

MEDIA RELEASE

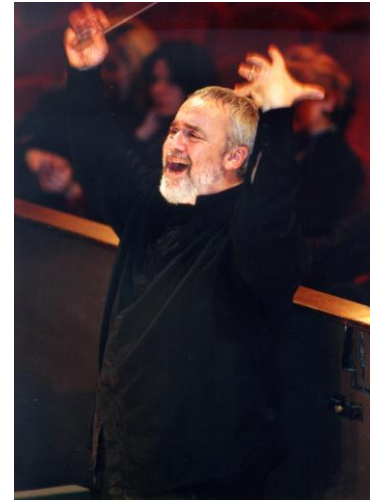
Maestro Gelmetti returns to Sydney giving the Australian premiere of his composition dedicated to the Sydney Symphony

**25 – 27 June 2008
Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall**

SYDNEY, 10 June 2008 – Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti returns to Sydney in June to conduct the Australian premiere of his own composition, *Cantata della vita* (Song of Life), a work dedicated to the Sydney Symphony and the people of Sydney.

Of his composition, Maestro Gelmetti says, “This is a work close to my heart and I dedicate it to all the wonderful musicians of the Sydney Symphony whom I’ve been so fortunate to work with over the past five years. I also dedicate it to the people of Sydney who have embraced me so warmly during my time at the helm of the Orchestra.”

Described by Gelmetti as ‘a large fresco of the human voyage’, *Cantata della vita* takes its texts from sources as diverse as the *Song of Songs* and 16th-century French poetry and features a prominent part for the Sydney Symphony’s brilliant oboe section as well as solo voices and choir.



On the occasion of its Australian premiere, Gelmetti has created a new section, inspired by the birth just over two years ago of his daughter Biancalaura.

Also featuring in this concert series is the first movement of a piece regarded as a landmark work in Australian composition, John Antill’s *Corroboree*. Composed in the 1940s, the work is one of the first attempts to create a truly Australian music inspired by the distinctive sounds of Aboriginal song and dance. Composed in the 1940’s, it was based on the rhythms Antill experienced as a child when he attended a corroboree at La Perouse in Sydney.

To usher in the sound-world of *Cantata della vita* and *Corroboree*, Maestro Gelmetti has commissioned Marco Taralli to compose a brand new concertino for the principal oboe of the Rome Opera, Luca Vignali who will be performing the piece for its Australian premiere. Vignali will also perform one of the best-loved baroque concertos for oboe by Marcello.

As part of Maestro Gelmetti’s June/July visit, he will also be conducting the Sydney Symphony in:

- **Mahler Symphony No. 1**
3 – 7 July, Sydney Opera House Concert Hall
- **Sydney Symphony annual drought relief concert**
Sat 12 July, Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre.
- **Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis as part of World Youth Day festivities**
18 and 19 July, Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Maestro Gelmetti returns in September for his final performances as Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor and Artistic Director. **(Gelmetti’s Farewell concerts: 19 & 20 September)**

ENDS

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Note to Editors: Concert Details

CANTATA DELLA VITA

Wed 25 June, 6.30pm
Thu 26 June, 6.30pm
Fri 27 June, 11am

Gianluigi Gelmetti conductor
Luca Vignali oboe
Diana Doherty oboe
Shefali Pryor oboe
Nathan Waks cello
Anna Rita Taliento soprano
Ionut Pascu baritone
Cantillation chorus

ANTILL

Corroboree: Suite

TARALLI

Concertino for oboe AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

MARCELLO

Oboe Concerto in C minor

GELMETTI

Cantata della vita AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Tickets from \$47*

MAHLER 1

Thu 3 Jul, 1.30pm
Fri 4 Jul, 8pm
Sat 5 Jul, 2pm
Sun 6 Jul, 7pm

Gianluigi Gelmetti conductor
Michael Dauth violin
Shefali Pryor oboe
Matthew Wilkie bassoon
Catherine Hewgill cello

HAYDN

Sinfonia Concertante in B flat, Hob.I:105

MAHLER

Symphony No.1

Tickets from \$59*

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

*Booking fees may apply