

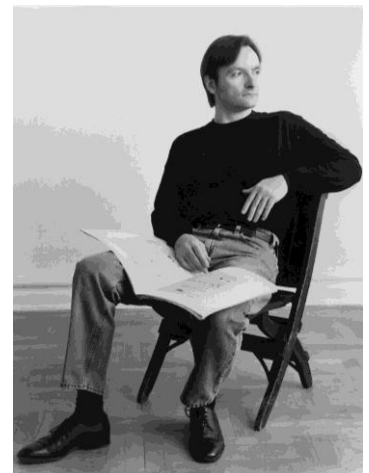
Pianist Stephen Hough presents the 2009 Sydney Symphony Stuart Challender Lecture

'POWER & PANACHE' – Stephen Hough with the Sydney Symphony: 17, 19, 20 & 22 June
STUART CHALLENGER LECTURE: 18 June

"A virtuoso who begins where others leave off"
- The Washington Post

When Stephen Hough was converting to Catholicism at the age of 19, the Benedictine monk preparing him for his reception told him he'd played piano long enough and it was time to become a priest. Fortunately, Hough pursued his love of music, finding a way to include both spirituality and music in his life.

Just what a fortunate choice that was will be clear to Sydney audiences this month when Hough performs four concerts with the Sydney Symphony, and presents the Orchestra's annual Stuart Challender Lecture at Customs House, Sydney.



It will be an invaluable opportunity for them to hear Hough both speak and perform, providing insight into the mind of the man whose musical skill was described by The Guardian (UK) as "the most perfect piano playing conceivable." A dual citizen of Britain and Australia, Hough says he adores Australia's "distinguished and colourful artistic life", and he included a special tribute to Australia in a recent recital CD: his own waltz-time version of Waltzing Matilda!

In presenting the Stuart Challender Lecture, Hough will discuss matters of spirituality and music with friend and music historian, David Garrett, who describes Hough as being "an unusually articulate, penetrating and thoughtful communicator in words as well as music." He will also touch on the aesthetics of making recordings – Hough has produced over 40 recordings himself - and carving out a career in music.

According to Hough, regardless of how much understanding the audience for the Stuart Challender Lecture has about what classical musicians do, they will leave with a broader and more stimulated perspective.

The annual Stuart Challender Lecture, presented by the Stuart Challender Fund, has become an important event in Sydney's classical music calendar. In 2009, Hough joins an illustrious line-up of past presenters that includes Simone Young, Norman Lebrecht and David Robertson.

The Stuart Challender Fund was established in the will of the Sydney Symphony's Chief Conductor 1987-91, the late Stuart Challender. It exists to provide training opportunities for Australian conductors and to assist in bringing leading international conductors and people of note in the classical music industry to Australia.

As part of his Sydney visit, Hough will perform in four concerts with the Sydney Symphony under American guest conductor, Hugh Wolff. He will feature as soloist in Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.2, performing the piece in its complete original form.

Hough's writings can be followed at the blog he writes for The Telegraph in London entitled 'Cadenza' (http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/stephen_hough).

Tickets to 'Power & Panache – Stephen Hough with the Sydney Symphony' begin at only \$35 can be booked by phoning the Sydney Symphony Box Office on 02 8215 4600 or www.sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com.

The Stuart Challender Lecture is currently booked out. To be waitlisted contact the Sydney Symphony Box Office on 02 8215 4600 or email info@sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com.

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For further information, images or interviews, contact:

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Note to Editors: Concert & Events Details

Power & Panache

Energy Australia Master Series

Wed 17 June, 8pm

Fri 19 June, 8pm

Sat 20 June, 8pm

The Veuve Clicquot Series

Mon 22 June, 7pm

Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Hugh Wolff conductor

Stephen Hough piano

TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No.2 (orig. version)

WALTON Symphony No.1

Tickets from \$35*

Pre-concert talks: Peter Czornyj

**booking fees may apply*

Stuart Challender Lecture 2009

Stephen Hough in Conversation

Thursday 18 June

6.30 – 7.30pm

The Barnet Long Room

Customs House, Sydney

This event is currently at capacity. To be waitlisted contact 02 8215 4600 or email info@sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com