# sydney symphony orchestra

**David Robertson** Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

# **2014** Annual report







Image: Francesco Celata, Associate Principal Clarinet

# **SSO 2014** *musicians*

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Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Sponsored by Emirates

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Marina Marsden Principal Kirsty Hilton Principal Corrs Chambers Westgarth Chair Marianne Broadfoot Associate Principal Emma West Assistant Princinal Maria Durek Emma Hayes . Shuti Huang Stan W Kornel Benjamin Li Nicole Masters Philippa Paige Biyana Rozenblit Maja Verunica

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Roger Benedict Principal Kim Williams AM & Catherine Dovey Chair Tobias Breider Principal Anne Louise Comerford Associate Principa Justin Williams Assistant Principal Sandro Costantino **Rosemary Curtin** Jane Hazelwood Bob and Julie Clampett Chair in memory of Carolyn Clampett Graham Hennings Stuart Johnson Justine Marsden Felicity Tsai Amanda Verner Leonid Volovelsky

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Garry and Shiva Rich Chair Garry and Shiva Rich Chair Catherine Hewgill Principal The Hon. Justice AJ & Mrs Fran Meagher Chair Henry-David Varema Associate Principal Leah Lynn Assistant Principal Kristy Conrau Fenella Gill Timothy Nankervis Elizabeth Neville Ruth & Bob Magid Chair Christopher Pidcock Adrian Wallis David Wickham

#### **DOUBLE BASES**

Kees Boersma Principal Alex Henery Principal Neil Brawley Principal Emeritus David Campbell Steven Larson Richard Lynn David Murray Benjamin Ward

#### HARP

Louise Johnson Principal

#### **FLUTES**

Janet Webb Principal Flute Helen Lynch AM & Helen Bauer Chair Emma Sholl Associate Principal Flute Robert & Janet Constable Chair Carolyn Harris

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#### PICCOLO

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Diana Doherty Principal Andrew Kaldor AM & Renata Kaldor AD Chair Shefali Pryor Associate Principal Mrs Barbara Murphy Chair David Papp

#### **COR ANGLAIS**

Alexandre Oguey Principal

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BASS CLARINET Craig Wernicke Principal

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#### HORNS

Robert Johnson Principal James & Leonie Furber Chair Ben Jacks Principal Geoff O'Reilly Principal 3rd Euan Harvey Marnie Sebire Rachel Silver

#### **TRUMPETS**

David Elton Principal Paul Goodchild Associate Principal Anthony Heinrichs

#### **TROMBONES**

Ronald Prussing Principal Scott Kinmont Associate Principal Nick Byrne

#### **BASS TROMBONE**

Christopher Harris Principal

TUBA Steve Rossé Principal

#### TIMPANI

Richard Miller Principal Mark Robinson Assistant Principal Timpani/Tutti Percussion

#### PERCUSSION

Rebecca Lagos Principal Tim Constable Justice Jane Mathews AO Chair

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# The year in review

IN 2014 THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMED OVER 200 CONCERTS AND UNIQUE PROGRAMS TO MORE THAN 300,000 PEOPLE.

#### Sydney Symphony Orchestra Subscription, Classical Special and Commercial Performances

- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra presented 121 concerts in the Sydney Opera House and City Recital Hall Angel Place to a total paid attendance of 231,595 patrons. This includes commercial activities (22 performances).
- A further 10 performances were dedicated to Chamber Music
  (2), Regional Touring (7) and the Sydney Symphony Fellowship program (1), with a paid attendance of 2,257 patrons.

#### **The Education Program**

- 26,101 teachers and students attended 47 schools concerts in Sydney venues, and 2,074 attended schools concerts in Dubbo, Cobar and Broken Hill.
- Eleven Education programs were delivered in regional areas in conjunction with the Sydney Symphony's other touring activities in Canberra, Dubbo, Cobar and Broken Hill.
- 4,791 patrons attended 19 performances by the Credit Suisse Fellows in 2014 at venues including St James' Church King St, Verbrugghen Hall, Blacktown Arts Centre, The Moorambilla Festival in Central NSW, The Manning Entertainment Centre in Taree, Goulburn Regional Conservatorium and the South Coast Correctional Centre.
- Five open rehearsals and seven master classes were held at the Sydney Opera House for 183 tertiary students and their lecturers. Outreach events held in three Chinese conservatories during the SSO's International Tour were attended by 238 people.
- Sixteen professional learning workshops were held in Sydney and other capital cities and two regionally in Dubbo and Broken Hill, attracting 710 teachers and students.
- Seven Playerlink activities were held in Bathurst, regional NSW, in 2014, connecting with 155 local musicians of all ages and their teachers.
- Overall, more than 34,974 people connected with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra through its Education and Developing Artist programs.

#### **Commercial Collaborations**

- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra plans its seasons well in advance. Acknowledging that opportunities to perform in collaboration with popular commercial artists require a shorter planning window, the Company allocates a percentage of available orchestral playing time to these projects.
- This work is undertaken either with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra taking the role of presenter or as a 'band for hire'.
- In 2014 the Sydney Symphony performed 9 events in 22 concerts in this category which attracted 42,508 attendees.



Image: Fenella Gill, Cello

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SERIES	NO. OF PERFORMANCES	NO OF PROGRAMS	PAID OCCUPANCY
MASTER SERIES	27	9	49,001
THURSDAY AFTERNOON SYMPHONY	9	9	19,918
EMIRATES METRO SERIES	8	8	17,364
MEET THE MUSIC	8	6	16,496
KALEIDOSCOPE	8	4	16,857
GREAT CLASSICS	7	7	16,010
TEA & SYMPHONY	8	8	16,436
MONDAYS @ 7	5	5	9,288
DISCOVERY PROGRAM	4	4	4,004
INTERNATIONAL PIANISTS IN RECITAL	4	4	4,451
MOZART IN THE CITY	4	4	4,301
SPECIAL EVENTS	7	4	14,961
CHAMBER AND REGIONAL TOURS	10	6	2,257
COMMERCIAL CONCERTS	22	9	42,508
TOTAL	131	87	233,852



59 SYDNEY SYMPHONY PERFORMANCES WERE BROADCAST ON ABC CLASSIC FM

#### **Touring and Outreach**

- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra performed at two free outdoor concerts in 2014:
  - Symphony in the Domain on January 26 25,900 Parramatta Park on March 23 – 5,000
- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra also gave concerts in Wollongong, Newcastle, Pokolbin and Orange.
- As part of its annual regional touring activities the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Sinfonia ensembles performed in Dubbo, Cobar and Broken Hill to a total audience of 790.
- 59 Sydney Symphony performances were broadcast on ABC Classic FM in 2014, and nine concerts were sent to the European Broadcasting Union.
- Three concerts with American pianist Emanuel Ax were livestreamed on the Sydney Opera House YouTube channel on 13, 18 and 21 June. The video-on-demand of these streams accumulated 28,656 views.

- SSO Live released one disc in 2014 Igor Stravinsky: The Firebird with the SSO's Chief Conductor and Artistic Director David Robertson.
- In 2014, the SSO continued its award-winning Music4health Program which sees SSO musicians perform in retirement homes and hospitals throughout Sydney and NSW. Ensembles from the SSO performed in four Music4Health events at Montefiore Home Hunters Hill, the Autism Advisory and Support Service at Mount Pritchard, Westmead Children's Hospital and Randwick Children's Hospital.
- Sydney Symphony musicians also continued to contribute to the wider community in their capacity as teachers and members of community music groups. One of the SSO musicians visited the Intensive Care Unit at Westmead Children's Hospital regularly to play soothing tunes to sick children.
- In 2014 the Sydney Symphony's mobile app attracted a total of 52,624 views and was downloaded 3,206 times.





IN 2014 THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY'S MOBILE APP ATTRACTED A TOTAL OF 52,624 VIEWS AND WAS DOWNLOADED 3,206 TIMES.

OVERALL, MORE THAN 34,974 PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA THROUGH ITS EDUCATION AND DEVELOPING ARTIST PROGRAMS.



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Images: Opposite Page: Emily Long, First Violin. This page Top Left: Musicians on the 2014 China Tour - Chris Harris, Principal Bass Trombone, Aurora Henrich, 2014 Double Bass Fellow and Paul Goodchild, Associate Principal Trumpet. Top Right: City Recital Hall Angel Place. Bottom Left: SSO perform at Paramatta Park. Bottom right: Audience applaud the SSO.

# Chairman's review



John C Conde, AO Chairman

The 2014 season was filled with outstanding performances from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra led superbly by David Robertson in his opening season as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director. We delivered orchestral performances of the highest standard and repertoire which by both its familiarity and its diversity proved immensely popular with our audiences. The inspiring growth of the Orchestra, so evident during Vladimir Ashkenazy's time as Principal Conductor, continues, and all credit to David Robertson and our wonderfully capable musicians for this.

It is this consistently high standard of performance which makes the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Australia's flagship orchestra.

We have an extremely strong ensemble of highly talented musicians, taken to new musical heights during the past year by David Robertson. Our repertoire, which included some of the finest classical symphonic works, extended to new works by Australian and international composers. One of David's priorities is developing still further the playing standards of the ensemble and, as a consequence, we expect to bring our audiences even stronger performances across a wider repertoire in the coming year.

"I am immensely proud of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and everyone who is part of it..." The Orchestra competes with offerings from a wide range of performing artists and companies. The Orchestra is in a unique position to provide the definitive cultural arts experience that our supporters and our audiences demand. Our size, talent base and skills in musicianship, artistic production, marketing and administration give us significant competitive advantages – demonstrated in the following selection of performance highlights from the past year:

- Touring to China in June 2014 with David Robertson, we completed a most successful seven-city tour, and we continued to further Australia's diplomatic, business and cultural ties with China. We won the inaugural Australia-China Achievement Award for the Arts presented by Prime Minister Tony Abbott at a function where members of the Orchestra played in honour of His Excellency, Mr Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.
- Anne-Sophie Mutter, performing three of Mozart's five violin concertos, and Emanuel Ax, performing the complete cycle of Beethoven's piano concertos, showcased our unparalleled ability to attract great artists and perform great art.
- Our acclaimed educational activities and regional touring in 2014 to NSW regional areas of Dubbo, Cobar and Broken Hill, together with our webcasting and recording activities, enriched the daily lives of many music lovers, some of whom were experiencing live symphonic music for the first time.
- Jandamarra Sing for the Country by Paul Stanhope, with a libretto by Steve Hawke,was performed with the Bunuba People's Yilimbirri Ensemble plus 500 singers from five youth choirs including Gondwana Voices and the Gondwana Chorale. This world premiere, commissioned by the Orchestra, was a groundbreaking display of an inspiring partnership with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and their cherished art and culture.

Despite difficult economic conditions, the company recorded a small operating surplus for the twelve months to December 31, 2014. The challenge is to continue to generate income and manage expenses so that we meet our ambitious artistic, touring and performance plans for the future – delivering exciting and diverse performances under Chief Conductor David Robertson.

The Orchestra appreciates greatly the assistance from the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts and the New South Wales Government through Arts NSW. On behalf of the Board and the entire company, I thank them for their ongoing and invaluable support.

I acknowledge also our generous sponsors, patrons and donors and thank them all for their wonderful support during the year.

I thank my fellow directors for their work during the year. I am most grateful for their wisdom, judgment, vision and insight. I also acknowledge and thank the Managing Director, Rory Jeffes, his executive team and the administration staff for their commitment and numerous achievements.

At the Orchestra's AGM in May, I shall not be seeking reelection as chairman. It has been a great honour to have been on the Board of this wonderful Orchestra since 2001 and I thank everyone – the former chairmen (Helen Lynch and David Maloney) under whom I served, former and current directors with whom I have worked, management, musicians and staff. It has been a very special privilege to be chairman for the past eight years. Rory and I enjoyed a most constructive working relationship, for which I thank him – his dedication and loyalty are hallmarks of his leadership.

It was especially inspirational to have been chairman during Vladimir Ashkenazy's five years as Principal Conductor and, of course, starting in 2014, with David Robertson as Chief Conductor, and I thank them both for the many courtesies they have afforded me.

I am immensely proud of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and everyone who is part of it, and I look forward to continuing to support the SSO's activities in whatever ways I can. I wish you all unbridled success as you continue to delight our audiences with your world-class performances in the coming years.

John C Conde, AO

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Chairman Sydney Symphony Orchestra

"IT IS THIS CONSISTENTLY HIGH STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE WHICH MAKES THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AUSTRALIA'S FLAGSHIP ORCHESTRA."





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Images: Top: Jandamarra - Sing for the Country Emanuel James Brown (EJB) in the role of Jandamarra. Bottom: Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter.

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# Managing Director's report



Rory Jeffes Managing Director

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra enjoyed an exciting year in 2014, a year built on artistic ambition, as it celebrated the inaugural season of its partnership with Chief Conductor and Artistic Director David Robertson. Building on a legacy of inspired leadership under beloved outgoing Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor Vladimir Ashkenazy, Maestro Robertson made his own indelible mark over the course of the year with insightful performances of diverse and ambitious programming that reached across the full spectrum of Greater Sydney's concert-going public and into the international realm, through newly-initiated web-streaming initiatives and international touring.

David Robertson and the SSO began their first season together with three weeks of performances that touched on widely diverse expressions of Robertson's musical passions, showcasing the qualities and flexibility of the orchestra's musicians. This was music that filled the concert hall with lovers of the great symphonic repertoire in all its rich diversity. From a program linking Stravinsky, Beethoven and John Adams, in collaboration with the Australian String Quartet, Maestro Robertson then led two thrilling performances of Richard Strauss's *Elektra*, in collaboration with Sydney Dance Company, and with the phenomenal Christine Goerke in the title role, as well as three of the great dramatic Australian singers of their generation in leading roles: Lisa Gasteen, Peter Coleman-Wright and Cheryl Barker. These performances received widespread critical and public acclaim. Maestro Robertson then concluded his first period with the SSO with three sold-out performances of the great film music of John Williams, showcasing the virtuosity of our own newly appointed co-concertmaster Andrew Haveron in deeply moving performances of the famous violin solos from *Schindler's List*.



"...most memorably in unforgettable performances of the complete cycle of Beethoven Piano Concertos with the American pianist Emanuel Ax..."

David Robertson brought many of his closest musical collaborators to Sydney for performances with the SSO in 2014, most memorably in unforgettable performances of the complete cycle of Beethoven Piano Concertos with the American pianist Emanuel Ax. In a new collaborative initiative, the SSO took advantage of its close partnership with the Sydney Opera House to stream these performances around the world, further establishing the reputation of the SSO, both as an international orchestra of the highest artistic standing and through its commitment to embracing emerging technologies to broaden its reach and connections around the world. Collaborations with American soprano Christine Brewer, British pianist Nicolas Hodges and Siberian violinist Vadim Repin, all of whom appeared in performances with Maestro Robertson over the course of the season, provided numerous artistic highlights for audiences.



Images: Opposite page: Pianist Emanual Ax. Below: David Robertson conducts at the Sydney Opera House.

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David Robertson undertook his first major international tour with the orchestra in 2014, performing eight concerts in seven cities over the course of two weeks in China,

including two performances at the iconic National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, a regular partner and friend to the SSO. Though this was Maestro Robertson's first trip to mainland China, he quickly took to the culture, endearing himself to audiences in the thousands through onstage announcements of the orchestra's encores in newlyacquired Mandarin! In the course of the tour the SSO featured world-premiere performances of a newly commissioned fanfare from Australian composer Andrew Schultz, exciting performances of Beethoven's 'Emperor' Concerto with the virtuosic young Chinese pianist Haochen Zhang, and thrilling performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 and Richard Strauss's epic tone poem Ein Heldenleben, with coconcertmaster Andrew Haveron as protagonist in that work's famous solo passages. The tour received wide public and press acclaim, further cementing the SSO's role as the premier Australian cultural ambassador to China and establishing David Robertson as a new audience favourite there.

Among the many great soloists to grace the stage of the Concert Hall with the SSO in 2014, Anne Sophie Mutter stands out as a clear highlight, leading impeccably presented performances of three Mozart violin concertos to open our 2014 season with elegance and style. The SSO also enjoyed outstanding performances from a wide range of other great international soloists, including violinists James Ehnes and Karen Gomyo; cellists Lynn Harrell and Truls Mørk; pianists Yefim Bronfman, Alexander Gavrylyuk and Lukáš Vondráček; and our own SSO soloists, Principal Oboe Diana Doherty; Principal Harp Louise Johnson and Co-Concertmaster Dene Olding.

2014 also saw a wide range of distinguished guest conductors, including Australians Jessica Cottis, Brett Dean, Richard Gill, Benjamin Northey, Brett Weymark and Simone Young, and renowned international guests Oleg Caetani, Hans Graf, Alexander Lazarev, Paul McCreesh, Jonathan Nott and Osmo Vänskä, among others. Notable emerging conductors included Jakub Hrůša, Tito Muñoz, and Thomas Søndergård, and the season closed with the welcome return of Berlin-based Scottish conductor Donald Runnicles, who led two weeks of concerts that thrilled orchestra members and audiences alike to bring the season to joyful and stunning conclusion.





"The performances represented a true artistic collaboration across organisations and peoples..."

The SSO made significant contributions in the presentation of new symphonic repertoire in 2014, with two clear highlights featuring the work of Australian composer, violist and conductor Brett Dean. In June 2014, David Robertson conducted world-premiere performances of Dean's colourful new work Wings of Angels, for large symphony orchestra; and later in the season Dean led performances of his own Dramatis Personae, a trumpet concerto featuring the charismatic Håkan Hardenberger as soloist. Another highlight of the season was the widely acclaimed worldpremiere performances of Jandamarra - Sing for the Country, commissioned from composer Paul Stanhope and librettist Steve Hawke in collaboration with the Bunuba people, owners of the Jandamarra story. The performances represented a true artistic collaboration across organisations and peoples, with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra joining with Gondwana National Indigenous Children's Chorus, Gondwana Chorale, Sydney Children's Choir and Singers and Dancers of the Yilimbirri Ensemble in deeply moving performances of the epic Jandamarra saga, under the direction of Brett Weymark. Finally, the SSO mourned the loss in 2014 of Peter Sculthorpe, performing his *Memento Mori* under David Robertson's baton just days after this great Australian composer's death.

#### 2014 SAW THE RELEASE OF DAVID ROBERTSON'S INAUGURAL CD RECORDING WITH THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON SSO LIVE.

**STRAVINSKY** *The Firebird*; Sydney Symphony Orchestra, David Robertson, *conductor* 

Further recording activity in 2014 included Gustav Holst's The Planets, to be released in conjunction with SSO performances of that work in celebration of Earth Hour, 2015; and Vivaldi's The Four Seasons, with James Ehnes, violinist/director, to be released on Onyx Classics in 2015.

#### World & Australian Premieres

In the course of the 2014 season the Sydney Symphony Orchestra presented first performances of the following works:

#### ADAMS

*Absolute Jest,* for string quartet and orchestra

• AHO Siedi Percussion Concerto

BRACEGIRDLE
 Legends of the Old Castle –
 Harp Concertino

DEAN
 Dramatis Personae –
 Trumpet Concerto

#### DEAN

*Wings of Angels*, for large symphony orchestra

#### GLANERT

*Frenesia*, for large symphony orchestra

SCHULTZ

Sound Lur and Serpent, fanfare for brass and percussion

#### STANHOPE/HAWKE

Jandamarra – Sing for the Country Commisioned with the generous support of Vicki Olsson. Geoff Ainsworth and

Symphony Services International

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Above Top: Australian Composer Brett Dean. Above Bottom: David Elton, Principal Trumpet. Opposite Page: Violinist James Ehnes. In 2014, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra continued a pattern of strong tickets sales, and achieved a record in the area of subscriptions with regard to the number of customers, packages, package seats sold, as well as revenue. In all, 11,964 households purchased 23,809 subscription packages totalling 120,418 seats sold as part of a subscription pack for the year. In Sydney and NSW, some 131 paid concerts of 87 different program offerings attracted a grand total of 233,852 paying customers. Classical subscription and special event concerts also experienced an increase in overall occupancy of 1 percentage point to 83.8%. The overall result for classical and special event subscription and single tickets in 2014 (99 concerts) was 2% better on a concert-by-concert basis than in 2013.

After a modest drop off in subscriptions in 2013, subscription sales rebounded in 2014. Paid tickets per concert for the classical and special concerts were overall up 1.7% on 2013 levels. In 2014, some 22 commercial performances of nine discrete programs were presented to 42,508 paying customers. The total paid audience for all classical and commercial chamber and touring events in 2014 is 233,852, an increase of 1.3% on the total number achieved in 2013.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra remains the only major state symphony orchestra in Australia that generates significantly more revenue through its activities than the level of funding it receives from Federal and State governments. We are proud of this achievement, which is built on an unswerving dedication across the organisation to artistic excellent as our licence to operate. Government funding is nevertheless critical to the success and vibrancy of the organisation and we acknowledge this support from the Australia Council for the Arts and Arts NSW and remain committed to delivering artistic excellence and excellent value through our work and activities, both on stage and across the community.

We are proud of our corporate partnerships and the relationships we have with individual patrons and donors. The ongoing support of our Principal Partner, Emirates, is something that deserves special mention. Premier Partner Credit Suisse likewise continues to provide us with strong

support. To both – and our other valued partners – we extend our gratitude and thanks for their enlightened support of the arts.

Philanthropic support from our patrons has again played a significant role in enabling us to achieve many of our artistic ambitions, and we thank them all for their vision and inspirational support of the orchestra on behalf of the whole Sydney Symphony Orchestra community. "THE SSO REMAINS THE ONLY STATE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN AUSTRALIA THAT GENERATES SIGNIFICANTLY MORE REVENUE THROUGH ITS ACTIVITIES THAN THE LEVEL OF FUNDING IT RECEIVES FROM FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS."



The year was not without its challenges, but I am delighted to report on an orchestra that is artistically dynamic, connected ever more strongly to its community and again managing to achieving a balanced financial outcome for the year. Feedback from visiting conductors and soloists confirms that the orchestra is in exceptional form and I pay tribute to the extraordinary talents and commitment of our players that make being in the audience such a pleasure and privilege for us all.

Finally, I thank Chairman of the Board John Conde and all our Directors for their wisdom and strong support in helping this wonderful orchestra achieve its ambitions. Their commitment, counsel and boundless enthusiasm contribute immeasurably to the success of the company and I am very grateful to them for their involvement.

**Rory Jeffes** 

Managing Director Sydney Symphony Orchestra



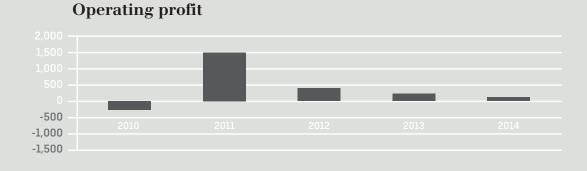
Images: Kees Boersma, Principal Double Bass

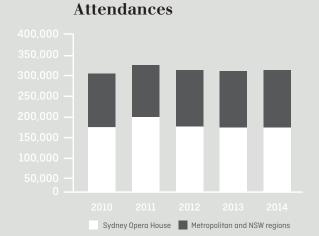
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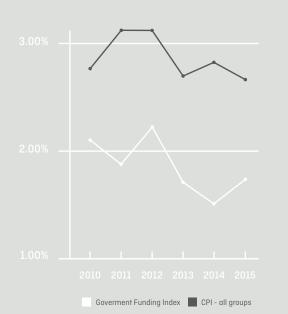
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### **Five Year -** *performance summary*

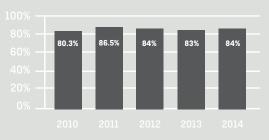




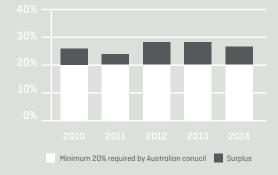
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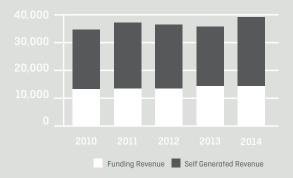




#### **Reserves to operating expences**



#### Revenue by category 000's AUD



# Community



2014 was a year of transition for the education arm of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's program. With the arrival of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director David Robertson came new initiatives and visions for our work. To reflect the expansion of the program over the past few years, our department was rebranded Learning and Engagement, a title more reflective of the enormous number of diverse activities going on, and particularly the expansion of outreach initiatives and opportunities for learning tied to the main-stage work of the orchestra. A new strategic business plan for the program was approved by the Board and implementation began midyear.

Thousands of school children aged between four and 15 attended one of our 32 schools concerts across greater Sydney, Dubbo and, for the first time, Cobar and Broken Hill, in the far west of NSW. Sixteen professional learning workshops were held across NSW and the ACT. These were delivered by leading practitioners to help teachers prepare their students for their concert visit and provide additional classroom lesson material for use throughout the year. Lesson resources were written on forty orchestral works, and all infants, primary and regional material was delivered in digital form for ease of classroom implementation. For the first time the Meet the Music program, once known as the 6.30 Series for music students, was tailored to accommodate the two different music courses offered at HSC level. Consequently the offerings ranged from new music by Australians Brett Dean and Paul Stanhope to Bernstein's *West Side Story*, and our Meet the Music Series now offers something relevant for all HSC music students.

OUR DEPARTMENT WAS REBRANDED LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT, A TITLE MORE REFLECTIVE OF THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF DIVERSE ACTIVITIES GOING ON... **TunED-Up! was a significant new initiative for 2014.** This residential program for primary teachers from regional NSW designed to upskill, build confidence in teaching and rehearsing music, and train these teachers to share their knowledge within their own school communities in a mentoring capacity. Twenty teachers were selected for this pilot program, representing all corners of the state: Murwillumbah, Wagga, Queanbeyan, Broken Hill – even as far away as Norfolk Island. The program was delivered by leading music educators and provided forty hours of training for teachers across a range of musical skills, as well as allowing them to spend time with the orchestra at a rehearsal for The Planets. While there, Maestro Simone Young even gave them a conducting lesson. The initiative was financially supported by the generosity of Fred Street AM and Dorothy Street, and so successful was the program that new donors came forward, allowing for not just the continuation but the expansion of the program in 2015.

Images: Oppotite Page: Paul Goodchild with school students in Orange. Below: School students enjoy the SSO performance in Cobar.

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#### THOUSANDS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN FOUR AND 15 ATTENDED ONE OF OUR 32 SCHOOLS CONCERTS ACROSS GREATER SYDNEY, DUBBO AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, COBAR AND BROKEN HILL

The national composition program Sinfonietta had its final year and, to end with a bang, course director Richard Gill held the program at the Sydney Opera House. The ten young composers were chosen from across Australia and also had the opportunity to observe renowned composer Brett Dean rehearse his new Trumpet Concerto *Dramatis Personae*, as well as receiving intensive composition coaching from Richard and the musicians. A new initiative has been planned for 2015 which will see a large number of early professional composers work with the SSO to have main-stage performances of their music, a model we hope other state orchestra will replicate, thereby creating a richer professional opportunity for these young artists.

Changes were evident in the Emerging Artist program too. School-aged orchestral players selected for our regional orchestra training program Playerlink were able to audition online for the first time, allowing the SSO musicians the chance to best place and evaluate the successful participants as we prepared for the seventy young musicians who gathered in Bathurst. **Our mentoring orchestra**, **Sinfonia**, **sat side-byside with the Sydney Symphony musicians**, **delivering four concerts in the Discovery Series under the baton of artistic director Richard Gill, and 47 public and schools concerts in Sydney, Dubbo, Cobar and Broken Hill.**  The Fellowship presented a concert series in St James' King St, performed in a gaol, gave a mini tour up the NSW mid North Coast and enjoyed a sold-out concert in the Opera House Utzon Room, besides appearing as guest artists in a number of subscription series across greater Sydney and in Goulburn. New to their program were a culinary concerto in Sydney and Melbourne, master classes and in the second half of the year we held auditions for our newly expanded Fellowship program, including for the first time trumpet, trombone and percussion, and almost doubling the size of the cohort selected for 2015.

As the Sydney Symphony Orchestra delighted audiences in Sydney, across NSW and in China, new initiatives for personal engagement with amateur musicians and music students within each community were explored - whether it be the combined local musicians of Broken Hill or Orange joining musicians from the SSO to spend a morning playing music; working with children of the School of the Air and the School of Distance Education; orchestral and instrumental master classes across China; or working with local conductors in Bathurst and Xi'an. Tertiary students worked with leading instrumentalists, composers and conductors at open rehearsals, new connections were made and friendships formed. Such projects bring depth to our engagement initiatives, expand our reach, and play to our strengths, by imagining new opportunities linked to the orchestra's mainstage work.

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### **Community -** *touring*

Outer-metropolitan and regional touring summary

THE FOLLOWING LIST SUMMARISES ALL OUTER-METROPOLITAN SYDNEY, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY CONDUCTED BY THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN 2014.

OUTER-MET	TROPOLITAN SYDNEY
9 Mar	Fellows concert, Wyvern Music Club, Forestville
11 Oct	Fellows concert, Blacktown
OUTDOOR C	CONCERTS 2014
26 Jan	Sydney Festival, Domain concert
23 March	Outdoor concert, Parramatta Park
REGIONAL	
7 – 8 Mar	Wolgan Valley Chamber Music Festival
9 -14	April Fellows residency, Bundanon
27 May	Regional Tour (SSO/Sinfonia), major public performance, workshops with Macquarie Conservatorium of Music and School of Distance Education, schools concerts, Dubbo
28 May	Regional Tour (SSO/Sinfonia), major public performance, school concerts, Cobar
30 May	Regional tour (SSO/Sinfonia), major public performance, schools concerts, Broken Hill
31 May	Workshop with BIU Brass Band, Broken Hill
25 July	Fellows concert, Taree
26 July	Fellows concert, Newcastle
1 – 3 Aug	Playerlink, hosted by the Mitchell Conservatorium, Bathurst
7 Aug	Brass Tour, major public performance, Wollongong
8 Aug	Brass Tour, major public performance, Music4Health John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle
9 Aug	Brass Tour, Brokenwood Wines, Pokolbin
15 Nov	Mozart Run Out, Orange

INTERNATIONAL		
24 June	Major public performance, Shanghai, China	
25 June	Major public performance, Jinan, China	
26 June	Chamber music concert, Beijing, China	
27 June	Major public performance, Beijing, China	
29 June	Major public performance, Xi'an, China	
2 July	Major public performance, Hangzhou, China	
4 July	Major public performance, Shenzhen, China	
5 July	Major public performance, Guangzhou, China	

SCHOOL-AGED ORCHESTRAL PLAYERS SELECTED FOR OUR REGIONAL ORCHESTRA TRAINING PROGRAM PLAYERLINK WERE ABLE TO AUDITION ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME.



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Image: The 2014 Fellows with Fellowship Artistic Director Roger Benedict.



### **Community -** Access

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra belongs to everyone throughout NSW and, as such, the SSO ensures it provides access to its world-class performances annually for all.

#### **Outdoor concerts**

The SSO has a long history of performing free outdoor concerts for the people of NSW. In 2014, the SSO continued its tradition of performing two annual free outdoor concerts: Symphony in the Domain on January 26, which attracted some 25,900 people, and a free performance at Parramatta Park on March 23, attended by more than 5,000 people.

#### Webcasting

Through the use of technology, the SSO can now be viewed by everyone throughout Australia and the world. After the partnership with Telstra BigPond ended, the SSO trialled a new webcasting partnership with the Sydney Opera House in 2014.

Three concerts with American pianist Emanuel Ax were livestreamed on the Sydney Opera House YouTube channel on 13, 18 and 21 June. The video-on-demand of these streams accumulated 28,656 views.

### Community performances for health and wellbeing

In 2014, the SSO continued its award-winning *Music4health* Program which sees SSO musicians perform in retirement homes and hospitals throughout Sydney and NSW.

Ensembles from the SSO performed in four *Music4Health* events, at Montefiore Home Hunters Hill, the Autism Advisory and Support Service at Mount Pritchard, Westmead Children's Hospital and Randwick Children's Hospital.



#### SSO musicians in the community

Sydney Symphony musicians also continued to contribute to the wider community in their capacity as teachers and members of community music groups. One of the SSO musicians visited the Intensive Care Unit at Westmead Children's Hospital regularly to play soothing tunes to sick children.

SYDNEY SYMPHONY MUSICIANS ALSO CONTINUED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY IN THEIR CAPACITY AS TEACHERS AND MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY MUSIC GROUPS

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IN 2014, THE SSO CONTINUED ITS AWARD-WINNING MUSIC4HEALTH PROGRAM WHICH SEES SSO MUSICIANS PERFORM IN RETIREMENT HOMES AND HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT SYDNEY AND NSW.





SUCH PROJECTS BRING DEPTH TO OUR ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES, EXPAND OUR REACH, AND PLAY TO OUR STRENGTHS







Images: Opposite page: Teachers participate in the TunED-Up! program. This Page: Top Right: Stan W. Kornel, Second Violin leads a masterclass in Dubbo. Black and White Image: Emma Jezek, Assistant Principal Second Violin. Above Centre Colour Image: Conductor Daniel Carter leads an education concert at the City Recital Hall Angel Place. Bottom Left: 2014 Viola Fellow Carl Lee with audience members from the *Come and be Yourself* concert. Bottom Right: Euan Harvey, Horn during Brass workshop in Dubbo

## Supporters donors & sponsors

#### Thank You

The Board, staff and musicians of the SSO thank our family of patrons for their visionary and inspirational support of the orchestra in 2014. Philanthropy, comprising donations from individuals, trusts and foundations and bequests, saw extraordinary growth in 2014 with an increase of 48%. Thank you for your commitment, which has resulted in an exceptional year of innovation and excellence for the orchestra.

#### **Maestro's Circle**

We extend our special thanks to the Maestro's Circle for their lead support of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director David Robertson's bold artistic vision for the orchestra. In 2014, the Maestro's Circle underwent a period of renewal and growth, stepping forward once again to underpin the vision and aspirations of our new Maestro. We welcomed two new members of the Maestro's Circle in 2014, including David Robertson himself who has affirmed his commitment to the orchestra by pledging his personal support.

- Peter Weiss AD Founding President & Doris Weiss
- John C Conde AO Chairman
- Brian Abel
- Tom Breen & Rachel Kohn
- The Berg Family Foundation
- Andrew Kaldor AM & Renata Kaldor AO
- Vicki Olsson
- Roslyn Packer AO
- David Robertson and Orli Shaham
- Penelope Seidler AM
- Mr Fred Street AM & Dorothy Street
- Brian White AO & Rosemary White
- Ray Wilson DAM in memory of the late James Agapitos DAM

#### Fellowship

The SSO received a generous grant from The Ian Potter Foundation to fund the expansion of the Fellowship, Australia's leading pre-professional orchestral training program.

#### **Fellowship patrons**

The SSO received lead support from our Fellowship Patrons to support the careers of young musicians

- Robert Albert Ao & Elizabeth Albert Flute Chair
- Sandra & Neil Burns Clarinet Chair
- In Memory of Matthew Krel Violin Chair
- Mrs T Merewether DAM Horn Chair
- Paul Salteri AM & Sandra Salteri Violin and Viola Chairs
- Mrs W Stening Principal Patron, Cello Chair
- Kim Williams AM & Catherine Dovey Patrons of Roger Benedict, Artistic Director, Fellowship
- Anonymous Double Bass Chair

#### **Emerging Artist Supporting Patrons**

- Mr Stephen J Bell
- Gary Linnane & Peter Braithwaite
- Joan MacKenzie Scholarship
- Eileen & Keith Ong
  In Memory of Geoff White
- June & Alan Woods Family Bequest

#### **Chair Patrons**

Chair Patrons provide generous support toward individual musicians of the SSO. We welcomed seven new chair patrons to the SSO family in 2014. Thank you to all of our chair patrons for their support.



Roger Benedict Principal Viola Kim Williams AM & Catherine Dovey Chair



**Lerida Delbridge** Assistant Concertmaster Simon Johnson Chair



**Umberto Clerici** Principal Cello Garry & Shiva Rich Chair



Lawrence Dobell Principal Clarinet Anne Arcus & Terrey Arcus Am Chair



**Timothy Constable** Percussion Justice Jane Mathews Ao Chair



Diana Doherty Principal Oboe Andrew Kaldor AM & Renata Kaldor AO Chair



Richard Gill OAM Artistic Director, Education Paul Salteri AM & Sandra Salteri Chair



Jane Hazelwood Viola Bob & Julie Clampett Chair in memory of Carolyn Clampett



**Catherine Hewgill** Principal Cello The Hon. Justice AJ & Mrs Fran Meagher Chair



Robert Johnson Principal Horn James & Leonie Furber Chair



**Elizabeth Neville** Cello *Ruth & Bob Magid Chair* 



**Shefali Pryor** Associate Principal Oboe *Mrs Barbara Murphy Chair* 



Emma Sholl Associate Principal Flute Robert & Janet Constable Chair



Janet Webb Principal Flute Helen Lynch Am & Helen Bauer Chair



Kirsten Williams Associate Concertmaster I Kallinikos Chair

Image: SSO acknowledge the applause at the Sydney Opera House.

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#### **TunED-Up!**

The SSO ran its inaugural TunED-Up program, a five-day residency for primary school teachers that strengthens classroom music teaching skills and techniques. TunED-Up was made possible with the generous support of Fred Street AM & Dorothy Street.

#### Additional support was provided by

- Anne Arcus & Terrey Arcus AM
- Ian & Jennifer Burton
- Ian Dickson & Reg Holloway

### Other major supporters of the SSO's education programs included:

- John Augustus & Kim Ryrie
- Mr Alexander & Mrs Vera Boyarsky
- Bob & Julie Clampett
- Howard & Maureen Connors
- The Greatorex Foundation
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- James N Kirby Foundation
- Mrs & Mr Judith A. McKernan
- Mr & Mrs Nigel Price

#### Commissions

In 2014, the SSO presented the world premiere of Jandamarra – Sing for the Country with music by Paul Stanhope and texts by Steve Hawke. Jandamarra was commissioned by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for the SSO and the Australian network orchestras, the Yilimbirri Ensemble and Gondwana Choirs, with the generous support of Vicki Olsson, Geoff Ainsworth Am and Symphony Services International.

#### Vanguard

Vanguard is a membership program designed to attract Gen X & Gen Y philanthropists, music lovers and those who are passionate about the arts to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. 2014 was the third successful year for Vanguard, with a 34% growth in membership, and an increase in attendance at SSO concerts by Vanguard members. Vanguard events create intimate opportunities for members and musicians to come together in unusual locations to experience private performances by SSO musicians. Highlights this year included a New Orleans-style jazz performance on the Mortuary Station platform at Central Station and a performance at Carriageworks with special guest David Robertson, who made his Australian debut performance on guitar.

#### Vanguard Collective

- Justin Di Lollo Chair
- Belinda Bentley
- Oscar McMahon
- Taine Moufarrige Founding Patron
- Shefali Pryor
- Seamus Robert Quick Founding Patron
- Chris Robertson and Katherine Shaw Founding Patrons

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#### Diamond Patrons: \$30,000+

Geoff Ainsworth AM Anne & Terrey Arcus AM Doug & Alison Battersby The Berg Family Foundation Tom Breen & Rachael Kohn Mr John C Conde AO Robert & Janet Constable The Estate of Dr Lynn Joseph Mr Andrew Kaldor AM & Mrs Renata Kaldor AO In Memory of Matthew Krel Mrs Roslyn Packer AO Ian Potter Foundation Paul Salteri AM & Sandra Salteri Scully Foundation Mrs W Stening Mr Fred Street AM & Mrs Dorothy Street Peter Weiss A0 & Doris Weiss Mr Brian White A0 & Mrs Rosemary White Kim Williams AM & Catherine Dovey

#### Platinum Patrons: \$20,000-\$29,999

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### Gold Patrons: \$10,000-\$19,999

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#### Silver Patrons: \$5000-\$9,999

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#### Bronze Patrons: PRESTO \$2,500-\$4,999

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### Sponsor salute

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra applauds the leadership role our partners play and their commitment to excellence, innovation and creativity.



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