

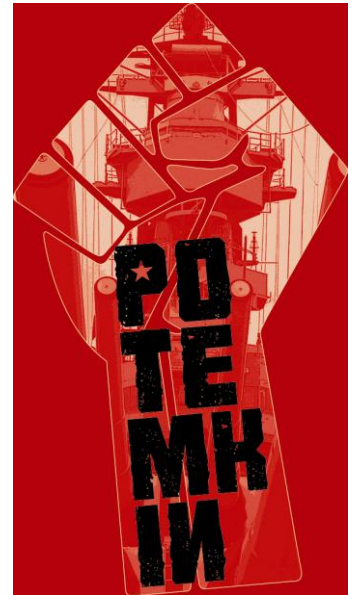
MEDIA RELEASE

Sydney Symphony to perform new soundtrack to iconic film

Fri 31 July, 8pm | Sat 1 August, 8pm | Sydney Opera House

Batten down the hatches this July - the Sydney Symphony will perform a newly arranged soundtrack to accompany a previously unseen version of the iconic 1925 Soviet propaganda film, *Battleship Potemkin*, as it screens in the Sydney Opera House.

Described as “the greatest film of all time” at the World’s Fair in 1958, Russian director Sergei Eisenstein’s silent masterpiece remains one of the most influential propaganda films ever made. Telling the real-life story of sailors mutinying against their officers aboard the battleship *Potemkin* during the 1905 Russian Revolution, the film was intended to aggravate resentment toward the imperial Tsarist regime and drive the Soviet agenda of the time.



Considered graphic and violent for its day, the film used ‘montage’ editing techniques, juxtaposing shots to derive meaning not apparent to them individually – a technique that became a key trait of modern film making. Upon release, it was immediately banned in many countries including Britain, France, Spain and Germany due to its ‘revolutionary’ content, while in others a censored version omitting the more political or violent content was shown. It was not until 2001 that work on a 3-year restoration began to reinsert the scenes that had been edited out.

Numerous soundtracks to the film, most often using classical music, have been created over the years, including a contemporary score by The Pet Shop Boys in 2004. Now, German film composer and conductor, Frank Strobel, has arranged a new score to accompany the restored version of the film using several of Shostakovich’s symphonies including Symphony No.11 which Shostakovich wrote after an intense study of the film.

Currently the Artistic Director of the Berlin FilmPhilharmonic Orchestra, Strobel has established himself as one of the most important figures in film music today, and in recent years has also conducted the Sydney Symphony in performances of Charlie Chaplin’s *Goldrush* and the 2008 *Crime Time* concerts, presented by Clive James and featuring scores from famous crime films.

The *Battleship Potemkin* concerts are part of the Sydney Symphony’s Kaleidoscope series presented by St. George Bank. Fusing the orchestra with other artforms and music genres, the series has been developed under the artistic direction of Australian jazz legend, James Morrison.



Tickets to *Battleship Potemkin* can be purchased by phoning the Sydney Symphony Box Office on 02 8215 4600 or visiting www.sydney-symphony.com.

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For further information, images and/or interviews, contact:

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Note to Editors: Concert Details

**St. George Bank presents Kaleidoscope:
Battleship Potemkin**

**Fri 31 July, 8pm
Sat 1 Aug, 8pm**

A screening of Sergei Eisenstein's 1925 cinematic masterpiece with music by **Shostakovich**
Arranged and conducted by **Frank Strobel**

Pre-concert talk by Robert Murray – 7.30pm, Sydney Opera House Northern Foyer

Tickets from \$35*

**Booking fees may apply*