



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 17th 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.”

2012's choral spectacular will be **Bach Eternal** (in Sydney only), featuring the soaring voices of the **Brandenburg Choir**. They sing much-loved cantatas by Bach including his **Jesu joy of man's desiring**, and two of Handel's great **Coronation Anthems**.

The Choir also appear in **Noël! Noël!**, a big part of the Orchestra's festive traditions. Featuring Christmas inspired ancient and contemporary songs, **Noël! Noël!** will be performed in Melbourne for the first time in 2012.

A major change will also come in 2012 when the Brandenburg changes its concert cycle.

"We've established a new touring schedule which means Brandenburg opening nights will now be a Wednesday in Sydney and that Melbourne performances will now take place on a Saturday and Sunday evening," says **Bruce Applebaum**, the Brandenburg's General Manager. "This is an exciting development that will allow us to further expand our national touring in the coming years."

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MACQUARIE

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

BRANDENBURG 2012

Sydney – City Recital Hall Angel Place

Melbourne – Melbourne Recital Centre & Hamer Hall The Arts Centre (Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* only)

VENICE SECRETS

Federico Guglielmo (Italy) guest director and period violin

Sydney - Evenings - Wed 22 Feb, Fri 24 Feb, Wed 29 Feb, Fri 2 Mar, Sat 3 Mar all at 7pm

Sydney - Matinee - Sat 3 Mar at 2pm

Melbourne – Sat 25 Feb at 7pm & Sun 26 Feb at 5pm

BACH ETERNAL

The Brandenburg Choir

Sydney - Evenings - Wed 9 May, Fri 11 May, Wed 16 May, Fri 18 May, Sat 19 May all at 7pm

Sydney - Matinee - Sat 19 May at 2pm

Sydney only

DAZZLING VIRTUOSO

Gabriele Cassone (Italy) keyed trumpet

Sydney - Evenings - Wed 25 Jul, Fri 27 Jul, Wed 1 Aug, Fri 3 Aug, Sat 4 Aug all at 7pm

Sydney - Matinee - Sat 4 Aug at 2pm

Melbourne – Sat 28 July at 7pm & Sun 29 July at 5pm

MONTEVERDI'S L'ORFEO

A concert performance featuring international and Australian guest artists

Sydney - Wed 19 Sep, Thu 20 Sep, Fri 21 Sep, Tues 25 Sep, Wed 26 Sep all at 7pm

Melbourne – Sun 23 Sep at 7pm

BEAUTIFUL MINDS

Craig Hill (Australia) basset clarinet

Madeleine Easton (Australia) period violin

Sydney - Evenings - Wed 24 Oct, Fri 26 Oct, Wed 31 Oct, Fri 2 Nov, Sat 3 Nov all at 7pm

Sydney - Matinee - Sat 3 Nov at 2pm

Melbourne – Sat 27 Oct at 7pm & Sun 28 Oct at 5pm

NOËL! NOËL!

The Brandenburg Choir

Sydney - Wed 12 Dec 7pm & Sat 15 Dec 5pm and 7pm

Melbourne – Sat 8 Dec at 5pm & 7pm