



Hon. Ian Macdonald MLC

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Energy
Minister for Mineral Resources
Minister for State Development



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 7 July, 2008

SOUNDS OF THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY TO HELP EASE DROUGHT PAIN

*Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre
105 William St, Bathurst
Saturday 12 July, 7pm*

The NSW Government, Sydney Symphony and Bathurst Regional Council have joined forces for a special drought benefit concert to be held at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre on **Saturday 12 July at 7pm.**

Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald said this is the fifth year the NSW Government and the Sydney Symphony have joined forces to raise money for rural communities affected by the relentless drought.

“The drought recovery concert will be a real morale boost for people in the bush, while also providing financial relief for charities that do so much to help families cope with these tough times,” Mr Macdonald said.

“This is a great opportunity to hear some of Australia’s finest musicians in action.

“Over 60 Sydney Symphony musicians and the Orchestra’s Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti, will be flown to Bathurst by two specially chartered REX planes.

“They will be accompanied by two tonnes of instruments, ranging from double basses and trombones, through to flutes and oboes.

“With the support of a range of partners, we hope to raise up to \$50,000, which will be donated to local charities that assist drought affected families in Bathurst and the surrounding area.

“Money raised will be divided equally among the drought recovery programs of the Australian Red Cross, Anglicare, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Salvation Army.”

Sydney Symphony Managing Director, Libby Christie, said the Bathurst performance will be a highlight of the Orchestra’s 2008 regional touring program.

“Each year, the Sydney Symphony performs in hospitals, schools, concert halls and theatres throughout regional New South Wales,” Ms Christie said.

“Regional touring is a very important part of our work. The Sydney Symphony belongs to all the people of NSW and I know the musicians thoroughly enjoy their time on the road getting to know our supporters and audiences outside the metropolitan area.

“The success of previous benefit concerts in Griffith, Broken Hill, Orange and Tamworth has inspired us once again to help communities still struggling with this terrible drought, and we are grateful to the support of the NSW Government, Minister Macdonald and many generous sponsors for helping to make these concerts happen,” Ms Christie said

The Bathurst Regional Council have shown their commitment to this event by providing the concert venue and staffing free of charge as well as donating the ticketing proceeds.

The 2008 Sydney Symphony annual regional tour is made possible by the NSW Government through the NSW Department of Primary Industries, the NSW Department of Water & Energy and NSW Ministry for the Arts; Bathurst Regional Council; BHP Billiton; Regional Express Airlines; Xstrata Coal; Snowy Hydro Ltd; Cadia Valley Operations; Telstra; St. George Bank; the Deloitte Foundation, the Royal Agricultural Society; The Rural Lands Protection Board; Sunrice; The Land; and the Federal Government through the Australia Council for the Arts.

Tickets for the 2008 Bathurst performance are now on sale.

Ticket prices:
\$45 adult
\$38 pensioner
\$33 student/junior

To book tickets, please contact Ticketek on 132 849 or visit www.ticketek.com.au

Tickets can also be purchased in-person from the Ticketek office at Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre.

PROGRAM:

MOZART The Marriage of Figaro: Overture

HAYDN Sinfonia Concertante in B flat
Soloists: *Michael Dauth, violin*
 Catherine Hewgill, cello
 Matthew Wilkie, bassoon
 Shefali Pryor, oboe

Interval

BEETHOVEN Symphony No.7

The concert will be conducted by Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti.

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