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Sydney Symphony appoints first ever Associate Conductor

Twenty-five year old Australian, Nicholas Carter, has today been appointed to the position of Sydney Symphony Associate Conductor, the first position of its kind ever offered by the Sydney Symphony.

The position is supported by Credit Suisse, the Orchestra's Premier Partner, and runs for an initial one-year term.

According to Sydney Symphony Managing Director, Rory Jeffes, Nicholas has proved over the past 18 months in his role as the orchestra's Assistant Conductor what a formidable conducting talent he is.

"Nicholas has a bright future in front of him and we want to nurture his talent in every way possible. The position of Associate Conductor gives Nicholas the opportunity to take the reins of the orchestra in some very significant performances in our 2011 season including concerts with the acclaimed mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter," said Jeffes.

In 2011, Nicholas will also conduct the Sydney Symphony's regional tour to Griffith, Wagga Wagga and Albury in March as well as a special performance at the Sydney Town Hall in June. He will also work with the Queensland, Adelaide, Melbourne and New Zealand Symphony Orchestras.

According to Nicholas, the appointment means another step towards reaching his career goals.

"I never thought that at 25 years of age I would have this kind of opportunity. I have learnt a great deal from Sydney Symphony Principal Conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy and the musicians of the orchestra over the past 18 months and it's a huge privilege for me to continue working with the orchestra as I develop musically. I am very lucky to have been given this opportunity and I thank the Sydney Symphony for its commitment to fostering the next generation of Australian classical music artists," said Carter.

Praise for Nicholas has come not only from the many Sydney Symphony visiting conductors with whom he has worked over the past 18 months but also from the Sydney Symphony musicians.

"It has been wonderful to see Nicholas' skills grow over the past 18 months," said Geoff O'Reilly, Sydney Symphony musician committee president. "The musicians feel he is one of Australia's brightest up and coming conducting stars. He is going to go far and we are thrilled to have him continue as part of the Sydney Symphony family."

As Assistant Conductor, Nicholas undertook a number of conducting assignments for the Sydney Symphony including conducting a rural benefit performance in Tamworth and a number of schools concerts at the ABC Centre in Ultimo. He served as assistant and cover-conductor on the Sydney Symphony's highly successful international tours to China and Malaysia in 2009 and, most recently, to European Summer Festivals in 2010.

After graduating from the University of Melbourne in 2007, studying voice and piano, Nicholas became a member of the inaugural Victorian Opera Artist Development Program, studying with Richard Gill. This saw him conduct productions of Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, Graeme Dudley's *Snow Queen* and Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and *Don Giovanni*, as well as assisting and chorus-mastering on a number of other productions. For OzOpera, he has conducted Children's Opera productions of *Brundibár* and *The Beggar's Opera*.

Nicholas has also guest conducted performances with Orchestra Victoria and the West Australian, Adelaide and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras. For Opera Australia, Nicholas was Assistant Conductor for the 2010 world premiere of *Bliss* by Brett Dean. He was also invited to assist Donald Runnicles at the Grand Tetons Music Festival in Wyoming, USA, in July 2010.

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