

MEDIA RELEASE

5 March 2009

Managing Director departs for new role in April 2009

The Sydney Symphony congratulates Managing Director Libby Christie on her appointment to the position of Executive Director, Arts Funding at The Australia Council for the Arts. She will leave Sydney Symphony on 3 April and take up her new role shortly afterwards.

Christie originally notified the Board last November that she would not seek to extend her contract beyond its current term, which expires on 30 June this year. This early notice has given the Board the opportunity to begin a thorough search process which is currently underway.

“There is a close relationship between the Sydney Symphony and the Australia Council and we are delighted that the arts sector will continue to benefit from Libby’s leadership and professional skills,” said Sydney Symphony Chairman, John Conde AO, in paying tribute to Christie’s achievements.

“Libby’s contribution to the Sydney Symphony has been significant: the successful five years with Maestro Gelmetti as Chief Conductor; the appointment of our current Principal Conductor, Vladimir Ashkenazy; the divestment from the ABC and establishment of the Orchestra as an independent company; annual growth in audiences and income and the creation of a strong and highly effective leadership team – these are all notable achievements and Libby is to be congratulated for them. She leaves with the Sydney Symphony in great shape and with the very best wishes of us all.

“The search for a new Managing Director is well advanced and the Board is confident the company’s executive team will manage the transition smoothly between April and the appointment of a new chief executive.”

In the interim, the Board has asked Rory Jeffes, Director of External Relations at Sydney Symphony, to step into the role of Acting Managing Director from the date of Libby’s departure.

Further information

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