

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10 August 2012

# AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA

## MONTEVERDI'S

# L'ORFEO

- ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT LOVE STORIES
- A DRAMATIC JOURNEY TO THE UNDERWORLD
- THE EARLIEST OPERA STILL PERFORMED TODAY
- PAUL DYER ASSEMBLES HIS 'DREAM' CAST
- THE BRANDENBURG'S FIRST OPERA PRODUCTION
- STAGED IN INTIMATE CONCERT MODE



Paul Dyer fulfills a dream this September when he brings Monteverdi's dramatic masterpiece **L'Orfeo** to life. "It is the Brandenburg's first opera and our most exciting undertaking yet."

First staged 405 years ago, **L'Orfeo** is one of the first operas ever written and is the earliest still performed today. It is based on an ancient Greek myth, the story of the poet Orpheus and his beautiful young lover Eurydice.

Tragedy strikes on their wedding day when Eurydice dies after being bitten by a poisonous snake. Orpheus, driven mad with grief, descends into the Underworld, desperate to rescue his lost love.

"I've been waiting to assemble the 'dream' cast for **L'Orfeo**," says Paul. "We have the spectacular and handsome German tenor **Markus Brutscher** as our hero Orpheus, and as his lost-love Eurydice, who could be more perfect than **Sara Macliver**, one of Australia's most sublime and beautiful sopranos."

The principal cast is largely completed by artists who have been hand-picked by Paul after outstanding performances on the Brandenburg stage: **Fiona Campbell**, **Tobias Cole** and German bass **Wolf Matthias Friedrich**, and rising Australian stars **Siobhan Stagg** and **Morgan Pearse**. They'll be joined by Melbourne tenor **Robert Macfarlane** who will make his Brandenburg debut in this season.

"The brilliant musicians of the Brandenburg will play the glorious instruments of the late Renaissance for **L'Orfeo** – violins using gut strings, the lirone, sackbutts, cornetti, natural trumpet, ancient guitars and theorbos," adds Paul.

"The sound of these instruments is ravishing. Audiences will be treated to their absolutely gorgeous sound as a talented and charismatic cast of singers perform one of the greatest romantic stories ever told."

"Pure bliss from beginning to end."

<b>BRISBANE FESTIVAL</b>	12, 13 & 15 September at 7.30pm
<b>SYDNEY</b>	19, 20, 21, 25 & 26 September at 7pm
<b>MELBOURNE</b>	23 September at 5pm

Discover more at [www.brandenburg.com.au](http://www.brandenburg.com.au)

Media information, interviews and pictures :

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# MONTEVERDI'S L'ORFEO

Orpheus  
**Markus Brutscher**

Eurydice / La Musica  
**Sara Macliver**

Proserpina / La Messaggiera  
**Fiona Campbell**

Caronte / Plutone  
**Wolf Matthias Friedrich**

La Speranza  
**Tobias Cole**

Eco  
**Robert Macfarlane**

Apollo  
**Morgan Pearse**

Ninfa  
**Siobhan Stagg**

Artistic Director  
**Paul Dyer**

With the **Australian Brandenburg Orchestra**

Performed in Italian with English surtitles in intimate concert mode.



## BRISBANE

*Presented by the Brisbane Festival & Philip Bacon Galleries*

Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, South Bank  
Wed 12 & Thu 13 Sept at 7.30pm

Power Family Concert Hall, Moreton Bay College,  
450 Wondall Road, Manly West  
Sat 15 Sept at 7.30pm  
Part of the Brisbane Festival's Suburban Shows program

qtix 136 246 or visit [brisbanefestival.com.au](http://brisbanefestival.com.au)



## SYDNEY

City Recital Hall Angel Place  
Wed 19, Thu 20, Fri 21, Tue 25 & Wed 26 @ 7pm

City Recital Hall Angel Place (02) 8256 2222 or [cityrecitalhall.com](http://cityrecitalhall.com)  
Brandenburg (02) 9328 7581 or [brandenburg.com.au](http://brandenburg.com.au)



## MELBOURNE

Hamer Hall, The Arts Centre  
Sunday 23 September at 5pm

Arts Centre Melbourne 1300 182 183 or [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)  
Brandenburg 1300 782 856 or [brandenburg.com.au](http://brandenburg.com.au)



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