

28 July 2009

BACK TO THE FUTURE FOR NICHOLAS

Budding young composers and performers participating in a series of special Sydney Symphony concerts this week need look no further than the man out front wielding the baton for inspiration.

Nicholas Carter at only 23 is the Orchestra's assistant conductor, and is privileged to work in the shadow of Vladimir Ashkenazy, the legendary Russian conductor and virtuoso pianist who is the Sydney Symphony's Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor.

Carter, originally from Melbourne but now a resident of Glebe, was appointed to his one year tenure in the prestigious role last November. He cut his teeth in music much like the students he is helping guide in eight concerts over four days at the Eugene Goossens Hall at the ABC, Ultimo.

These concerts, involving some 3,000 Year 5 and 6 primary level students from 37 public and private schools across Sydney, are part of the Sydney Symphony's music education program, which is designed to match and complement the development of skills and knowledge at infant, primary and secondary schools.

Carter will lead the Sydney Sinfonia (Sydney Symphony's Training Orchestra) in providing participants with interactive experiences, be they dancers, musicians, conductors, and assist in helping them explore the four families of orchestral instruments.

Over the year, the program – broken into four phases - embraces 37 concerts and a total of 18,000 pupils.

Disadvantaged schools receive subsidised transport and a discount on their teacher resource package. Many students attend on a complimentary basis.

Carter may be only double the age of some of the exponents before him this week, but has the credentials of a young master rather than apprentice, having graduated in voice and piano from the University of Melbourne and then spent two years under the wing of pre-eminent Australian conductor, Richard Gill.

In recent years he has conducted a range of productions, from Mozart's *Così fan tutte* to operas *Brundibar*, *The Beggar's Opera* and *The Children's Bach*, to being co-chorus master for performances of *The Flying Dutchman* and *Symphony No 13*.

Underscoring his talent and career projectory, Carter also participated in the Symphony Australia Conductor Development courses for a number of years, working with the Queensland Orchestra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Western Australian Symphony Orchestras, and the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra.

“Having been on the other side not so many years ago myself, I’m totally at home with these student development concerts...I love the prospect of seeing them involved and helping if I can to bring out the best,” comments Nicholas.

“These programs never fail to amaze me when it comes to the depth of talent out there...it just needs to be encouraged and nurtured.”

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Please note: Attached Image of Nicholas Carter

Participating Schools

John Colet School	Cammeray Public School
Meriden Junior School	Five Dock Public School
St Augustine’s Primary School	Newtown North Public School
St Therese’s Primary School	Killara Public School
MacArthur Anglican School	Orange Grove Public School
West Pymble Public School	Darlinghurst Public School
St Augustine’s College	Deaf and Blind Institute North Rocks
Farmborough Road Public School	Shore Preparatory School
Bellevue Hill Public School	Emanuel School
Shalvey Public School	Roseville College
Kincoppal Rosebay Junior School	Beaumont Road Public School
SCEGGS Darlinghurst Junior	Northholm Grammar School
St Luke’s Grammar School	Our Lady of Fatima Primary School
Emanuel School	Lorien Novalis School
Reddam House	Queenwood Junior School
Warwick Farm Public School	Berowra Public School
Bankstown Public School	Tregear Public School
Kindlehill Primary School	Beaumont Road Public School
Coogee Boys Prep School	Mona Vale Public School
St Andrew’s Cathedral School	