



MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 27 MAY, 2010

Sydney gets behind its orchestra with a special tour fundraising performance

Wednesday 18 August, 8pm

Sydney Opera House concert hall

TOURING PARTNERS, EUROPEAN TOUR



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The Sydney Symphony, in conjunction with the Sydney Opera House and NSW Government, has today announced details of its Europe Tour farewell performance with all ticket revenue from the concert going towards the orchestra's historic two-week tour of Europe in August and September this year.

According to Sydney Symphony Managing Director Rory Jeffes, the concert represents Sydney's chance to wish bon voyage to its orchestra while contributing to help put the Sydney Symphony on the world-stage.

"International touring in the current economic climate is extremely challenging. This concert will raise funds to help make the tour possible, ensuring the Sydney Symphony can take its rightful place alongside the world's finest orchestras.

"I thank the musicians of the Sydney Symphony, our Principal Conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy, piano soloist John Chen and the Sydney Opera House who have all joined in the spirit of this fundraising event by waiving any costs or fees associated with the concert," said Jeffes.

According to Sydney Symphony Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor Vladimir Ashkenazy, the 2010 Europe Tour is the most significant and prestigious tour the Orchestra has ever undertaken.

"I am happy to be able to present to the world a very important aspect of Australia – its world-class orchestra, the Sydney Symphony. I thank the people of Sydney for their support and I would encourage others to consider joining Telstra, Xstrata Coal and Emirates as supporters of the tour," said Ashkenazy.

Sydney Opera House CEO, Richard Evans said: "Sydney Opera House has a deep commitment to world-class orchestras performing internationally. Not only does Sydney Opera House invite overseas orchestras to Sydney, but it is also committed to ensuring the Sydney Symphony can showcase itself on the world stage. We are delighted to be supporting the Orchestra's 2010 Europe Tour which will demonstrate to international audiences the calibre of orchestral performance that goes on weekly by the Sydney Symphony at its home, Sydney Opera House."





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Audiences attending the farewell performance will get a preview of some of the music European audiences will hear on tour – Tchaikovsky's *Manfred Symphony*, a work by Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe, *Memento Mori*, plus Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.5 with soloist John Chen in his first return to the Sydney Symphony since winning the 2004 Sydney International Piano Competition.

The Sydney Symphony's 2010 Europe Tour commences on 22 August and sees the Orchestra performing nine concerts over two weeks at festivals including the BBC Proms in London, Edinburgh International Festival, Lucerne Festival and Grafenegg Music Festival in Austria as well as the prestigious Concertgebouw Hall in Amsterdam.

The 2010 Europe Tour is made possible thanks to the support of: **Telstra, Xstrata Coal, Emirates, the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, the NSW Government through Arts NSW and the NSW Department of Industry and Investment, Sydney Opera House plus Tourism NSW and Visit Sydney.**

The Sydney Symphony last toured Europe in 1995. Other recent international tours have included China and Malaysia (2009), Italy (2008), Japan (2006), Malaysia (2000), USA (1998) and Japan and Taiwan (1996).

CONCERT DETAILS: EUROPE TOUR FAREWELL PERFORMANCE

Wed 18 August, 8pm
Sydney Opera House concert hall

Vladimir Ashkenazy conductor
John Chen piano

SCULTHORPE Memento mori
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No.5 (Emperor)
TCHAIKOVSKY Manfred Symphony

Tickets from \$49* (booking fee of \$6 - \$8.50 may apply).

Bookings through Sydney Symphony 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday on 8215 4600 or select your own seat at: www.sydneyorchestra.com

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