

MEDIA RELEASE

Bach's legacy comes to Sydney

Wed 11 March, 6.30pm | Thu 12 March, 6.30pm | Fri 11 March, 11am

Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

The prestigious 797-year old St Thomas Boys Choir of Leipzig, Germany, once led by Johann Sebastian Bach himself, will visit Australia for the first time in March 2009 to perform with the Sydney Symphony.



Founded in Leipzig in 1212, the choir is the oldest cultural entity in the city and one of the oldest and most revered choirs in all of Europe. The choir's first Australian tour, supported by the Goethe Institute in Australia, will see current director, or Thomaskantor, Georg Christoph Biller and 55 boys of the choir perform three concerts with the Sydney Symphony in the Sydney Opera House.

The choir's three weekly performances in Leipzig's St Thomas Church continue to attract crowds of more than 1200 people, a mixture of locals and tourists. The choir also performs in the church's Sunday morning service – a tradition extending back to Bach's tenure as Thomaskantor. In order to bring this remarkable musical institution to audiences beyond Leipzig, the choir also undertakes at least two big tours within Germany and abroad each year.

Thomaskantor Biller says: "I am delighted to bring my boys to this continent for the first time and to present music in the Sydney Opera House in collaboration with the great Sydney Symphony."

Today, the choir maintains a proud tradition of performing Bach's music. Bach served as Thomaskantor from 1723 until his death in 1750 and it was the St Thomas Boys Choir that had the honour of performing the premieres of his choral works during that time.

For their Sydney performances, the choir will perform two Bach motets and Psalm settings by 19th-century Bach revivalist, Mendelssohn.

Tickets to the St Thomas Boys Choir's performances with the Sydney Symphony can be purchased by phoning the Sydney Symphony Box Office on 02 8215 4600 or by visiting www.sydney-symphony.com.

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For further information, images or interviews, contact:

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Note to Editors: Concert Details

BACH VOICES

Wednesday 11 March, 6.30pm

Thursday 12 March, 6.30pm

Friday 13 March, 11am**

Sydney Opera House

BACH Motets, including Singet dem Herrn, BWV225
TELEMANN arr. **BACH** Psalm 100 Jauchzet dem Herrn alle Welt
MENDELSSOHN Psalms, including Psalm 42: Wie der Hirsch schreit

Georg Christoph Biller conductor
St Thomas Boys' Choir, Leipzig

Tickets from \$35*

Pre-concert talk: 6pm, 11 & 12 March, Sydney Opera House Northern Foyer. Presented by Raff Wilson.

**Booking fees may apply*

***this will be a shorter concert than the evening performances*