Union Chamber Orchestra | <i>Principal Second Violin</i> |
| Oporto Orchestra, Portugal, | 1992-2004 guest |

2004-present Queensland, Australia

Paradise Concerts International Chamber Music Series -*Founder, Leader and Artistic Director* 2004-present

- Cairns Community Orchestra -*Leader and Artistic Director*, 2004-2008
- Cairns Concert Orchestra -*Leader and Artistic Director*. 2008-2010

2010-present Established *Serendipity Piano Trio* with Cellist Gwyn Roberts and Pianist Jenni Flemming-Roberts

2015 BBC Cardiff Chamber Orchestra, Wales *Guest leader, Ran Masterclasses for string section*

CHAMBER MUSIC

Paradise Concerts International Chamber Music Series *Soloist and Artistic Director* **2003-Present**

Kirtley Leigh founded the acclaimed Chamber Music Series, in which she has performed as soloist and recitalist with some of the luminaries of the international music world, notably-in recital with pianists Pascal Roge, Melvyn Tan, Benjamin Martin, Clemens Leske, Flautist Jane Rutter, Didgeridoo William Barton, Singer Herb Armstrong, Actress Diane Cilento (see www.paradiseconcerts.com) *Centre of Contemporary Arts* Residency

Australian Festival of Chamber Music

Chamber Orchestra *Leader/Concertmaster, Ran Masterclasses, Chamber Music concerts* 2005

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Festivals

Aspen (1977,1978) (USA)
Point-Counterpoint, Chautauqua (USA)
St. Endellion, Classics Live, Prussia Cove (*under conductor Richard Hickox*) (UK)
Klassik Aften, Bergen Festspille, Oslo (Norway)
Amsterdam,
Vienna Chamber Music Festival
Pollensa (Spain),
Hong Kong Chamber Music Festival 1983-1987
International Classics Live Festival Cardiff 2000,
Festival Cairns, Cooktown Discovery, Innisfail, Port Douglas (Australia) 2004-2013

SOLO ABC (Australia), BBC (U.K.), Hong Kong and Norwegian Radio recording artist

-ABC (2003-present), BBC (1990-2004), Norwegian Radio (1988-1990)

Solo Recital Tour Papua New Guinea

-giving a command performance for the Prime Minister at Parliament House. 2005

Queensland State Arts Council

- Regular appointed recital touring artist 2003

Barrier Reef Orchestra

- under conductor John Hopkins OBE-soloist and guest Leader/Concertmaster 2005

Opera Queensland

-soloist 2006

Solo Recital Tour New Zealand

-including recitals and solo in the **World Premiere of a Concerto for Violin and Orchestra** written for her by Ross Carey. 2006

Opera in the Outback Soloist 2007

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair 2007

- performed for National dignitaries at the opening gala for the in a **World Premiere** "The Elements" with international didgeridoo sensation William Barton.

Preston Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Soloist 2008

Cairns Regional Gallery Solo Recital by invitation of the estate of painter Arthur Boyd 2014

2013 Command Recital performance for former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Siti. Leigh also instructed Madame Siti in violin. As a result of this concert, Leigh was invited to give a concert tour in Malaysia in 2017, in a Premiere performance of another contemporary **Violin Concerto, Noor, composer, Katia Tiutiunnik.**

2016 Leigh was invited by BBC Conductor Mark Eager to travel to **Cardiff, Wales** as **Guest Leader and hold Orchestral Strings Masterclasses** for his orchestra, **BBC Welsh Sinfonia**.

- invited to perform with lead of the sensation band **INXS** in an improvised performance with frontman Cieran Gribbon.

Kirtley was **Artist-in-Residence** in July 2016 for the inaugural **Sedona Summer Colony Festival** at the invitation of Director Eric Holowatz. She appeared as soloist and in collaborations. Her improvised music was the feature of a project developed during her residency-a film highlighting the underwater wonders of the Great Barrier Reef

TEACHING

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts - Assistant Violin Professor. 1984-1987

Private teaching studio, London (1990 – 2003)

Franciscan School, Head of Strings London (2000-2003)

Wimbledon Academy of Arts and Music London (2000-2003)

Wandsworth Music Academy London (2010-2013)

St Andrew's College, Redlynch Australia (2012-2014)

Jubilee College, Atherton Head of Strings Australia (2014 –present)

My students have been accepted into the Conservatoriums of Music in Brisbane and Sydney, the Australian Academy of Music, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and Royal Danish Conservatorium. My studio of violin (and viola and some cello students) regularly place as 1st prize-winners in competitions, and are consistently achieving High Distinction results in the Australian accredited AMEB Exams. I regularly teach all age levels from beginner, but special concentration is placed on High School graduates preparing for College entrance exams, as well as older students wishing to take auditions for major orchestras. Some have gone on to start solo or chamber music professional careers