

## He's Back!

### The incomparable Maestro Yannick conducts vivid masterpieces in two astounding programs

Yannick Nézet Séguin conducts Bruckner and Haydn  
12, 14, 15, 17 August

The Grand Organ Symphony  
20, 21, 22 August

He's young, good-looking, exuberant, possesses musical talent in abundance...and he's coming back. Thirty-four-year-old French-Canadian conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin returns to Sydney in August, following stellar reviews from his previous two visits, to conduct two programs featuring Haydn, Bruckner, Shostakovich and Saint-Saëns.

Nézet-Séguin first thrilled Sydney audiences in 2005 when he stepped in for Lorin Maazel at very short notice to conduct – from memory – Bruckner's monumental Eighth Symphony, with critics calling his performances “focused and energised” and referring to him as “a terrific young conductor”.

Born in Montreal in 1975, Nézet-Séguin decided to become a conductor at the age of ten and recalls attempting to “conduct” his parents' vinyl recording of Karajan's version of Mozart's Symphony No.40. “I thought, 'Oh yes, that's cool. I'll become a conductor',” he says.

As a teenager he became even more fascinated with how one person could influence the music. “I called the Conservatoire de Montréal and told them that I wanted to be a conductor.” He says. “It was pretty funny, because I had no idea what it took!”

Last year he received rave reviews all over the world for his outstanding Salzburg Festival debut. He also recently succeeded Valery Gergiev as Music Director of the prestigious Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, where he is already causing a sensation.

Despite his international reputation, Nézet-Séguin remains refreshingly down-to-earth and says that his interest is in building relationships with orchestras. “I am not a one-night stand person!” he says. “I am not someone who really wants to conduct as many orchestras as possible.” He has been keen to return to conduct the Sydney Symphony because of their willingness to take risks, maintaining that “I always get on the podium respectful of the musicians' talent and knowledge”.

In four concerts from 12 August, Nézet-Séguin will conduct the Sydney Symphony in **Haydn's Symphony No.100 (Military)** and **Bruckner's Symphony No.3**. Haydn's symphony derives its nickname from its trumpet fanfares and percussion effects. “Yannick's energy makes Haydn thrilling”, says Sydney Symphony violinist Jennifer Hoy. “I really enjoy the fresh approach he takes.”



Nézet-Séguin says that Haydn was one of the most important composers in the classical repertoire “because without the development of orchestral writing that he was able to achieve...Beethoven wouldn’t have been possible. I think there is still a relative misunderstanding of the genius of Haydn.”

Its lively energy presents a contrast to Bruckner’s intense and passionate third symphony, which the composer dedicated to Wagner.

It is unusual for someone so young to bring such maturity to large-scale Romantic works, but Nézet-Séguin takes it all in his stride. “I first conducted Bruckner at age 26”, he says, “I felt strangely at home, so I started to develop my interest. In Bruckner you have to share music at the highest level of communion.”

“In the third symphony, it’s where he starts to trust and feel confident...I would even call it revolutionary... I think it’s a fascinating symphony to help us understand more the world of Bruckner,” he added.

Following these unmissable concerts, Nézet-Séguin will also conduct a second program, **The Grand Organ Symphony**, featuring **Shostakovich’s First Cello Concerto** and **Saint-Saëns Symphony No.3 (Organ Symphony)** from 20 – 22 August. He describes the Organ Symphony as “a masterpiece of balance...I think it’s a symphony which is very uplifting for any audience member...it’s Brahms with a twist.”

Joining him as soloist in **Shostakovich’s Cello Concerto No.1** is world-acclaimed cellist **Han-Na Chang**. According to Nézet-Séguin, this concerto “is very condensed...it makes the cello shine...One of the greatest things I admire about Shostakovich is that he had his own sound world, his own rhythmical world, his own harmonic world...we can sum up much of his music just by listening to that concerto.”

Yannick’s vigour and passion for music of all styles and his lively and compelling style have rendered him in great demand throughout the world. It’s Sydney’s chance not to miss him!

#### **CONCERT DETAILS**

<b>HE’S BACK! (The Incomparable Maestro Yannick)</b>	<b>THE GRAND ORGAN SYMPHONY</b>
<b>12, 14, 15, 17 August</b> <b>Sydney Opera House, concert hall</b>	<b>20, 21, 22 August</b> <b>Sydney Opera House, concert hall</b>
<b>HAYDN</b> Symphony No.100 (Military) <b>BRUCKNER</b> Symphony No.3	<b>SHOSTAKOVICH</b> Cello Concerto No.1 <b>SAINT-SAËNS</b> Symphony No.3 (Organ)
<b>Yannick Nézet-Séguin</b> conductor	<b>Yannick Nézet-Séguin</b> conductor <b>Han-Na Chang</b> cello

Tickets from \$35 (booking fee may apply).

Bookings through Sydney Symphony on 8215 4600 or [www.sydneyorchestra.com](http://www.sydneyorchestra.com)

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