

sydney symphony

MEDIA RELEASE

SYDNEY FALLS IN LOVE WITH THE WHITLAMs ALL OVER AGAIN CLOSE TO 8,000 TICKETS SOLD TO SYDNEY SYMPHONY CONCERTS



Sydney, Thursday 21 Sept - Last night Sydney audiences shared the love with Tim Freedman as he took The Whitlams and the Sydney Symphony on a journey into love, loss and laughter with the first of four shows at the Sydney Opera House. Kicking off a national orchestras tour, The Whitlams were in fine form and audiences responded with two instant standing ovations at the end of the concert and encore set. Sydney has already voted with their feet with all four concerts sold out and tickets just 214 short of 8,000 in total.

Those who have missed out on tickets can still be part of the action by watching the live webstream of the final Sydney concert, this Sat 22 Sept. The concert can be viewed on Bigpond both live and on demand, courtesy of their ongoing partnership with Sydney Symphony.

On stage last night Tim Freedman paid homage to the seven Australian composers that have created orchestral arrangements of The Whitlams songs, including Peter Sculthorpe and Brett Dean. The concerts feature arrangements commissioned for the West Australian Symphony Orchestra concerts of 2004, as well as brand new arrangements from the "Little Cloud" album, namely "Keep the Light On", "Fondness Makes the Heart Grow Absent", "Year of the Rat" and "She's Moving In."

Local rapper DJ Torture (right), whom Freeman met at a recent political rally, joined the musicians on stage for the World Premiere of a new collaboration entitled "The Road is Lost". The song captured much of the explosive and emotional charge of the entire concert with both band and orchestra working at their peak to create a sound that was met by rapturous applause, whistles and cat calls. Not your usual Opera House behaviour!



The current line-up for The Whitlams has remained unchanged for the last 6 years and 4 albums, and consists of Tim Freedman on piano and vocals, Jak Housden on guitar, Warwick Hornby on bass guitar and Terepai Richmond on drums. This is their first collaboration with the Sydney Symphony, conducted by Ben Northey. Their rehearsals last week were captured on film and are available for viewing as a video clip on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QffXciakjU>

The Whitlams will perform with Sydney Symphony tonight Thursday 20, Fri 21 and Sat 22 Sept. All shows are sold out.

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