

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### ***Revel in festive cheer as the Sydney Symphony marks the finale of its 75th anniversary year***

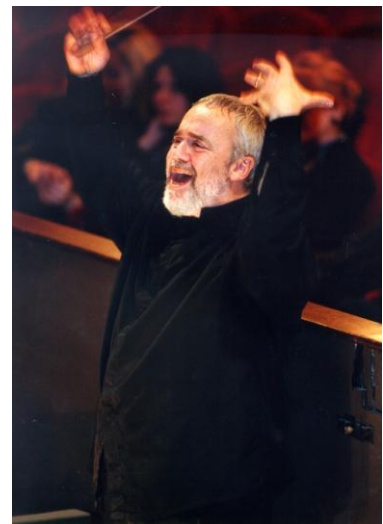
***Friday 14 December, 8pm  
Saturday 15 December, 2pm***

***Sydney Opera House Concert Hall***

Seventy-five years ago, the Sydney Symphony consisted of just 24 players performing incidental music for radio plays, music for the dinner hour and broadcasts of concert repertoire. Today, as Australia's premier orchestra, the Sydney Symphony and its 90 musicians are world acclaimed, giving hundreds of concerts each year throughout New South Wales and at its home, the Sydney Opera House.

This December, it's Sydney's chance to celebrate its own orchestra and the milestone achievement of reaching its 75th year.

To mark this historic event and to conclude its 2007 season, the Sydney Symphony, conducted by Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti, will give a festive performance of music inspired by one of the best-loved tales ever told, *Nutcracker*.



Perhaps the greatest ballet ever danced and with some of the world's most recognisable musical themes, *Nutcracker* is as sweet, sentimental and sparkling as Christmas itself.

Made famous the world over through the movie *Fantasia*, the *Nutcracker* symphonic suite depicts a fantasy world for the whole family and the Sydney Symphony brings this fairytale world to life with musical favourites such as the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Waltz of the Flowers.

Also as part of the concerts, the Sydney Symphony and Maestro Gelmetti will perform Tchaikovsky's luscious *Romeo and Juliet – Fantasy Overture* and his grand Piano Concerto No.1 with guest pianist Louis Lortie.

When he last performed with the Sydney Symphony in 2005, Canadian-born Lortie dazzled audiences, with his performances described as "thrilling" and having an "intelligence and a wonderful capacity to control the sound at the piano and make it sing" (Sydney Morning Herald, 6/6/2005).

Audiences will also get to see Lortie perform with a chamber-sized group of Sydney Symphony musicians as part of the Orchestra's Tea and Symphony concert on Friday 14 December at 11am at the Sydney Opera House. Lortie will perform Mozart's bubbly Piano Concerto K459 and then direct the Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings.

Be part of history as the Sydney Symphony brings its 75th Anniversary year to a triumphant close.

Click here for samples of the music to be played at 'A Tchaikovsky Fantasy' (requires iTunes):  
<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewIMix?id=268153220>

The concert on Friday 14 December will be webcast live courtesy of BigPond at:  
<http://sydneyorchestra.bigpondmusic.com/>

ENDS

For further information, images and interview requests, please contact:

Yvonne Zammit, PR Manager  
Sydney Symphony  
Tel. + 61 2 8215 4612 / 0410 761 578  
[yvonne.zammit@sydneyorchestra.com](mailto:yvonne.zammit@sydneyorchestra.com)

Stuart Fyfe, Publicist  
Sydney Symphony  
Tel: +61 2 8215 4653 / 0404 092 377  
[stuart.fyfe@sydneyorchestra.com](mailto:stuart.fyfe@sydneyorchestra.com)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **A TCHAIKOVSKY FANTASY**

**Friday 14 December, 8pm (Emirates Metro Series)**

**Saturday 15 December, 2pm**

**Sydney Opera House Concert Hall**

**Gianluigi Gelmetti** conductor  
**Louis Lortie** piano

**TCHAIKOVSKY** Piano Concerto No.1  
Romeo and Juliet – Fantasy Overture  
Nutcracker: Suite

Tickets from \$60\*, Family: \$142\*

A pre-concert talk will take place in the Northern Foyer of the Sydney Opera House 45 minutes before each performance. (Speaker: Felicity Glennie-Holmes)

\* Booking fee may apply

### **SERENADE FOR STRINGS**

**Friday 14 December, 11am (Tea and Symphony, presented by Kambly)**

**Sydney Opera House Concert Hall**

**Louis Lortie** piano/director

**MOZART** Piano Concerto in F, K459  
**TCHAIKOVSKY** Serenade for Strings

Tickets from \$45\*

\* Booking fee may apply

*Sydney Symphony concert programs are now available online before a performance, just visit [www.sydneyorchestra.com](http://www.sydneyorchestra.com) and click on calendar date for the concert program you'd like to see.*