



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**10 SEPTEMBER 2008**

## **SYDNEY BIDS ARRIVEDERCI TO MAESTRO GELMETTI**

**Fri 19 & Sat 20 September**

**Sydney Opera House Concert Hall**

This September, audiences have the chance to pay tribute and bid arrivederci to Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti when he gives his final performances as Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor and Artistic Director.

Maestro Gelmetti will treat audiences to farewell performances featuring some of his favourite works: from the dancing energy of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony to the drama of Verdi, Wagner and Mascagni's operatic masterpieces and the dazzling colours of Ravel.

Libby Christie, Sydney Symphony Managing Director, says, "Maestro Gelmetti has made an indelible impression on Sydney's music scene during his five years with the Orchestra. His warmth, visible passion for music and innovative programming have made for unforgettable musical experiences for the musicians of the Sydney Symphony and audiences throughout New South Wales.

"The Sydney Symphony applauds Maestro Gelmetti for the calibre of music-making he has achieved during his time with the Orchestra and we thank him for the commitment he has shown to the Australian classical musical scene through his performances of Australian contemporary works and his championing of Australian composers, conductors and musicians."

According to Maestro Gelmetti, these final performances will mark a high point in a five-year period which has seen him embraced whole-heartedly by audiences throughout New South Wales.

"I feel privileged to have spent time at the helm of the wonderful Sydney Symphony. I hope audiences have enjoyed the many performances we have given them and they will remember our special music-making experiences for many years to come.



“Sydney will always hold a special place in my heart and I want to thank the people of New South Wales as well as the musicians and staff of the Sydney Symphony who have made the past five years so memorable for me.”

During his time as Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Maestro Gelmetti has conducted over 120 performances, from operas in concert such as Puccini’s *La Rondine* to his ground-breaking *Shock of the New* concerts. He has conducted the Orchestra on three occasions in regional New South Wales for the Sydney Symphony’s annual drought relief concert (Griffith: 2004, Broken Hill: 2006 and Bathurst: 2008) and in 2006, led the Orchestra on a tour of Japan as part of Asia Orchestra Week.

Following his farewell performances in Sydney, Maestro Gelmetti will lead the Sydney Symphony on an eight city tour of his native Italy in late September and early October, a fitting way to conclude his time with the Orchestra.

Maestro Gelmetti, whose appointment in 2004 followed a ten year relationship with the Orchestra as Guest Conductor, also holds the position of Music Director of the prestigious Rome Opera. Along with his conducting duties, Maestro Gelmetti is an accomplished composer with the Sydney Symphony recently giving the Australian premiere of one of his works, *Cantata della vita*.

Following on from Maestro Gelmetti is Vladimir Ashkenazy who takes up the role of Sydney Symphony Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor from January 2009.

Maestro Gelmetti’s farewell performances are proudly sponsored by Maserati, Emirates as Principal Partner of the Sydney Symphony, and BigPond who are webstreaming the concert on Saturday 20 September live at [www.sydney-symphony.bigpondmusic.com](http://www.sydney-symphony.bigpondmusic.com)

**## ENDS ##**

For additional information, contact:

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

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

**Note to Editors: Concert Details**

**GELMETTI'S FAREWELL CONCERTS**

**Gianluigi Gelmetti** conductor

**BEETHOVEN**

Symphony No.7

**WAGNER**

Tristan and Isolde: Prelude and Liebestod

**VERDI**

La traviata: Prelude to Act III

**MASCAGNI**

Cavalleria rusticana: Intermezzo

**VERDI**

The Force of Destiny: Overture

**RAVEL**

Pavane pour une infante défunte

Bolero

Tickets from \$35\*

*Sydney Symphony concert programs are now available online in the week of a performance. Just visit [www.sydney-symphony.com](http://www.sydney-symphony.com) and click on calendar date for the concert program you'd like to see.*

\*Booking fees may apply