

Overview

The Sydney Symphony 2007 Season

The Sydney Symphony and its Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti, are proud to launch a high voltage 75th Anniversary Season that will incorporate three grand classical music festivals, a stellar line-up of some of the world's finest classical talent, a reinvigorated film and jazz program series, a Celebration Ball and a season that continues to bring the most exquisite music to the people of Sydney and New South Wales.

At the core of the Sydney Symphony's most traditional programming, as part of the ever-popular Emirates Metro Series and EnergyAustralia Master Series, audiences will have a rare opportunity to experience a full Brahms, Beethoven and Rachmaninov festival. In true festival form, Sydney Symphony will join forces with some leading arts and educational organisations to celebrate the genius of these masters throughout the city.

World-acclaimed guest conductors performing in the Symphony's 75th anniversary season will include former Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor Sir Charles Mackerras, and other legendary stars including Hubert Soudant, Jeffery Tate, Simone Young, and Vladimir Ashkenazy. Fast-emerging stars will also be visiting the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall including Tugan Sokhiev and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Visiting soloists that are sure to be crowd pleasers range from cellist Pieter Wispelwey and world-famous trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger, to violin virtuoso Frank Peter Zimmermann.

Australian composition will be strongly represented with 11 Australian works including four world premieres as well as a revival of one of Australia's earliest operas, *Don John of Austria*, not heard in its entirety in Australia since its premiere in 1847.

A new energy surrounds the Kaleidoscope Series (previously *Morgan Stanley – Music Series*) with the recent appointment of its first Artistic Advisor, James Morrison, who will oversee a series of four innovative programs.

Kaleidoscope audiences will experience live orchestral music alongside one of Charlie Chaplin's greatest silent films *The Gold Rush* and travel with narrator John Bell to the Antarctic as the sounds of Vaughan Williams' *Sinfonia Antartica* echo throughout the Concert Hall. Morrison and Lalo Schifrin will power their way through another concert, though this time with a more orchestral focus. As a testament to Schifrin's close relationship with the Orchestra, a new work written especially for the Sydney Symphony, James Morrison and pianist Ambre Hammond will be premiered. In addition, jazz legend Chick Corea will present a mesmerising performance of jazz music, joined by Gary Burton on vibraphone and marimba.

In 2007 the sell-out Discovery Program, an award-winning adult education musical lecture series, will explore the works of Beethoven, Debussy, Janáček and Rachmaninov. The Orchestra's Education Program, the nation's largest orchestral music education program, will continue its work for schools, teachers and community groups, inspiring thousands of students about classical music. The Program's range of initiatives will continue to excel at providing emerging musicians and composers with unique opportunities to learn from the Sydney Symphony musicians.

In recognition of the Sydney Symphony's 75th anniversary year, the Symphony will become a traditional Waltz Orchestra for one night presenting its first Celebration Ball.

The three festivals

SYDNEY SYMPHONY MARKS ITS 75th WITH THREE GRAND COMPOSER FESTIVALS

Brahms Festival – 15 February to 3 March

Beethoven Festival – 30 May to 10 June

Rachmaninov Festival – 2 November to 17 November

The Sydney Symphony has performed many festivals throughout its 75-year history, most recently a Sibelius Cycle in 2004 and Shostakovich Festival in 2002.

In celebration of its 75th anniversary, the Sydney Symphony, will treat audiences to a mammoth three festivals that will celebrate and showcase the lives and works of Brahms, Beethoven and Rachmaninov.

According to Sydney Symphony's Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti, festivals offer a rare chance to hear and learn about a composer's full cycle of works offering new insights into the spirit of the music and its creation.

"Playing a symphonic cycle is a special challenge. It's a remarkable test of stamina but it can also take an orchestra's playing to a new level. It gives the orchestra and audiences the chance to focus on a composer's musical genius and understand it on a much deeper level," Maestro Gelmetti said.

The Brahms Festival

The 2007 Season will launch with a Brahms Festival with the Orchestra and Maestro Gelmetti performing music that, according to composer Leonard Bernstein, 'enriched and ennobled the world' – the music of Johannes Brahms.

The Sydney Symphony season opening gala performance of Brahms' German Requiem marks the start of the Brahms Festival.

The Brahms Festival continues with Maestro Gelmetti and the Orchestra performing the composer's four magnificent symphonies. By nature conscientious and severely self-critical, Brahms approached the symphonic genre with great care and deliberation – his first symphony took more than 14 years to compose. These compelling and finely crafted compositions are clothed in a grandness and richness that will see the Orchestra at its best.

The Beethoven Festival

For two weeks in June, the Sydney Symphony and Maestro Gelmetti turn their attention to Beethoven with the Orchestra presenting a monumental cycle of all the Beethoven symphonies and several piano concertos performed by pianist Gerhard Oppitz.

Beethoven's nine symphonies are an incomparable musical revelation. Much of music history was changed by Beethoven's creative genius and playing all nine symphonies is the ultimate illustration of his expressive power. It is music that inspires, excites, even terrifies.

Maestro Gelmetti's Beethoven interpretations are acclaimed and harness the full power of the symphony orchestra.

The Rachmaninov Festival

For its third festival, the Sydney Symphony welcomes to the podium one of the world's foremost interpreters of the music of Rachmaninov – Vladimir Ashkenazy – to conduct a mesmerising cycle of the composer's major orchestral works including his three symphonies and three of his piano concertos.

As one of the greatest pianists of his age, Rachmaninov was a performer of unmatched skill. The charisma he had on the concert platform lives on in his stunning symphonies and concertos with their soaring lyrical melodies and evocative colours.

Vladimir Ashkenazy is a pianist and conductor of unsurpassed brilliance with a career that spans over forty years and numerous recordings. His Sibelius project with the Sydney Symphony in 2004 was one of the Orchestra's more recent artistic triumphs.

Ashkenazy has chosen four outstanding pianists: Cristina Ortiz, Kazune Shimizu, Lukáš Vondráček and Garrick Ohlsson to perform alongside him in this festival.

Australian composition

IT'S ON FOR YOUNG AND OLD AS SYDNEY SYMPHONY GIVES AUSTRALIAN COMPOSERS A WORLD STAGE

The Sydney Symphony's 2007 season will feature the return of one of Australia's earliest operas, the premiering of one of today's youngest composers as well as one of our elder statesman, and the showcasing of four world premieres and two Australian premieres.

According to Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Gianluigi Gelmetti, performing Australian compositions is critical to the cultivation of current and future generations of Australian composers.

"Performing old and new Australian compositions serves to showcase our musical achievements as well as helping to foster new Australian talent and the next generation of classical musicians," says Gelmetti.

Australia's earliest opera

Celebrating Australia's musical heritage will be *Don John of Austria*, one of the first operas to have been written, composed and produced in Australia. It was first premiered in Sydney's Royal Victoria Theatre in 1847 and hasn't been heard in its entirety in Australia since.

The opera was written and composed in Australia during the 1840s by Isaac Nathan. Nathan's descendant, Sir Charles Mackerras, rescued the opera from oblivion, and for its Sydney Symphony gala performance, the work will be conducted by Mackerras' nephew, Alexander Briger.

One of Australia's leading composers

In 2007, a highlight will undoubtedly be a performance of the majestic *Very High Kings* composed by Richard Meale. Meale, like the Sydney Symphony, celebrates his 75th birthday in 2007, and the Orchestra will pay tribute to this great Australian composer by performing a work considered to be one of the most influential Australian compositions ever.

Young emerging composer

The performance of 25-year-old Sebastian Harris's Motet will be an example of the talent Australia has within the ranks of its younger composers. Harris's compositional output is extensive for someone so young and this performance will give Sydney audiences a chance to hear a rising star of the future.

World and Australian Premieres

The Sydney Symphony is a leader in the performance of Australian works that are new to the Australian, and international, concert hall stage. The Orchestra's commitment to bringing new Australian works to audiences is unwavering and in 2007, the Sydney Symphony, along with its various partners, has been instrumental in commissioning two of the World Premiere works in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

- *Cities of God* by Gerard Brophy commissioned by Symphony Australia and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs with financial assistance from the Australian Government through the Australia Council.
- *Monuments* by Barry Conyngham. Composed in 1988. The piece will receive its Australian Premiere in March.
- *Komarov's Fall* by Brett Dean, commissioned for Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic, will receive its Australian Premiere in May.
- *The Full-Rigged Ship* is a Celtic-style orchestral piece by 35-year-old Ben Deane-Johns that will be given its World Premiere in August.
- *Headlong* by Andrew Ford was commissioned by Symphony Australia for the Sydney Symphony with financial assistance from the Australian Government through the Australia Council.
- *A Line of Stars* by Alan Holley, was commissioned by Patrons of the Sydney Symphony, including Dr James Smith.

Composer

GERARD BROPHY
BARRY CONYNGHAM
BRETT DEAN
BEN DEANE-JOHN
ANDREW FORD

SEBASTIAN HARRIS
ALAN HOLLEY
JAMES LEDGER
RICHARD MEALE
ISAAC NATHAN

Piece

Cities of God (World Premiere)
Monuments (Australian Premiere)
Komarov's Fall (Australian Premiere)
The Full-Rigged Ship (World Premiere)
The Unquiet Grave
Headlong (World Premiere)
Motet
A Line of Stars (World Premiere)
Peeling
Very High Kings
Don John of Austria

Dates of performance

12, 13 September
22, 24 March
2, 3 May
28 August
14, 15, 16 March
1, 2, 3, 4 August
12 June
30, 31 March, 2 April
19, 20, 21 April
27, 28 June
18, 20 October

Guest conductors and soloists

STARS COME TO TOWN FOR AN UNPARALLELED SHOWING OF ARTISTIC BRILLIANCE

For its 75th anniversary season, the Sydney Symphony continues its history of collaboration with the world's leading conductors and soloists. The Orchestra welcomes back to the stage one of Australia's most outstanding conductors, Sir Charles Mackerras, as well as the younger generation of conductors whom Sydney audiences have already had the chance to see in full force including Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Tugan Sokhiev. The Orchestra has also gathered the finest soloists for the season, all taking centre stage for what promises to be a dazzling array of artistic mastery.

Conductors

Gianluigi Gelmetti, Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

In his fourth year as Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Maestro Gelmetti will showcase a breadth of exciting orchestral repertoire, continuing his commitment to new music alongside works by the great masters.

Sydney Symphony performance highlights in 2007 will include Maestro Gelmetti conducting the Orchestra in two of the three festivals – Brahms and Beethoven, as well as a gala performance of Rossini's heartfelt *Stabat Mater*.

Maestro Gelmetti is a celebrated conductor throughout the world and since April 2000, has been Chief Conductor of the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome.

Richard Gill, Sydney Symphony Education Program Artistic Director

Richard Gill's contribution to music through his role as an educator, conductor, mentor, presenter and charismatic advocate spans from the late 1960's to the present day.

As one of Australia's pre-eminent and most admired conductors, he will take Sydney audiences on a journey of discovery in 2007 when the Sydney Symphony's Discovery Program focuses on the works of Beethoven, Debussy, Janáček and Rachmaninov.

Vladimir Ashkenazy

In the years since Vladimir Ashkenazy first came to prominence on the world stage in the 1955 Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, he has built an extraordinary career, not only as one of the most renowned and revered pianists of our times, but also as a consummate conductor.

In 2007, Ashkenazy will conduct the Sydney Symphony in its Rachmaninov Festival. Over two weeks in November, Sydney audiences will have the chance to enjoy the sheer mastery of this dazzling conductor, considered one of the world's foremost interpreters of the music of Rachmaninov.

Conducting has formed the largest part of Ashkenazy's activities for the past 20 years and, following on from his period as Chief Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic from 1998 to 2003, Ashkenazy took up the position of Music Director of NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo in September 2004.

Alongside his role in Tokyo, he continues to make guest appearances with many of the major orchestras around the world.

Martyn Brabbins

Known for his Elgar, Britten, and Walton interpretations, British conductor Martyn Brabbins will make his Sydney Symphony debut conducting one of Benjamin Britten's best-known works, *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*.

The Sydney Symphony is excited that Brabbins, as one of Europe's leading interpreters of contemporary music, will also be conducting a new work for choir and orchestra, *Cities of God*, by Australian composer Gerard Brophy.

2005 was Brabbins' first year as Artistic Director of the prestigious Cheltenham International Festival of Music following on from his role as Associate Principal Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra from 1994 to 2005.

Alexander Briger

Alexander Briger, the nephew of Sir Charles Mackerras, is a conductor of remarkable versatility, with a repertoire that ranges from Baroque music to world premieres. In 2007 he will conduct the Orchestra in *Don John of Austria*, one of the first operas to have been written, composed and produced in Australia. Its composer, Isaac Nathan, is the great-great-grandfather of Alexander Briger.

Hannu Lintu

For his Sydney Symphony debut performances, 39 year-old Finnish-born Hannu Lintu will conduct Sibelius' *Lemminkäinen* Suite. This symphonic poem depicting four episodes of the life and death of the legendary hero Lemminkäinen takes audiences on a brooding and passionate mythic adventure.

Sir Charles Mackerras

The Sydney Symphony is delighted to welcome Sir Charles Mackerras back to the podium in October. Mackerras' long association with the Sydney Symphony began at the age of 15 as an oboist and continued in the years 1982 to 1985 when he was Chief Conductor, the first Australian to hold that post.

Accepting only a handful of conducting engagements each year from the world's leading orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra and Vienna Philharmonic, the Sydney Symphony is privileged that he will be performing with them in two separate programs. Mackerras will conduct works by Dvořák, Smetana and Janáček as well as Mozart's glorious Great C Minor Mass.

Now in his eighties, Mackerras continues to hold a number of significant conducting posts around the world including Conductor Laureate of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Conductor Emeritus of the Welsh National Opera, Principal Guest Conductor Emeritus of the San Francisco Opera and Principal Guest Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Richard Mills

Richard Mills is deservedly one of Australia's most sought after composers and conductors. For his Sydney Symphony performances, he will conduct the Orchestra in Ralph Vaughan Williams' evocative *Sinfonia Antartica*.

Currently, Mills is Artistic Director of the West Australian Opera, a post he has held since 1997. He has recently taken up the post of Artistic Consultant with Orchestra Victoria.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin

When 31-year-old French Canadian Yannick Nézet-Séguin came to Sydney in 2005 to replace Lorin Maazel in a series of performances, the response was overwhelming with one critic noting that under his direction 'the musicians were on fire'.

In 2006, Nézet-Séguin will conduct the Orchestra in two programs including a performance of Mahler's profound and powerful Symphony No.6.

Nézet-Séguin has been Artistic Director of the Orchestre Métropolitain in Montreal since 2000 and is currently in his fourth season as Principal Guest Conductor of the Victoria Symphony (BC).

Lalo Schifrin

Composer/conductor Lalo Schifrin has been a welcome sight on the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall stage for the past two years as part of his Jazz Meets the Symphony concerts. In 2007, he's back with a new take on symphonic jazz with three original compositions including a piece composed especially for legendary Australian trumpeter James Morrison, pianist Ambre Hammond and the Sydney Symphony.

Tugan Sokhiev

Another conductor who replaced Lorin Maazel in 2005 was Russian Tugan Sokhiev. Although still only 29 years of age, Sokhiev has made a remarkable impact on the conducting world and at the beginning of the 2005/6 season, took up the position as Principal Guest Conductor and Artistic Adviser of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse.

For his two Sydney Symphony concerts, he will conduct music by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky inspired by *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*.

Hubert Soudant

The Sydney Symphony is honoured to welcome back conductor Hubert Soudant in March when he brings to life one of Mendelssohn's most loved works, his *Italian* Symphony.

Currently Music Director of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Soudant was awarded the Ring of the City of Salzburg in 2004 for his outstanding musical achievements and became an honorary citizen of the state of Salzburg, Austria.

Jonathan Stockhammer

Born in Los Angeles, 37-year-old Jonathan Stockhammer is one of the most versatile conductors of the younger generation and combines an already broad experience in the field of contemporary music with a unique and impassioned approach to the classical symphonic and opera repertoire.

For his 2007 Sydney Symphony debut performance, Stockhammer will be joined on stage by jazz legends Chick Corea and Gary Burton for a fusion of jazz and symphonic music.

Stockhammer's professional debut came in 1994, substituting at short notice for a series of concerts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. Since then, he has conducted a number of the world's renowned orchestras and opera companies.

Frank Strobel

Frank Strobel has established himself as one of the most prominent figures in the field of film music. He has arranged and performed original and new compositions by a wide range of composers for more than 40 silent film classics.

For his Sydney Symphony debut, Strobel will conduct the Orchestra in the score composed by Charlie Chaplin for his silent film classic *The Gold Rush*.

Since 2000, Strobel has held the post of Artistic Director of the European FilmPhilharmonic Berlin, an international production company which undertakes the project management of film music productions and performances worldwide.

Jeffrey Tate

In 2005, Tate conducted the Sydney Symphony in what *The Australian* called 'one of the finest performances ever heard from this orchestra'. In August, this renowned British conductor is back with what was hailed at its 1908 premiere as the greatest symphony of 'modern times', Elgar's First Symphony.

Hugh Wolff

In April, the Sydney Symphony welcomes back Hugh Wolff after a 13-year absence. A dazzling conductor highly respected for his command of a broad repertoire, his brilliant interpretive gifts, and his lively and unpredictable programming, Wolff will conduct two programs with the Orchestra including Sibelius' Symphony No.5 and Lutoslawski's Concerto for Orchestra.

In September 1997, Wolff became Principal Conductor of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra and in 2003, extended his contract for a second time which will see him at the helm of the Orchestra until the end of season 2005/06.

Simone Young

Internationally recognised as one of the leading conductors of her generation, Simone Young returns to the Sydney Symphony with a defining work of the 20th century, Olivier Messiaen's *Turangalila-symphonie*. In August, the Orchestra looks forward to Young taking audiences on this incredible journey of colour and sensation.

She is currently General Manager and Music Director of the Hamburg State Opera.

Soloists

Boris Berezovsky, piano

Boris Berezovsky has earned an exceptional reputation both as the most compelling of virtuoso pianists and as a musician of unique insight and sensitivity.

Following his London debut at the Wigmore Hall in 1988, *The Times* described him as 'an artist of exceptional promise, a player of dazzling virtuosity and formidable power'. More recently, in 2006 the same newspaper wrote 'virtuosic in the best possible way'.

The Orchestra is delighted to welcome this exceptional musician to the stage in August for his Sydney Symphony debut in a performance of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No.3.

Gary Burton, vibraphone/marimba

The five Grammy Awards on Gary Burton's shelf are testaments to a career that has succeeded as well as it has endured. A few years after bursting onto the scene in 1962 as Stan Getz's vibraphonist, Burton began leading his own group, and in 1972, collected his first Grammy. From this time he has collaborated with the world's best jazz musicians including pianist Chick Corea with whom he will be performing alongside for his Sydney Symphony performances.

Chick Corea, piano

In 2007, the Sydney Symphony is excited to welcome to the stage Chick Corea, widely considered to be one of the world's most influential jazz musicians. Corea, whose stellar award-winning career has included collaborations with some of the world's great jazz musicians, including Sarah Vaughan, Stan Getz and Miles Davis, is a key figure in contemporary jazz, fusing this genre with styles from rock to world to classical.

For his Sydney Symphony performances, Corea will be joined on stage by vibraphone genius, Gary Burton, in a celebration of the 35th anniversary of their album *Crystal Silence*.

Viviane Hagner, violin

Following her successful performances with the Orchestra in 2004, glamorous violinist Viviane Hagner and her Stradivarius are set to dazzle audiences in Prokofiev's melodious and cheeky Violin Concerto No.2. Described by *The Washington Post* as having a 'hauntingly masterful display of technique and artistry', Hagner takes to the stage in March for what promises to be a special treat for Sydney audiences.

Håkan Hardenberger, trumpet

Widely regarded as the world's leading trumpeter, Håkan Hardenberger's 'unflappable control and heroic dexterity has to be heard to be disbelieved.' (*Chicago Tribune*, May 2006)

In April 2007, Sydney audiences will get a chance to hear this consummate musician in full flight when he gives the Australian premiere of Zimmermann's Trumpet Concerto, *Nobody Knows de Trouble I See*, a real tour de force for this phenomenal soloist.

Michael Kieran Harvey, piano

Michael Kieran Harvey is one of his generation's foremost interpreters of contemporary piano music. As a champion of Australian music, he regularly commissions new music and has performed with Australia's leading contemporary music ensembles and orchestras.

Kieran Harvey will be soloist in the Australian premiere of Barry Conyngham's work *Monuments*.

Louis Lortie, piano

The London *Daily Telegraph* hailed Louis Lortie as 'one of half a dozen pianists worth dropping everything for.' In 2007, Lortie will dazzle Sydney audiences when he brings the Orchestra's 75th year to a close in a performance of Tchaikovsky's grand Piano Concerto No.1.

The epitome of sweeping Romanticism, this concerto is the perfect showcase for the prodigious talents of Lortie, who dazzled Sydney audiences in 2005 with his sublime performances.

James Morrison, trumpet

James Morrison is, by anybody's standard, a virtuoso in the true sense of the word. At the age of seven he was given his first instrument, at nine he formed his first band and at 12 he was playing professionally in nightclubs. His international career developed equally as fast, making his US debut at the age of 16.

In 2007, as Morrison takes up his post as new Artistic Advisor of the Sydney Symphony's Kaleidoscope Series, he will also take centre-stage when he gives the World Premiere of a new concerto by Lalo Schifrin composed especially for himself, pianist Ambre Hammond and the Sydney Symphony.

Gerhard Oppitz, piano

Gerhard Oppitz's 2006 performances with the Orchestra were hailed as 'dazzling' and 'thoughtful'. In 2007, he returns in a show of stamina when he performs three of Beethoven's piano concertos as part of the Orchestra's two-week Beethoven Festival, conducted by Maestro Gelmetti, as well as several Beethoven piano sonatas in his solo recital.

Internationally-acclaimed for his performances of the Romantic masters, Oppitz is attuned to Beethoven's drama and daring. A student of the famed Wilhelm Kempff, Oppitz is heir to a glorious tradition of music-making stretching in an unbroken line back to Beethoven himself.

Pieter Wispelwey, cello

Pieter Wispelwey has been praised for having an 'agile technique and complete engagement with the music.' (*New York Times*)

His acute stylistic awareness, combined with a truly original interpretation and a phenomenal technical mastery has won the hearts of critics and public alike. Wispelwey's career spans five continents and is continuously gaining momentum. For his Sydney Symphony debut concerts in August, he will perform Walton's eloquent Cello Concerto.

Jing Zhao, cello

With her deep musicality and virtuosity, Chinese-born 28-year-old Zhao is considered one of the most promising artists on the international scene. For her Sydney Symphony debut in April, she will be performing Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto, an expressive showcase for this rising star.

Frank Peter Zimmermann, violin

The *New York Times* has described him as 'brilliant' and *The Washington Post* 'dazzling'. German violinist Frank Peter Zimmermann has astounded audiences since his first concert appearance with an orchestra at the age of 10. In December 2007, Zimmermann will bring his commanding technique and insight to Sydney for a performance of Berg's deeply emotional Violin Concerto.

The Italians, voice

In May, Maestro Gelmetti will bring to Sydney four of Italy's leading singers – Anna Rita Taliento, Daniela Barcellona, Vittorio Grigòlo and Roberto Scandiuzzi – for a special performance of Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. A meditation on the Virgin Mary's vigil at the foot of the Cross, the *Stabat Mater* is the centrepiece of what is going to be an exhilarating concert. Of course, the Orchestra could not let such renowned Rossini specialists go home without them also performing a dazzling selection of arias from his operas.

Mozart's Great C Minor Mass soloists

In October 2007, the Sydney Symphony is excited to welcome to the stage four of Australia's most distinguished voices, soprano stars Yvonne Kenny and Emma Matthews, tenor Steve Davislim, bass Paul Whelan for a performance of Mozart's Great C Minor Mass.

The performance, to be conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras, will also feature the talents of the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs.

The Rachmaninov pianists

Four world-acclaimed pianists – Cristina Ortiz, Kazune Shimizu, Lukáš Vondráček and Garrick Ohlsson – have been individually selected by conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy to perform alongside him and the Orchestra in the Rachmaninov Festival in November.

The Turangalîla-symphonie soloists, piano and ondes martenot

Two remarkable soloists will be joining Simone Young on stage in August when she conducts Messiaen's renowned *Turangalîla-symphonie*, 31-year-old pianist Cédric Tiberghien and ondes martenot specialist Cynthia Millar.

An early electronic musical instrument known for its eerie wavering notes and the way it emulates the sounds of the human voice, the ondes martenot is rarely seen on the concert hall stage with only a few composers ever writing for the instrument. Cynthia Millar has been the ondes martenot soloist in Messiaen's masterful work with all the leading orchestras of the world.

The piano soloist for this concert is one of the most exciting artists to emerge from France in recent years. Cédric Tiberghien is currently one of a select group of 12 international young artists involved in the BBC's prestigious New Generation Artists Scheme in London.

International Pianists in Recital Series

The International Pianists in Recital Series offers an unparalleled opportunity to experience four acclaimed solo pianists performing music that forms the heart and soul of the piano repertoire. In 2007, the four musicians – Bernd Glemser, Gerhard Oppitz, Cédric Tiberghien and Roger Muraro – will perform works from a broad range of composers which will showcase the brilliance of these virtuoso pianists.

James Morrison appointment

SYDNEY SYMPHONY APPOINTS JAMES MORRISON AS ARTISTIC ADVISOR OF ITS KALEIDOSCOPE SERIES

Sydney, August 16 – With much trumpet fanfare, the Sydney Symphony has appointed world-acclaimed jazz legend James Morrison as Artistic Advisor of its newly named Kaleidoscope Series (formerly known as the *Morgan Stanley – Music* series) which offers audiences a fresh perspective on symphonic music, with its eclectic choice of repertoire and featured artists.

As Kaleidoscope's first Artistic Advisor, Morrison will work with the Sydney Symphony on all areas of the Kaleidoscope's artist and repertoire selection to bring the world's most outstanding international artists to Sydney audiences. Morrison will also work with the Sydney Symphony to develop new audiences for this series, which aims to attract newer and broader audiences to orchestral concerts.

"I'm very excited to be working so closely with the world-renowned Sydney Symphony. I know the new Kaleidoscope Series will thrill audiences with its fresh perspective and captivate the musicians. This is great news for music making in Sydney," says Morrison.

Over the past two years Morrison has performed with the Sydney Symphony as part of the popular Jazz Meets the Symphony concerts with composer and jazz pianist Lalo Schifrin. He also joined the Orchestra as soloist in 2001 and 2003. Morrison will continue to perform with the Orchestra.

Managing director, Libby Christie, says the appointment signals a new era for the Symphony's programming for new audiences.

"I am thrilled to welcome James Morrison on board with us after working with the Orchestra so closely over the last few years. His energy and ideas will take our contemporary music programming to a new level. This is extremely exciting news for musicians, the Sydney cultural and music scene, and for our audiences."

In 2003 the *Morgan Stanley – Music* series was established to change the perception of the symphonic music experience for music lovers who relish the challenge of adventurous programs that enriches the audience experience.

Since its inception three years ago, ticket sales have grown 30 per cent in two years with subscriber levels increasing due to programming such as Jazz Meets the Symphony. This year attendance increased again as a result of concerts including Symphony at the Movies with Clive James in July and the Dianne Reeves tribute to Sarah Vaughan, that takes place later this month.

The Kaleidoscope Series

A SEASON OF FILM, JAZZ AND LEGENDS

Music, film and legends is what binds the Sydney Symphony's Kaleidoscope Series (formerly known as the *Morgan Stanley - Music Series*) in 2007, combining the fascination of the Antarctic with the jazz brilliance of Chick Corea, James Morrison and Lalo Schifrin, as well as a 1925 Charlie Chaplin film and orchestral score.

With the newly-appointed Kaleidoscope Series Artistic Advisor at the helm, James Morrison, the Kaleidoscope Series promises a fresh perspective on artistic and repertoire selection, making the Series ideal for music-lovers who relish adventurous programs.

Since the inception of the Series three years ago, ticket sales have grown 30 per cent in two years with subscriber levels increasing due to programming such as Jazz Meets the Symphony and Symphony At The Movies with Clive James.

In 2007 there will be four concerts fusing the Orchestra with a variety of art forms:

Antarctic Symphony

British explorer, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, along with his four colleagues, died in 1912 after reaching the South Pole on foot. They were just 11 miles from safety when they perished.

At this February concert, John Bell will take centre stage with the Orchestra to narrate excerpts from Scott's diary – including the final brave words of a man facing certain death.

The story of the expedition will come to life, accompanied by Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Sinfonia Antartica*, which is a haunting evocation of the sounds of the continent – the icy wind, calls of whales and cries of birds.

The astounding images by Herbert Ponting, the world-acclaimed expedition photographer, will be featured on-screen, providing an awesome backdrop to this concert.

Chick Corea

Considering the staggering volume of his recorded output over the past 40 years, it is no overstatement to call 65-year-old Chick Corea one of the most prolific composers of the second half of the 20th-century. Throughout his career, Corea has chosen to collaborate with some of the jazz world's greats, including Sarah Vaughan, Stan Getz and Miles Davis.

A key figure in contemporary jazz, fusing jazz with styles from rock to world to classical, Corea will be joined by vibraphone genius, Gary Burton with whom he collaborated to record *Crystal Silence*. To celebrate this 35-year union, Corea and Burton will present a brand-new composition for piano, vibes and orchestra.

A restlessly creative spirit, Corea continues to explore and generate new material for a number of different vehicles, including his dynamic Elektric Band and his flamenco flavoured Touchstone band.

Morrison Plays Schifrin

The past two seasons have seen composer and jazz pianist Lalo Schifrin light up the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall with his brilliant blend of jazz and symphonic sound. Now Schifrin, who also turns 75 in 2007, returns with a new take on symphonic jazz, performing three original compositions. The July concert will bring classical style to jazz exuberance in a new concerto composed especially for the Sydney Symphony, trumpeter James Morrison and pianist Ambre Hammond.

Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush*

Experience Sydney Symphony at the movies with a cinematic, live orchestral concert experience featuring Charlie Chaplin's silent, black and white film *The Gold Rush*. It was Chaplin's personal favourite film (among his creations), that showcases the classic Tramp character as well as some of Chaplin's most inspired clowning and sharpest social satire. In August, Sydney audiences will hear the score that Chaplin himself composed for its 1942 revival.

The Education Program

The Sydney Symphony's Education Program continues to lead the way in Australian music education

In 2007, the Sydney Symphony's Education Program will continue its award-winning work, providing world-class music education for students, teachers, composers, conductors and audiences across NSW through a range of innovative schemes.

According to Sydney Symphony Education Program Artistic Director Richard Gill, 2007 promises to be an exciting year as the Program launches its Discovery DVD and an expanded composition project for secondary school students.

"2007 represents my 15th year at the helm of the Sydney Symphony's Education Program and I am so proud that over this time the Program has expanded to become the largest orchestral music education program in Australia, reaching over 24,000 people throughout the state each year, via programs performed in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall to instrumental workshops in regional NSW," said Gill.

"In 2007, we are embarking on a number of projects which will see the Education Program expand its already extensive audience reach. These new initiatives, along with the highly successful Discovery Series, schools concerts and Meet the Music concerts, will ensure music education is available to all those seeking it," added Gill.

The Discovery Series

The Sydney Symphony's education concerts for adults, the Discovery Series, continue to go from strength to strength with attendance figures doubling since 2005, demonstrating the desire Sydney audiences have for a deeper understanding of classical music.

In 2007, conductor Richard Gill will take audiences on a journey of discovery as he explores the works of four great composers who the Sydney Symphony will feature in 2007: Beethoven, Debussy, Janáček and Rachmaninov. The concerts will be performed by the Sydney Sinfonia, a mentoring orchestra comprising Australia's elite young musicians.

The Discovery Series will again feature new Australian music including works by Sebastian Harris and Benedict Deane-Johns.

Discovery DVD

The Sydney Symphony is thrilled to announce the launch of its Discovery DVD which will again bring music education to a far wider audience by bringing classical music into people's living-rooms. Called *Discovery with the Sydney Symphony and Richard Gill*, the DVD will be launched in late 2006 and is a joint partnership between the Sydney Symphony and ABC Enterprises.

Sinfonietta Composition Project

In recognition of the Orchestra's 75th anniversary, the innovative Sydney Symphony Sinfonietta Composition Project for high school students will be launched nationally in 2007. The Project supports Australia's young composers, giving finalists the opportunity to have their work performed by Sydney Symphony musicians.

Meet the Music

The Meet the Music series at the Sydney Opera House continues to present varied and stimulating concerts designed to integrate with the NSW Music Syllabus, while offering students and the general public a vibrant introduction to the live concert experience.

Schools Concerts

In 2007, the Sydney Symphony schools performances will continue to give students a live, interactive musical experience designed to match the development of knowledge and skills at infant, primary and secondary school levels. Students are encouraged to engage with the music through dance, playing musical instruments, asking questions and even conducting the orchestra while learning about the orchestral instruments.

Each year as part of these concerts, an Australian composer is explored in-depth and in 2007, the music of Brett Dean will be performed.

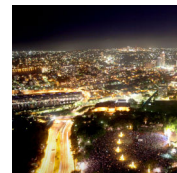
Regional outreach

In 2007, the Sydney Symphony Education team will continue to work in regional NSW, presenting schools concerts in Wagga Wagga, Griffith and Albury, plus the unique instrumental workshop program "Playerlink" in Newcastle.

2007 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

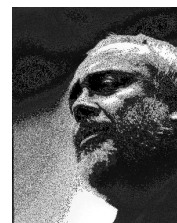
January

As part of the Sydney Festival, the Sydney Symphony kicks off its 75th anniversary celebrations at **Symphony in the Domain** on Saturday 20 January.



February: Season Opening Gala

Maestro **Gianluigi Gelmetti** opens the season with a panoramic survey of Brahms' world, a **Brahms Festival**, which includes the German Requiem, one of the supreme choral works of the 19th century. Following this, Maestro Gelmetti will conduct the Orchestra in all four Brahms symphonies.



March

In **Dialogues for Orchestra**, the Sydney Symphony's Principal Viola Roger Benedict takes centre stage in Andrew Ford's *The Unquiet Grave*, engaging in a passionate conversation with the Orchestra and with the past.

The Sydney Symphony and speaker **John Bell** will bring to life the **Antarctic Symphony**. Bell will read the final brave words from the diary of Captain Robert Falcon Scott during his ill-fated 1912 exploration of the Antarctic. Ralph Vaughan Williams was commissioned to write music for the film *Scott of the Antarctic*, then turning this music into his Symphony No.7, *Sinfonia Antartica*. The concert stage will feature a stunning series of screen-projected photographs by world-acclaimed photographer Herbert Ponting taken during the actual expedition.



April

The Australian premiere of Bernd Alois Zimmerman's Trumpet Concerto *Nobody Knows de Trouble I See* is a tour de force for phenomenal soloist **Håkan Hardenberger**. The charismatic Hardenberger is one of the world's finest trumpet soloists, with a career that has seen him perform with the greatest orchestras and conductors.



May

Multi-award winning **Chick Corea**, one of the world's most influential jazz musicians is joined by vibraphone genius, Gary Burton, to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the release of their album *Crystal Silence*.

Maestro **Hugh Wolff** conducts Brett Dean's *Komarov's Fall*, a work inspired by the eerie sounds of space telemetry signals and the last urgent communications of doomed cosmonaut Vladimir Mikhailovich Komarov, a casualty of Space Race politics.



Gianluigi Gelmetti returns to conduct a gala performance of Rossini's **Stabat Mater**, with four of Italy's leading singers: soprano Anna Rita Taliento, mezzo soprano Daniela Barcellona, tenor Vittorio Grigòlo and bass Roberto Scandiuzzi.

June

Maestro **Gianluigi Gelmetti** conducts the **Beethoven Festival** comprising Beethoven's complete symphonies and three piano concertos in two weeks, a remarkable feat of stamina for the Orchestra. Maestro Gelmetti's Beethoven interpretations are acclaimed and harness the full power of the symphony orchestra.



Yannick Nézet-Séguin, a young rising-star conductor and one of the highlights of the 2005 season, returns to conduct a concert of sublime orchestral colour with the fanfares of Haydn's majestic Symphony No.104 (*London*), Debussy's *Images* and Richard Meale's *Very High Kings*.

July

Yannick Nézet-Séguin will conduct **Mahler's Sixth Symphony**, a ferocious and tragic work with moments of serene beauty, punctuated by the hammer-blows of fate. This is a work that moves through realms of feeling that only music can reach.



The last two seasons have seen **Lalo Schifrin** light up the Concert Hall with his brilliant blend of beloved jazz standards and symphony orchestra to huge acclaim. Now, Schifrin and **James Morrison** return with a new take on symphonic jazz, performing three original compositions conceived in the classical tradition. And, bringing classical style to jazz exuberance, is a new concerto composed especially for the Sydney Symphony, the brazen genius of trumpeter James Morrison and pianist Ambre Hammond.

August

Hailed at its 1908 premiere as the greatest symphony in 'modern times', Elgar's First Symphony will be conducted by British conductor **Jeffrey Tate**, a noted interpreter of Elgar's music. Walton's Cello Concerto provides a perfect showcase for renowned soloist **Pieter Wispelwey**.



Simone Young returns to conduct Messiaen's **Turangalila-symphonie**, a hymn to love. Demanding the utmost virtuosity from a huge orchestra, *Turangalila-symphonie* is a defining work of 20th-century music, a work of unbridled passion, joy and visionary intensity.

Tugan Sokhiev, who made a great impression in his performances in 2005, returns to conduct Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* and music inspired by *Romeo & Juliet*. World-acclaimed pianist Boris Berezovsky will perform Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No.3.

Experience Sydney Symphony at the movies with a cinematic, live orchestral concert experience featuring Charlie Chaplin's silent, black and white film **The Gold Rush**. In August, Sydney audiences will hear the score that Chaplin himself composed for the film's 1942 revival while seeing the film on the big screen.

September

Britten composed his *Young Person's Guide* as an introduction to the sounds and characters of the instruments of the orchestra and conductor **Martyn Brabbins** directs the Sydney Symphony's first performance of this work in 15 years.

In his third **Discovery Program** for the season, Richard Gill guides us through Rachmaninov's opulent music – the perfect preparation for the Rachmaninov Festival in November.



October

Sir Charles Mackerras, a musician with a long association with the Orchestra, first as an oboist at the age of 15 and later as Chief Conductor, returns to conduct Czech music for which he is internationally renowned.

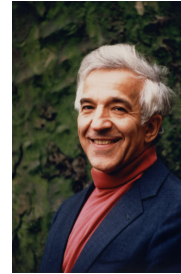
Don John of Austria, by composer Isaac Nathan, was one of the first operas to have been written, composed and produced in Australia. It was premiered at Sydney's Royal Victoria Theatre in 1847 and hasn't been heard in Sydney in its entirety since. In a remarkable link from Nathan's time to our own, Nathan's descendent, **Alexander Briger** will conduct a concert version of this opera which was rescued from oblivion by his uncle, Sir Charles Mackerras.

Mozart wrote his **Great C Minor Mass** in gratitude to God for his happy marriage to Constanze and as an act of reconciliation with his father. Distinguished sopranos **Yvonne Kenny** and **Emma Matthews** as well as tenor Steve Davislim and bass Paul Whelan join Sir Charles Mackerras for Mozart's sublime creation.



November

Vladimir Ashkenazy is one of the world's foremost interpreters of the music of Rachmaninov, first as pianist, now as conductor. He returns to Sydney to conduct the Orchestra and four renowned soloists in the **Rachmaninov Festival**, comprising some of the most opulent, virtuosic and unabashedly romantic music ever penned.



December

Frank Peter Zimmermann brings his 'commanding technique, insight, fire, and poetry' to Berg's Violin Concerto, one of the key works of 20th-century music. Schubert's Great C Major Symphony No.9 is grandly proportioned and overflowing with glorious melody. **Maestro Gelmetti's** sensitivity to colour and his poetic sensibility come to the fore in this program of late-Romantic masterpieces.

Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker is the epitome of sweeping Romanticism and Tchaikovsky's grand **Piano Concerto No.1** is the perfect showcase for the prodigious talents of **Louis Lortie** who dazzled audiences in 2005. **Gianluigi Gelmetti** conducts this perfect yuletide treat for the whole family.



The timeline

SYDNEY SYMPHONY: 75 YEARS OF INSPIRING MUSIC

- 1932 In July 1932 the Australian Broadcasting Commission was established, and with it the group of 20 studio musicians that would be increased to 24 within a year and which in time would continue to increase in size to become the Sydney Symphony.
- 1933 Bernard Heinze conducts the 'ABC's Sydney orchestra' in a Brahms-Wagner concert series.
- Throughout the 1930s, Heinze's schools concerts give tens of thousands of enthusiastic children their first experience of 'serious' music.
- 1934 The first significant ABC concert by an international visiting artist occurred when the renowned Irish conductor Sir Hamilton Harty visited Australia. He led calls for the creation of a permanent concert orchestra for Sydney.
- 1936 A forceful new succession of ABC managers ultimately led by Charles Moses increased the size of the Sydney orchestra to 45 players, augmented to 70 for public performances, and inaugurated annual concert seasons in 1936. Malcolm Sargent conducted the Sydney Symphony and writes a report on Australian orchestras.
- 1937-1940 International guest artists who appeared with the Sydney Symphony during this time included conductors Malcolm Sargent (returning in 1938 and 1939 after his 1936 debut), George Schneevoigt, George Szell (two tours), and Sir Thomas Beecham, pianists Artur Schnabel and Arthur Schnabel, violinist Bronislaw Huberman and singers Lotte Lehmann and Richard Tauber.
- 1942 During the war, despite the near impossibility of buying strings or instruments, the Orchestra was a source of inspiration and solace to enthusiastic servicemen. The number of women in the Orchestra increased to 32 in 1942 from a pre-war total of 20.
- 1946 At war's end the ABC reached agreement with the Sydney's City Council and the NSW State Government to establish an orchestra in Sydney. The new Sydney Symphony, with a core strength of 76 players who augmented to around 82 for subscription performances, gave its first concert in January 1946. One of the prominent guests in that 1946 season was conductor Eugene Goossens.
- 1947 Goossens appointed as the Orchestra's first Chief Conductor, determined to make the Sydney Symphony "among the six best in the world." Noted Australian premieres during his artistic direction: *Elektra* and *Salome* by Strauss, works by Schoenberg, Stravinsky, Debussy, Vaughan Williams and Copland.
- In that same year, Sir Bernard Heinze introduced Youth Concerts to bridge the gap between schools events and the adult concert series. Queues formed overnight in Martin Place when tickets went on sale.
- 1948 Goossens conducted Australian premieres of major new works as a matter of course, and in 1948 uttered the famous statement: "Sydney must have an Opera House." It was he who chose Bennelong Point as the site for what would become Australia's most famous building.
- 1949 Goossens introduced outdoor concerts with the first one taking place at 3pm on Sunday 20 November 1949 in the Botanic Gardens and made front page news in the next day's Sydney Morning Herald.
- 1950 Otto Klemperer, on his second visit to the Sydney Symphony within the space of 12 months, conducted Mahler's Resurrection Symphony in performances regarded by some as the greatest in its history.
- 1950-52 The Sydney Symphony recorded for international release on EMI/HMV. Repertoire included Beethoven's Second Symphony, Turina's *Sinfonia Sevillana* and Saint-Saens' *Danse Macabre*.
- 1955-1964 Artists appearing with Sydney Symphony during this time included Sir John Barbirolli, Rafael Kubelik, Isaac Stern, Claudio Arrau, Daniel Barenboim, David Oistrakh, Yehudi Menuhin, Mstislav Rostropovich and Igor Stravinsky.

- 1957 Nikolai Malko, a former student of Liadov, Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazunov, succeeded Eugene Goossens as Chief Conductor.
- 1960s The Orchestra in the 1960s played an important role in championing the work of a new generation of Australian composers including Peter Sculthorpe, Richard Meale and Nigel Butterley.
- 1965 The Sydney Symphony made its first major international tour, including its London debut at the Commonwealth Arts Festival, and performances in other English cities as well as in Manila, Tokyo and Hong Kong (the scheduled Bombay leg of the tour was cancelled owing to the War between India and Pakistan).
- 1967 National Training Orchestra formed by the ABC to prepare young players for professional careers.
- 1965 The first Proms, the brainchild of ABC Federal Music Director John Hopkins, held during the summer months at Town Hall, received an ecstatic reception and over the next decade became a cultural phenomenon in Sydney, attracting sell-out crowds to concerts of innovative new music.
- 1974 After Goossens, the next conductor to have a galvanising impact on the players was the Dutchman Willem van Otterloo. An eight-week European tour in 1974 culminated in two concerts in Amsterdam and The Hague that were Otterloo's special home-coming. It was also under Otterloo that the Orchestra made the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall its main performance home.
- 1982 In 1982 Sir Charles Mackerras became the first Australian to take up the Chief Conductor's post. When he fell ill in 1985, the young Australian conductor Stuart Challender stepped in to conduct some of his performances.
- 1987 Stuart Challender appointed as the Orchestra's Chief Conductor. Under Challender, achievements were the ABC Classics disc of Peter Sculthorpe's music, performances of Mahler's *Resurrection* Symphony, the Sydney and Adelaide seasons of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, and the 1988 tour of the USA.
- First Education Program resource kit on the contemporary works in Meet the Music produced – beginning of strong links between education concerts and music education syllabuses.
- 1991 Edo de Waart appointed Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor and Artistic Director which soon led to a period of greatness for the Orchestra marked by many landmark initiatives including a strong commitment to new Australian music and the release of four albums with the ABC Classics label.
- First public performance in the Eugene Goossens Hall, ABC Centre Ultimo, which became the featured venue for Schools' Concerts.
- 1992 Richard Gill appointed as Artistic Director of the Education Program.
- 1994 A series of initiatives announced by the Federal Government saw the Sydney Symphony develop into Australia's flagship orchestra.
- 1995 In 1995, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, under Edo de Waart's direction, undertook a triumphant concert tour of Great Britain and Europe.
- 1997 Sinfonia (mentoring orchestra) began as pilot project.
- 1999 Pilot performance of Adult Themes held in October – to become the Discovery Program.
- 2000 The Sydney Symphony was the official Cultural Ambassador for the Olympic Arts Festivals and performed at the Sydney Olympics Opening Ceremony. The Arts Festival saw unforgettable performances of Mahler's Symphony No.8 and the completion of a cycle of concert performances of Wagner's *Ring* Cycle.
- 2001 Education Program introduces Fellowship Program for violin, viola, cello and double bass.

- 2004 Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti appointed Chief Conductor and Artistic Director. Season highlights include the Verdi Requiem featuring soloists and chorus of the Rome Opera. Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts an acclaimed Sibelius cycle.
- Reintroduction of the Education Program's three concert series Discovery Program – previously known as Adult Themes.
- 2005 Liza Lim appointed Composer-in-Residence for three years. Her works, *Flying Banner (after Wang To)*, *Immer fließender* and *The Compass* are developed as part of this relationship. Other important premieres include works by Michael Smetanin, Paul Stanhope, Gordon Kerry and others.
- Development of Education Program DVD in partnership with ABC.
- 2006 Sydney Symphony forms new partnership with BigPond to webcast ten concerts live for the first time and launches its first recording label.
- James Morrison appointed as Artistic Advisor of Kaleidoscope Series.
- Sydney Sinfonia's (Sydney Symphony's mentoring orchestra) tenth anniversary.
- Sydney Symphony Sinfonietta is established in conjunction with the Education Program launching a statewide composition project.
- 2007 The Orchestra celebrates its 75th anniversary and the milestone achievements during its distinguished history.

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