



THE AMADEUS MYTH:

Mozart (1756-91) and His World - Culture and Society in Late 18th Century Vienna

By **Sandy Burnett** MA Arts Society Lecturer



Classical music reached a peak of perfection in Vienna during the last three decades of the eighteenth century, an era in which every aristocratic household worth its salt had a Kapelle or band of musicians to keep everyone entertained. In particular, the refined musical discourse of the string quartet was held to be the highest form of musical art; the elegant interplay of its various string instruments likened by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe to “four intelligent people conversing.” In this talk, Sandy examines the perfect storm of circumstances that made this extraordinary era possible, looks at selected excerpts of Classical elegance at its finest, and considers the remarkable figure of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a musician rightly prized – and mythologised – as one of the greatest ever known.



Sandy Burnett MA Arts Society Lecturer:

After studying music at St Catharine's College, Cambridge and working as music director for the RSC, National Theatre and in London's West End, Sandy Burnett spent a decade as one of the core team of music presenters on BBC Radio 3. He enjoys a varied career that embraces broadcasting, conducting, playing double bass and communicating his passion for music. He regularly leads cultural lecture holidays, is the author of the *Idler Guide to Classical Music*, and was appointed the Academy of Ancient Music's Hogwood Fellow for the 2018-19 season.

Monday 11th May, 2020 at 6:45 pm for 7:00 pm

Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, Cnr. Vincent St and Aberdare Rd, Cessnock.

After the lecture a light supper and Hunter Valley wines will be served during which you will have the opportunity to meet the lecturer.

Visitors are welcome - \$30.00, Students and Visiting ADFAS Members - NO CHARGE

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