



MEDIA RELEASE

XX APRIL 2009

What a Wonderful World

Sydney Symphony, James Morrison and Emma Pask pay tribute to Louis Armstrong

Fri 29 May, 8pm

Sat 30 May, 8pm

Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Swing down to the Sydney Opera House in May for *A Tribute to Louis Armstrong*, the second in the Sydney Symphony's four-concert Kaleidoscope series, proudly presented by St. George Bank.

The concerts, featuring Australian trumpeter James Morrison and special guest vocalist Emma Pask, will take audiences back to the golden age of jazz and big band with performances of some of Louis Armstrong's most-loved songs: *When the Saints go Marching In*, *On the Sunny Side of the Street*, *Mack the Knife*, *What a Wonderful World*, plus many more.

Nicknamed 'Kid Louis', 'Dippermouth' and, of course, 'Satchmo', Armstrong was born in New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz. His trumpet sound and phrasing, his raspy voice and his personality earned the respect of musicians and music lovers all over the world. Born at the turn of the century, Armstrong was still recording hits in the late 50s and early 60s (*Mack The Knife* and *Hello Dolly*), and even in the 70s with his version of *What A Wonderful World*, revised as the theme song for the movie *Good Morning Vietnam*.

There's no one better to pay tribute to one of the world's great jazz musicians than another jazz great, James Morrison. Having been called 'The Genius' by Ray Brown and his playing described as 'perfect' and 'sensational', Morrison is set to dazzle Sydney audiences with his virtuosic trumpet playing.

According to Morrison, no one before Armstrong had ever played the trumpet the way he did.

"I heard Louis Armstrong when I was eight years old and I wanted to play the trumpet! He was such an inspiration; the joy that he spread with his music will live forever

"He was one of the first great soloists of jazz music. The solos he played were as interesting and innovative as any music written at the time. This type of playing laid the foundation for all jazz to come," says Morrison.

Joining Morrison and the Sydney Symphony on stage for these performances is 31-year-old Australian jazz vocalist, Emma Pask. Brought up with the sounds of Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra, Pask was discovered by Morrison at the age of 16 and has been singing with him ever since. She has performed for some of the world's most prominent people, including Princess Mary of Denmark, and was invited to perform at Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban's wedding in 2006. That same year, Pask was awarded the Mo Award for 'Jazz Vocalist of the Year'. She is currently in the process of recording her third solo album and her concerts with the Sydney Symphony represent her 15th year of working with Morrison.



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A Tribute to Louis Armstrong is part of the Sydney Symphony's innovative Kaleidoscope series which is made possible through the support of presenting partner St. George Bank. St. George Bank has been a partner of the Sydney Symphony since 2002, and this year increased their support to major partner level to add value and grow the Kaleidoscope program. The Bank also is an active supporter of the Orchestra's regional tour each year, helping to raise valuable funds for drought relief.

Shaped in collaboration with James Morrison as Artistic Advisor, Kaleidoscope offers audiences a fresh perspective on symphonic music with its diverse range of programs and featured artists, making the series ideal for music lovers who relish eclectic and innovative performances.

Join Morrison, Pask and the biggest band of all, the Sydney Symphony, for a night full of lush sounds, unforgettable melodies and great fun as we pay tribute to Louis Armstrong.

For more information on Emma Pask, visit: www.myspace.com/emmapask

For more information on James Morrison, visit: www.jamesmorrison.com.au

Learn more about the life and music of Louis Armstrong with the Sydney Symphony's pre-concert talk held 45 minutes before each performance in the Sydney Opera House northern foyer.

CONCERT DETAILS

A TRIBUTE TO LOUIS ARMSTRONG

Fri 29 May, 8pm

Sat 30 May, 8pm

Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Marc Taddei conductor

James Morrison jazz trumpet

Emma Pask vocalist

Tickets from \$35 (booking fee may apply). To book tickets call the Sydney Symphony box office on: 8215 4600 or visit www.sydneysymphony.com

For further information or interviews please contact:

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