

MEDIA RELEASE

Recital series begins with record-breaking pianist Bernd Glemser in performance, Monday 26 March.

Sydney, March 14 – In 1989, a young pianist by the name of Bernd Glemser became a marvel to everyone in Germany and made academic history by being appointed the country's youngest professor at only 27 years of age. Before this time, Glemser travelled the world and unknowingly broke a record that had been on the books since 1890 by winning 17 competitions and special awards in a row, including the people's choice award and second prize in the 1985 Sydney International Piano Competition.

In 2007, Glemser returns to Sydney after an absence of 22 years to herald the start of this year's Sydney Symphony International Pianists in Recital Series.

According to Sydney Symphony Director of Artistic Operations, Wolfgang Fink, the fact that the Sydney Symphony can secure international pianists of such esteem is a wonderful testament to how the Orchestra is viewed on the world stage.

"Four times a year, the Sydney Symphony offers audiences the opportunity to share an intimate musical night with one of the world's leading pianists. These one-off solo performances at the City Recital Hall Angel Place are a chance for Sydney audiences to hear four musicians who are at the top of their game," says Fink.

Alongside Glemser, the three musicians who will appear in the 2007 Series are Gerhard Oppitz, Cédric Tiberghien and Roger Muraro.

The Series begins on March 26 with a recital by the acclaimed German pianist **Bernd Glemser**.

Throughout his life, Glemser has given concerts across the world from Chile to China, where in 1996 he was the first Western musician to perform nation-wide live on television.



His exceptionally broad repertoire, ranging from baroque to modern, and his impressive technique makes Glemser one of today's elite pianists with his performances constantly bringing audiences to their feet.

Glemser will demonstrate the breadth of his repertoire with a recital that interweaves preludes and fugues by Bach and Shostakovich, and features the virtuoso poetry of Rachmaninov, including his most famous piece of all, the Prelude in C sharp minor.



In 2006 the Australian described him as "dazzling", the Sydney Morning Herald as "impressive".

In 2007, **Gerhard Oppitz** is back for an array of concerts that can only be described as a super-human feat of musical stamina.

Oppitz will take part in the Sydney Symphony Beethoven Festival in June when he will play selected Beethoven piano works alongside the Orchestra's performance of all the Beethoven symphonies. After performing 3 concertos and one sonata for the Beethoven Festival, he will then take to the city recital hall stage for another 2 concerts - one with a chamber-sized group of Sydney Symphony musicians as part of the 'Homage to Mozart' concert and then in his own recital.

Oppitz's recital for the International Pianists in Recital Series will see him performing four Beethoven Sonatas. Internationally acclaimed for his performances of the Romantic masters, Oppitz is attuned to Beethoven's drama and daring. A student of the famed Wilhelm Kempff, Oppitz is heir to a glorious tradition of music-making that stretches in an unbroken line back to Beethoven himself.

For the two-and-a-half weeks that Oppitz will be in Sydney for the Sydney Symphony he will perform a total of three Beethoven Concertos, one Mozart Concerto, five Beethoven Sonatas and Mozart's Concerto-Rondo in D. A staggering accomplishment for any musician.



Cédric Tiberghien joins the Sydney Symphony in August for a performance of Messiaen's Turangalila-symphonie conducted by Simone Young as well as his own recital.

At only 30 years of age, Tiberghien is one of the most exciting artists to emerge from France in recent years. He is a pianist known for his maturity, intelligence and commanding technique.

For his recital, Tiberghien performs works by Brahms and Chopin that feature on his highly acclaimed CD, 'Ballades', released in October 2006. The decorative delicacy and refinement of Chopin and the emotional honesty of Brahms and his monumental transcription of Bach's famous D minor Chaconne for solo violin will demonstrate the many aspects of Tiberghien's considerable talents.

The last time French pianist **Roger Muraro** visited Sydney, in 1988, he was a guest artist in Messiaen's major tour of Australia. His performances of Messiaen's dazzling piano works, harmonising spiritual contemplation and aesthetic delight, earned the praise of the composer himself. He is, without doubt, one of the world's finest performers of Messiaen's works.



It is fitting then that for his recital in September he will perform works by Messiaen, Debussy and Albeniz, a program which combines earthiness, delicacy and transcendence performed with Muraro's trademark panache.

The International Pianists in Recital Series is sponsored by Theme & Variations Piano Services.

To book tickets, to any performance in the International Pianists in Recital Series, call Sydney Symphony Customer Service on 8215 4600 or visit www.sydney-symphony.com

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For further information regarding the International Pianists in Recital Series, interviews with performers and photo opportunities, please contact:

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Note to editors

Concert details

CONCERT

Bernd Glemser in recital
Monday March 26, 8pm
City Recital Hall Angel Place
Tickets from \$48

PROGRAM

BACH Preludes and Fugues from The Well-Tempered Clavier
SHOSTAKOVICH Preludes and Fugues from Op.87
RACHMANINOV Four pieces from Morceaux de fantaisie,
Op.3: *Elégie, Prélude, Mélodie, Sérénade*

RACHMANINOV Variations on a theme of Corelli, Op.42
RACHMANINOV Barcarolle, Op.10 No.3
RACHMANINOV Etude-Tableau, Op.39 No.9

Gerhard Oppitz in recital

Monday June 18, 8pm
City Recital Hall, Angel Place
Tickets from \$48

Cédric Tiberghien in recital

Monday 6 August, 8pm
City Recital Hall, Angel Place
Tickets from \$48

Roger Muraro in recital

Monday 24 September, 8pm
City Recital Hall, Angel Place
Tickets from \$48

BEETHOVEN

Sonata No.1 in F minor, Op.2, No.1
Sonata No.4 in E flat, Op.7
Sonata No.22 in F, Op.54
Sonata No.23 in F minor, Op.57

BRAHMS Chaconne by JS Bach, arr. for piano left hand

BRAHMS Four Ballades, Op.10

CHOPIN Four Ballades

ALBENIZ Impressions from Iberia

MESSIAEN Selections from Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus

DEBUSSY Selected pieces