



# The Original Underworld Epic

## Brandenburg reveals its first opera, *L'Orfeo*

**Artistic Director Paul Dyer talks  
Hell, Trumpets, and the new  
2012 Concert Season.**

“When I tell people I’m going to do a concert set in the Underworld, they think I’m talking about gangsters. What I’m talking about is a 17<sup>th</sup> century opera – it’s not Underbelly, it’s hell.”

In 1607 Monteverdi wrote *L'Orfeo*, a tragic love story based on the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and his journey into the Underworld. On his wedding day, his wife is bitten by a snake and dies. He is so distraught he decides to go to hell and back to save her.

“It has always been my dream to do a Monteverdi opera,” says **Paul Dyer**, the Brandenburg’s Artistic Director. “**Monteverdi’s *L'Orfeo*** is one of the earliest operas still being performed. It has wonderful musical flavours - the sound of gut strings for pastoral scenes, and the sound of sackbutts (period trombones) for the Underworld scenes. It’s the perfect musical landscape for the Brandenburg to bring to life our first complete opera in concert mode.”

“When you tell the story of a legendary singer who can charm even the most savage beast, you need a heartthrob with an exquisite voice. I have invited **Markus Brutscher**, the stunning German tenor to play Orpheus. It is the Brandenburg’s biggest undertaking and an exciting new chapter in our history.”

Over the years, Paul has enjoyed bringing the rare sound of unique period instruments to the Brandenburg stage – the fortepiano, the lirone (fourteen stringed instrument) and the sackbutt to name a few. In 2012 Brandenburg audiences will discover the sound of the keyed trumpet with Italian period trumpet virtuoso **Gabriele Cassone in Dazzling Virtuoso**. “This is the man who wrote the book on the trumpet... literally! It’s called *The Trumpet Book*. He’s playing the Haydn and Hummel trumpet concertos, which were written for a keyed trumpet and are the most famous concertos of the classical period,” says Paul.

“A brilliant period musician once said to me, ‘everyone in period music is a little mad. It’s because they have an obsession for historical precision and an absolute passion for the music.’ When it comes to Italian baroque, no one is more passionate than violin virtuoso **Federico Guglielmo**. He first debuted with us in 2010 and our musicians loved playing under him. Now he returns for a program dedicated to the music of Vivaldi, a gorgeous collection of **Venice Secrets**.”

Each season, Paul loves to showcase the world’s finest period musicians and that means putting some gifted Australians in the spotlight. **Craig Hill** and **Madeleine Easton** - two home-grown virtuosos - will feature in **Beautiful Minds**. “Craig will play Mozart’s sublime and ever-popular Clarinet Concerto on basset clarinet, while violinist Madeleine, who is in hot demand in Europe as a soloist and concertmaster, will perform the dramatic Mozart Violin Concerto No. 3.”

The **Brandenburg Choir** makes its Melbourne debut in December 2012, in **Noël! Noël!**. This series features Christmas inspired ancient and contemporary songs and has been a big part of the Orchestra's festive traditions each year. **Noël! Noël!** has inspired two ABC Classics CD releases and now comes to Melbourne for the first time.

*"The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's Noël! Noël! concert has become, deservedly, one of the hottest tickets in town."* - Sydney Morning Herald

A major change will also come in 2012 when the Brandenburg changes its performance nights in Melbourne.

"We've revised our national touring schedule to enable us to perform in Melbourne on Saturday and Sunday nights, rather than Sunday and Monday," says **Bruce Applebaum**, the Brandenburg's General Manager. "2012 is the first year that we've been able to offer concerts regularly on a Saturday in Melbourne, which is obviously a night of the week that more people seek entertainment. We look forward to becoming a bigger part of Melbourne's weekend life in 2012."

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## BRANDENBURG 2012

### VENICE SECRETS

**Federico Guglielmo** (Italy) guest director and period violin  
Melbourne Recital Centre  
Saturday 25 February at 7pm & Sunday 26 February at 5pm

### DAZZLING VIRTUOSO

**Gabriele Cassone** (Italy) keyed trumpet  
Melbourne Recital Centre  
Saturday 28 July at 7pm & Sunday 29 July at 5pm

### MONTEVERDI'S L'ORFEO

A concert performance featuring international and Australian guest artists including **Markus Brutscher** (Germany) tenor as Orfeo  
Hamer Hall, The Arts Centre  
Sunday 23 September at 7pm

*note different venue for this event*

### BEAUTIFUL MINDS

**Craig Hill** (Australia) basset clarinet  
**Madeleine Easton** (Australia) period violin  
Melbourne Recital Centre  
Saturday 27 October at 7pm & Sunday 28 October at 5pm

### NOËL! NOËL!

**The Brandenburg Choir**  
Melbourne Recital Centre  
Saturday 8 December at 5pm & 7pm

*first time in Melbourne*