

## ***Sydney Symphony makes debut in prestigious Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS International Series***

*Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 April at 8.30pm in the Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS*

**SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** continues its highly successful touring program with two performances in the highly prestigious Dewan Filharmonik **PETRONAS** International Series at the invitation of Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS on Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 April.

**MARY VALLENTINE**, Managing Director of the Sydney Symphony says “*The invitation to take part in the Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS International Series is true recognition of the international standing of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. It’s a great privilege to be invited to play alongside other great orchestras of the world such as London’s Philharmonia and The Academy of St Martin’s in the Fields. It’s also a marvellous opportunity for us to raise the profile of Australian arts overseas generally.*”

**MARK ELDER**, a regular guest conductor with the Sydney Symphony directs the Orchestra in two programs including Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No 2* with British pianist **PETER DONOHOE**, *à la Duduki* ... a new work by Kancheli, Sibelius' stirring *Symphony No 5* and Rachmaninov's dazzling *Symphonic Dances*.

Mark Elder has achieved great acclaim with the Orchestra. “*Those who heard the Sydney Symphony exhalt, keen, blaze and meditate under Mark Elder’s inspired direction ... surely left the Opera House with moist eyes and thumping hearts. Their souls had been transfixed by the experience*” [The Sun-Herald, September 1998].

Mark Elder has an enviable reputation as one of the outstanding conductors of his generation in both the symphonic and operatic fields. He enjoys a busy life as a guest conductor with orchestras and opera companies throughout the world. He was Music Director of English National Opera for fourteen years until 1993 and has recently been appointed Music Director of the Hallé Orchestra.

The showcase concert hall in the new landmark PETRONAS Twin Towers, the world's tallest building, is a superb setting for the Orchestra to make its Malaysian debut. Home to the Malaysian Philharmonic, the world's newest professional orchestra, this prestigious location is a testament to the way in which the musical and cultural life in Malaysia is developing.

**ENDS**