

AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA MEDIA RELEASE

7 OCTOBER 2005

Daredevil or butterfly, rocker or mystic?

Austria's GUNAR LETZBOR in VIRTUOSO VIOLIN

28 & 29 October, 2, 4 & 5 November 2005 City Recital Hall, Angel Place SYDNEY

"The international press call him 'daredevil', 'butterfly', 'rocker' and 'mystic'", says **Paul Dyer**, Brandenburg Artistic Director.

"**Gunar Letzbor's** reviews indicate that the Austrian wonder-baroque violinist will ignite the stage during his Brandenburg debut as guest director and soloist in *Virtuoso Violin*, not only because of his "*dazzling violin playing*" but also his commanding stage and physical presence."

In Switzerland, a Letzbor performance was described in this way: "*When he arrives on stage, he is impressive. Physically. Gunar Letzbor is tall like an athlete! Not a thin marathoner, but rather like a hammer thrower. Almost monumental. But when the first notes rise... surprise! The violinist has the delicacy of a butterfly.*"

In his home country Austria, the critics have acclaimed "*his absolute mastery*" and his ability to "*delve into a cosmos of intellectual beauty*" and "*speak with mystical clarity on his instrument.*"

The French press says that this "*original and erudite interpreter*" isn't really what you'd expect of a leading baroque musician: "*He didn't take off his shirt, but under it beats the heart of a rocker. This Austrian violinist, standing at two metres, is handsome like a movie star.*"

Gunar was awarded the prestigious Cannes Classical Award for a recording with his own baroque ensemble **Ars Antiqua Austria**, which plays to great acclaim throughout Europe and in the USA.

In *Virtuoso Violin*, Gunar will be soloist in concertos by **Vivaldi** and **Pergolesi**, as well as the revered **Bach Violin Concerto in E major**, one of classical music's greats.

This *Virtuoso Violin* concert includes a highlight from Brandenburg CD **Sanctuary** – an aria from Handel's opera **Rodelinda** – which showcases the divine playing of our own star of the baroque oboe, **Kirsten Barry**.

STOP PRESS - to be announced on Tuesday 11 October.

SANCTUARY CD has been nominated in **2005 for the Best Classical Album ARIA Award.**

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VIRTUOSO VIOLIN

AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA

Guest director & soloist **GUNAR LETZBOR** baroque violin (Austria)
Soloist **KIRSTEN BARRY** baroque oboe
AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA
Artistic Director **PAUL DYER** harpsichord

PROGRAM

VIVALDI Concerto for Violin, Strings & BC, Op 9, No 5 in A minor (Letzbor)
HANDEL Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 4 in A minor
BACH Violin Concerto in E major BWV 1042 (Letzbor)

interval

VIVALDI Concerto in A major RV 552 for violin and echo violin (Letzbor & Lucinda Moon)
HANDEL Overture to the opera *Rodelinda*
HANDEL Aria: *Ritorna o caro* from the opera *Rodelinda* (Barry)
PERGOLESI Concerto for Violin and strings in B flat (Letzbor)

CONCERTS

Dates/Time Fri 28, Sat 29 October, Wed 2, Fri 4, Sat 5 November @ 7pm
Venue City Recital Hall, Angel Place
Tickets Tickets range from \$20.00 (Under 30) to \$88.50. Booking fees apply.
Bookings City Recital Hall, Angel Place Box Office +61 2 8256 2222 or
www.cityrecitalhall.com.au
or Ticketek +61 2 9266 4800 or www.ticketek.com.au

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