

MEDIA RELEASE

Sharing the love...

Sydney's affair with the Symphony reaches 75 years in 2007 and the celebration stretches from the Bennelong Point to Parramatta, from Brahms to Burt Bacharach

Sydney, January 29 – Celebrating 75 years of music making, Sydney Symphony will mark its birthday year with an unprecedented reach that's both geographic and musical. From live appearances across Sydney and into regional NSW, to CD releases on its new label, music lovers and novices alike will find more opportunities than ever before to hear the Orchestra perform. And with musical projects ranging from three composer-led festivals to popular sounds, film music and jazz with famous faces such as Burt Bacharach and Michael Parkinson there is music to suit all tastes. At its core, artistic excellence remains the focus of the Sydney Symphony, and it continues to collaborate with the world's best musicians to presents concerts of a world-class standard. It's an ambitious aim to both entertain and inspire audiences from such wide backgrounds, but one that is key to the Sydney Symphony's success over 75 years.



While its home remains the iconic Sydney Opera House, audiences from the outer suburbs can also experience the magic of the Symphony for free early in 07. "The outdoor experience is so quintessentially Sydney", says Managing Director Libby Christie, "there's just no better way to soak up summer and the Symphony!" The three free concerts held in major centres for Sydney represent a very real commitment to taking music to the people of the city and to further strengthening relationships with the community for which Sydney Symphony is a true cultural icon and ambassador.

- Symphony in the Domain Saturday 20 January
- Music by Moonlight at Sydney Olympic Park Friday 2 February
- Symphony at Parramatta Park Sunday 11 March.

Throughout the year the outreach continues with three regional tours:

- Brass Tour from 26-28 July will include the South Coast of NSW for the first time in a very long while - Bega, Milton and Thirroul, followed by one city performance of the tour program at Verbruggen Hall on 29 July.
- Special 75th birthday concert in Tamworth on Saturday 8 September, to an expected audience of 5,000 people from the surrounding regions.
- Sinfonia Tour mid-July to Griffith, Wagga Wagga and with Educational focus.

(cont.)

In smaller ways Sydney Symphony reaches out to those who are less able to join in, with visits planned to hospitals through the MBF Music4Health initiative, and to schools where around 40,000 students will be touched by music through the Education Program. Young people remain a vital focus for Sydney Symphony both as audiences and musicians of the future.

While the geographic reach is very important, so too is the musical breadth of the Orchestra. For both audiences and musicians alike, the diversity offers a chance to be inspired, moved and entertained. In 2007 the musicians of the Sydney Symphony will be challenged with three festivals focusing on Brahms (February), Beethoven (July) and Rachmaninoff (November), delving into the hearts and minds of each composer. Audiences can join the Orchestra in their exploration and find new joys in this much-loved music by experiencing individual works in context.

The world-class standard of the Sydney Symphony regularly attracts some of the most internationally acclaimed soloists and conductors, who travel to work with the Orchestra on concert programs that offer Sydney-siders the best in music performance. In 2007 some of the stars appearing with the Sydney Symphony include cellist Pieter Wispelwey, jazz keyboardist Chick Corea, and songwriter Burt Bacharach. Visiting conductors include Sir Charles McKerras, Hugh Wolff, and rising star Yannick Nezet-Seguin. These are only some of the many talents that will be shared with Sydney Symphony as guest performers in its 2007 anniversary season.

In its first year as an independent company (along with all the other state orchestras which have divested from the ABC), Sydney Symphony is looking forward a new era of musical leadership defined in a collaborative way, and remains committed to its role as an Orchestra that meaningfully reflects the identity of Sydney as an adventurous, fresh and energetic city. Wherever Sydney-siders may live, and wherever their musical tastes may lie, Sydney Symphony will move, touch, inspire and entertain thousands this year as it has for the past 75.

In its 75th birthday year the Sydney Symphony is pleased to offer programs free to all concert-goers.

To find out more about the Sydney Symphony's year-long celebration through concerts and events, log on to www.sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com for information and bookings.

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