



Hon. Ian Macdonald MLC

**Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Energy
Minister for Mineral Resources
Minister for State Development**



Vladimir Ashkenazy
Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor

Monday, 18 May, 2009

Sounds of the Sydney Symphony to help ease drought pain

*Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre
Saturday 27 June, 6.30pm - SOLD OUT
Sunday 28 June, 11am – still available*

The NSW Government, Sydney Symphony, Wagga Wagga City Council and corporate sponsors have joined forces for two special drought benefit concerts to be held at the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre on **Saturday 27 June at 6.30pm and Sunday 28 June at 11am.**

Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald said this is the sixth year the NSW Government and the Sydney Symphony have joined forces to raise money for rural communities affected by the drought.

“The drought recovery concert will be a real morale boost for people in the bush, while also providing financial relief for charities that do so much to help families cope during these tough times,” Mr Macdonald said.

“This is a great opportunity to hear some of Australia’s finest musicians in action.

“The visit will see over 60 Sydney Symphony musicians and Australian conductor Matthew Coorey arrive in Wagga Wagga accompanied by two tonnes of instruments, ranging from double basses and trombones, through to flutes and oboes.

“With the support of a range of partners, we hope to raise up to \$50,000, which will be donated to local charities that assist drought affected families in Wagga Wagga and the surrounding area.

“Money raised will be divided equally among the drought recovery programs of the Australian Red Cross, Anglicare, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Salvation Army.”

Sydney Symphony Acting Managing Director, Rory Jeffes, said the Wagga Wagga performance will be a highlight of the Orchestra’s 2009 regional touring program.

“Each year, the Sydney Symphony performs in hospitals, schools, concert halls and theatres throughout New South Wales,” Mr Jeffes said.

“Touring is an important aspect of our work and I know the musicians thoroughly enjoy their time on the road getting to know our supporters and audiences away from our home at the Sydney Opera House.

“The success of previous benefit concerts in Griffith, Broken Hill, Orange, Tamworth and Bathurst has inspired us once again to help communities still struggling with this terrible drought, and we are grateful to the support of the NSW Government, Minister Macdonald and many generous sponsors for helping to make these concerts happen,” Mr Jeffes said.

The 2009 Sydney Symphony annual regional tour is made possible by the NSW Government through the NSW Department of Primary Industries, the NSW Department of Water & Energy and NSW Ministry for the Arts; Wagga Wagga City Council; BHP Billiton; Regional Express Airlines; Xstrata Coal; Snowy Hydro Ltd; Cadia Valley Operations; Telstra; St. George Bank; the Royal Agricultural Society; Livestock, Health and Pest Authorities; Sunrice; The Land; and the Federal Government through the Australia Council for the Arts.

The performance on Saturday 27 June is SOLD OUT but tickets to the performance on Sunday 28 June are still available.

TICKET PRICES:

Adults: \$70

Concession: \$61

Under 25: \$42

Subscriber Full: \$57

Subscriber concession: \$50

Subscriber youth U25: \$40

To book tickets, contact the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre on 6926 9688 or visit www.civictheatre.com.au

PROGRAM:

MENDELSSOHN The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)

MOZART Sinfonia Concertante in E flat

INTERVAL

DVOŘÁK Symphony No.8 in G major

GLINKA Ruslan and Ludmila: Overture

Matthew Coorey conductor

Shefali Pryor oboe

Lawrence Dobell clarinet

Matthew Wilkie bassoon

Ben Jacks horn

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