

# AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA MEDIA RELEASE

22 APRIL 2005

## A spectacular from “the greatest composer who ever lived”

“**Handel** is the greatest composer who ever lived,” said **Beethoven**. “I would bare my head and kneel at his grave.”

“Who am I to argue with Beethoven?” asks **Paul Dyer**, Artistic Director of the **Australian Brandenburg Orchestra**.

“Handel’s gift to the world was some of the most spectacular and joyous music imaginable and our **Ode for St Cecilia** concerts in May will pay tribute to his genius.”

In addition to the combined forces of the **Australian Brandenburg Orchestra** and the **Brandenburg Choir**, Dyer has invited two of Australia’s finest singers to perform – **Sara Macliver** and **Angus Wood**.

“The radiant soprano **Sara Macliver** has always been one of the most popular guest artists with our audiences and she is one of this country’s most successful classical recording artists,” says Dyer. “It has been over two years since Sara last sang with us and this is the perfect concert for her return. The purity and clarity of her voice are perfect for Handel’s music.”

“I’m also very excited to announce the Brandenburg debut of rising international star tenor **Angus Wood**,” adds Dyer. “The press heap praise on Angus, not only for his exquisite voice, but also for his ‘matinee idol good looks’. It is no wonder there is so much excitement around the world about this excellent young singer.”

The centerpiece in these performances will be **Ode for St Cecilia’s Day**, written by Handel for a 1739 concert which honours the patron saint of music.

“Full of sheer hedonistic delight, **Ode for St Cecilia’s Day** is one of Handel’s greatest works,” says Dyer. “In praising the patron saint of music he has produced music of incredible emotional power. The work includes some of his most vivid and expressive vocal music.”

“Our Handel celebration also features the cantata **Look down harmonious saint**, a virtuosic show piece for tenor. There are also two sparkling concerti grossi, both full of ravishing harmonies and now recognised as marvels of eighteenth century music.”

“**This is Handel at his very best!**”

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## ODE FOR ST CECILIA An all Handel spectacular

### PROGRAM

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Concerto grosso in G, Op 6 No 1, HWV 319  
Cantata for tenor and strings, **Look down harmonious saint**, HWV 124  
**Ode for St Cecilia's Day** for tenor, soprano, choir and orchestra, HWV 76  
Concerto grosso in E minor, Op 6 No 3, HWV 321

### AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA

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Guest soloist **SARA MACLIVER** soprano  
Guest soloist **ANGUS WOOD** tenor  
**AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA**  
**BRANDENBURG CHOIR**  
Director **PAUL DYER** harpsichord

### CONCERTS

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Dates/Time Fri 6, Sat 7, Wed 11, Thurs, 12 & Fri 13 May @ 7pm  
Venue City Recital Hall, Angel Place  
Tickets Tickets range from \$20.00 (Under 30) to \$92.50. Booking fees apply.  
Bookings City Recital Hall, Angel Place Box Office +61 2 8256 2222  
or [www.cityrecitalhall.com.au](http://www.cityrecitalhall.com.au)  
or Ticketek +61 2 9266 4800 or [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)

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