

## YOUTUBE ANNOUNCES "YOUTUBE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA"

*Aspiring Australian musicians have the chance to join the world's first collaborative online orchestra*

*YouTube to work with Sydney Symphony Orchestra and other leading music stars and institutions*

*YouTube Symphony Orchestra Summit and Carnegie Hall performance to take place in April 2009*

**Sydney, Australia – December 2, 2008** – YouTube™, the leading online video community that allows people to discover, watch and share original videos, today announced a collaboration with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Grammy Award-winning conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, Academy Award -winning and Olympics composer Tan Dun, world-renowned pianist Lang Lang, and many other classical music stars and leading institutions to launch the "YouTube Symphony Orchestra" ([www.youtube.com/symphony](http://www.youtube.com/symphony)), the world's first collaborative online orchestra and summit.

From December 1, 2008 through January 28, 2009, musicians from Australia and around the world are invited to submit videos showcasing their personal style as they perform two different videos – their interpretation of an original Tan Dun composition, written specifically for this program, and a talent video designed to demonstrate their musical and technical abilities. A panel of musical experts from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic and other leading orchestras around the world will narrow the field of entries down to the semifinalists. The YouTube community will be invited to vote on the semifinalists from February 14, 2009 through February 22, 2009. Musicians who are selected will be announced on YouTube on March 2, 2009. For official rules of entry and FAQ, consult YouTube Symphony Orchestra Channel ([www.youtube.com/symphony](http://www.youtube.com/symphony)).

In April 2009, selected musicians will be flown to New York City to participate in a three-day classical music summit with Michael Tilson Thomas and leading performers in the field, culminating in a Carnegie Hall performance on April 15, 2009. In addition, selected video entries of the musical piece will be mashed together to create a living YouTube symphony -- a single video of memorable entrants combined into one ensemble piece -- and even more entries will be displayed on YouTube homepages around the world.

"The Sydney Symphony is excited that today's interactive and international online environment offers innovative ways to engage with classical music. We are delighted to be representing Australia in this groundbreaking YouTube initiative. There's a great community of classical musicians in Australia and this project gives them a great opportunity to connect with their colleagues and stars from around the world. We'd love to see a young Australian in Carnegie Hall next year," said Libby Christie, Sydney Symphony Managing Director.

As the first YouTube-sponsored program to welcome submissions from every country around the world, YouTube Symphony Orchestra will transform individual performances into a global collaborative symphony, explore new possibilities for orchestral collaboration, and springboard talented classical musicians into the global YouTube spotlight.

"The internet is an invisible Silk Road, joining people from across the world. East or West, North or South, anyone can download a score of my "Internet Symphony No. 1 'Eroica', pick any part and play it with any instrument or object, in any style," said Grammy and Academy Award -winning composer Tan Dun. "YouTube is the biggest stage on earth, and I want to see what the world's undiscovered musical geniuses will create on it."

As well as helping narrow the entrants to semifinalists, Sydney Symphony will be working on a number of local initiatives to spread the word among its students and members, to encourage Australian entrants.

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## **Selected list of program partners**

Amsterdam Music School

Arnhem Music School

AVRO

Bamberger Symphonie

Bangalore Music Association

BBC

Berlin Philharmonic

Carnegie Hall

Concertgebouw

Conservatorio Real

Credia

The Hague Music School

Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Imma Shara

Lang Lang

Liceu Barcelona

London Symphony Orchestra

Michael Tilson Thomas

Moscow Conservatory

National Music Conservatory

New World Symphony

Orchestra de Galicia

Orchestra Filarmonica

Orchestre de Paris

Orquesta Nacional

Petersburg Conservatory

Prague Philharmonica

Radio France

Rotterdam Philharmonic

San Francisco Symphony

Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra

Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra

Tan Dun

William Joseph International Academy

Yale School of Music

### **About YouTube**

YouTube is the world's most popular online video community allowing millions of people to discover, watch and share originally created videos. YouTube provides a forum for people to connect, inform and inspire others across the globe and acts as a distribution platform for original content creators and advertisers large and small. YouTube, LLC is based in San Bruno, Calif., and is a subsidiary of Google Inc.