

MEDIA RELEASE

ORCHESTRAL TANGO

15, 17 & 19 May 2008, Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Symphony goes Latin this May with performances of music inspired by the sultry dance of the Buenos Aires underworld – the Tango. Introducing orchestral elements to the traditional tango – a genre commonly referred to as *nuevo tango* – the program will be a fine example of the true diversity of Australia’s premier orchestra.

As a musical exploration of South America, *Latin American Nights* will feature a well-known piece by Argentinian tango composer Astor Piazzolla, who is credited with having pioneered the nuevo tango genre through his work in the second half of the 20th century. Titled *Aconcagua – Bandoneón Concerto*, the piece features an impressive bandoneón solo that explores the many moods of the tango, ranging from anger to joy.



Playing the solo bandoneón part will be the highly accomplished and acclaimed Carel Kraayenhoff who was honoured by the Argentine government in 2005 for his efforts over two decades as an ambassador for the Argentine tango.

The concert will also feature a suite of four dances from the ballet *Estancia* by Piazzolla’s teacher, Alberto Ginastera. Ginastera’s work was well known for capturing the musical soul of Argentina and in this piece he conveys the music of the Argentine cowboy, evoking lucid images of the grasslands, strumming guitars and rancher machismo.

Rounding out the evening’s exploration of South America will be a performance of Silvestre Revueltas’ *La Noche de los Mayas (The Night of the Mayas)*, composed as an accompaniment to the 1939 film. A tale of love, witchcraft, folklore and murder set in a tribal village deep in the Mexican jungle, it vividly brings the rituals of the land and its forgotten tribal inhabitants to life.

Conducting the Sydney Symphony in these performances is Estonian-born conductor Kristjan Järvi who has been hailed by *The New York Times* as “a kinetic force on the podium, like Leonard Bernstein reborn.” A member of the distinguished Järvi family, he is the eldest son of esteemed conductor Neeme Järvi, Music Director Emeritus of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and brother of Paavo Järvi, also a highly recognised conductor and Music Director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Renowned for his incredible insight into classical music from the 20th century and for being one of the best

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communicators on the international stage, Järvi (pictured) will demonstrate the trademark dynamism that has placed him in such high demand. Currently based in both Florida and Vienna, he will conclude his tour of Australia by taking to the stage with the Sydney Symphony for the first time.



Latin American Nights is the second concert this year in the Sydney Symphony's 'Kaleidoscope' series which sees prominent artists from around the world take to the stage with the orchestra in eclectic performances that fuse a variety of contemporary styles with instrumentation usually reserved for classical works.

Executed under the artistic direction of Australian jazz legend James Morrison, the Kaleidoscope series has already seen musical heavyweights such as Chick Corea and Lalo Schifrin in genre-defying performances with the orchestra.

Latin American Nights is a performance not to be missed, a demonstration of the versatility of both the neuro tango and orchestral instrumentation in a performance set to steam up the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. Tickets for the concerts can be purchased by phoning the Sydney Symphony Box Office on 02 8215 4600 or visiting www.sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com

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Watch Kristjan Järvi & Carel Kraayenhof in rehearsal for their 2007/08 performances:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0yrE-jaPgg>

Note to editors: Concert details

LATIN AMERICAN NIGHTS

Thu 15 May, 8pm

Sat 17 May, 8pm

Mon 19 May, 7pm

Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Kristjan Järvi conductor
Carel Kraayenhof bandoneón

GINASTERA Four Dances from Estancia
PIAZZOLLA Aconcagua – Bandoneón Concerto
REVUELTAS La Noche de los Mayas (The Night of the Mayas)



Tickets from \$59*

Pre-concert talks by Phillip Scott will be held in the Northern Foyer of the Sydney Opera House 45 minutes prior to each performance.

Sydney Symphony concert programs are now available online before 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, concessions available, standard conditions of sale apply.