



bell shakespeare



MEDIA RELEASE

13 FEBRUARY 2009

## **ARTS UNITE**

### **A benefit concert for the victims of Victoria's bushfires**

**Sunday 22 February, 5pm**

**Sydney Opera House Concert Hall**

Australia's leading arts organisations – **Sydney Opera House, Sydney Symphony, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Opera Australia, Sydney Theatre Company, The Australian Ballet** and **Bell Shakespeare** – are combining in a benefit concert on Sunday 22 February with all proceeds donated to the Victorian Red Cross Bushfire Appeal Fund.

The 90-minute concert will feature performances from Australia's leading musicians, singers and actors.

Richard Evans, CEO of Sydney Opera House, said the event is expected to raise over \$100,000 for those affected by the bushfires, "The Australian arts community is uniting to show our support for all those communities left devastated by the Victorian bushfires. All performers, staff and suppliers are donating their time and services to ensure that 100% of the ticket price passes directly to the Bushfire Appeal Fund as well as any further donations."

Libby Christie, Sydney Symphony Managing Director said: "The Sydney Symphony is proud to be producing the benefit concert on behalf of the leading arts organisations involved. The Orchestra

strongly believes in the power of music to unite and uplift and we want to share this music with the people of Sydney and show practical support to everyone who has been touched by this bushfire tragedy.”

Tickets go on sale 9am, Saturday 14 February:

Adults: \$50

Children (15 yrs and under): \$25

100% of the ticket price donated to the Victorian Red Cross Bushfire Appeal.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.sydneyoperahouse.com](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com), by calling 02 9250 7777 or in person at the Sydney Opera House box office.

Wilson’s Sydney Opera House car park will provide free parking from 5pm to patrons attending the concert and are requesting that patrons donate the car park fee to the Appeal Fund.

Interviews available on request. For more information, contact:

Steven Reilly  
Sydney Opera House Public Relations  
9250 7411 / 0439 813 405  
[sreilly@sydneyoperahouse.com](mailto:sreilly@sydneyoperahouse.com)

Yvonne Zammit  
Sydney Symphony Public Relations  
8215 4612 / 0410 761 578  
[yvonne.zammit@sydneysymphony.com](mailto:yvonne.zammit@sydneysymphony.com)