

Sydney Symphony Statement on Referendum 2023 Recognising the First Peoples of Australia by Constitutional Amendment



The Sydney Symphony Orchestra wishes to express its support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and the statement’s key pillars of Voice, Treaty and Truth. We accept the Statement’s invitation to walk with First Peoples as part of a movement to create a better future for our nation.

We recognise that listening to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities will provide new opportunities to strengthen the bonds between us. Enshrining the Voices of our First Nations in our Constitution recognises our responsibilities to the just causes of equality and respect. We acknowledge that many differing views of our nation’s challenges exist across our community, including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We encourage all individuals to approach the coming weeks with care and openness, and to embrace safe spaces for respectful discussions.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra is proud to perform on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and upon the many rich, diverse, and historical lands across the territory we call New South Wales. The creation of music only succeeds where inclusion is valued, and where cultural traditions are respected. We are proud to support the voices of First Nations artists through our musical collaborations, and we are proud to perform works which tell the story of our collective history with shared wisdom and essential truths.

On this basis, we encourage all Australians to vote ‘yes’ on 14th October 2023 and recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

– Sydney Symphony Orchestra, 14 September, 2023