

MUSSORGSKY'S *PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION* COMES TO LIFE IN RAVEL'S ICONIC ORCHESTRATION WITH THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



The Sydney Symphony Orchestra performing at the iconic Sydney Opera House – credit: Daniel Boud

Tuesday 28 February, 2023 - Sydney, AUSTRALIA – The Sydney Symphony Orchestra will perform Ravel's iconic arrangement of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. The program will also feature young virtuoso, French-Albanian born **Marie-Ange Nguci** performing Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No.2 and the world premiere of a new work by Australian composer **Miriama Young**.

[*Pictures at an Exhibition*](#) (8 -11 March) will showcase the Sydney Symphony performing Mussorgsky's dramatic suite comprising 10 movements, bringing to life the artworks of 19th Century Russian painter Victor Hartmann. From the endearing inelegance of *The Gnome*, the fleeting beauty of the *Ballet of Unhatched Chicks*, to the triumphant power of *The Great Gate of Kiev*, the might of Mussorgsky's stunning suite is revealed through Ravel's powerful re-orchestration of the work.

Unfolding with joyous energy and daring surprise, Mussorgsky's musical scenes are as evocative and contrasting as the pictures themselves. When artist, designer and architect Victor Hartmann met his untimely death at the age of 39, Mussorgsky responded with a tribute to his departed friend. The Russian composer visited Hartmann's posthumous exhibition and captured the experience in music. The suite consists of musical depictions of 10 of Hartmann's paintings, interspersed with a recurring *Promenade* theme, representing a visitor strolling through the exhibition. Mussorgsky's work stands as one of the virtuosic heavy weights in the piano repertoire, but Ravel's 1922 orchestral arrangement is the most widely performed.

Joining the Orchestra will be twenty-five-year-old, French-Albanian pianist Marie-Ange Nguci. The brilliance of this rising star will shine through in Saint-Saën's *Piano Concerto No. 2*. Sometimes reflective and melancholic, sometimes fiery and dramatic, the composer's own pianistic virtuosity finds its match in Nguci's generation-defining talent.

This performance will also see the world-premiere of Australian composer Miriama Young's *Reflections on the Harbour Light* a new work made possible through the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's *50 Fanfares* project – a major commissioning project supporting 50 Australian composers to write new work and expand the Australian classical music canon. A fitting work complementing the picturesque musical landscapes imagined in this concert, Young's work is a love letter to the iconic Sydney Opera House – capturing the exterior of the venue, reflecting and catching the changing light of the harbour throughout the day.

#ENDS#

[Pictures at an Exhibition](#)

Wednesday 8 March – 8.00pm
Thursday 9 March – 1.30pm
Friday 10 March – 8.00pm
Saturday 11 March – 8.00pm

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Program

MIRIAMA YOUNG *Reflections on the Harbour Light**
SAINT-SAËNS Piano Concerto No.2
MUSSORGSKY arr. **RAVEL** *Pictures at an Exhibition*
**50 Fanfares Commission*

Artists:

MIHHAIL GERTS conductor
MARIE-ANGE NGUCI piano

Adult tickets from \$42, concessions available.

Tickets available from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Box Office on (02) 8215 4600 or choose your own seat at sydneysymphony.com

FOR INTERVIEWS, PHOTOS OR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Lizzie Agar: 0450 381 812 | lizzie@kabukupr.com.au
Airlie Walters: 0400 419 968 | airlie@kabukupr.com.au