

AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA MEDIA RELEASE

18 AUGUST 2006

A new discovery & the return of a Brandenburg favourite...

HANDEL'S HEROES

HÉLÈNE GUILMETTE soprano (Canada) & **MARSHALL McGUIRE** baroque harp (Australia)

“It was on a sunny day on the Bondi to Bronte walk that the international operatic superstar **Andreas Scholl** first raved to me about a new vocal sensation that he had discovered, the exquisite French-Canadian soprano **Hélène Guilmette**,” recalls Brandenburg Artistic Director **Paul Dyer**.

“Andreas had been an adjudicator in a major European singing competition when he heard Hélène Guilmette,” says Paul, “and he was completely bowled over by her voice and presence. So much so, that he decided that he had to work with her, so he put the wheels in motion to record a CD together.”

“This high praise from one of the world’s best singers came immediately to mind when I was faced with finding a replacement for our scheduled **Handel’s Heroes** soloist **Romina Basso**, who had to withdraw from this Australian visit,” adds Paul. “It was by some miracle that I was able to secure this exciting young singer for these Sydney performances at relatively short notice, particularly with the current buzz she has generated in the opera houses of North American and Europe.”

A new program was created to showcase the purity and crystalline beauty of Hélène’s voice and it features some of Handel’s most sublime arias of love and longing from **Julius Caesar** and **Alcina**, as well as the crowd-pleasing **Sweet Bird**.

Handel’s Heroes also sees the return of a long-time Brandenburg favourite, the extraordinary Australian harpist **Marshall McGuire**. Described by **The Times** in London as “*a musician of exceptional imagination and flair*”, Marshall is the perfect musician treat the audience to all the joy and rapture of Handel’s magnificent **Harp Concerto**.

“Handel’s **Harp Concerto** was written as a showpiece for the virtuoso William Powell and people flocked to hear him play it,” says Marshall. “In true Brandenburg style, I’ll be performing on a rare Welsh triple harp of the type for which Handel wrote the concerto. It is the only one of its type that I know of in Australia and is rarely played in public, so this will be a truly unique opportunity.”

SYDNEY 15, 16, 20, 22 & 23 Sept at 7pm & matinee 21 Sept at 11am
Also PENRITH concert added - 14 Sept at 7pm

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HANDEL'S HEROES

Guest artist **HÉLÈNE GUILMETTE** soprano [Canada]

Guest artist **MARSHALL McGUIRE** baroque harp [Australia]

AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA

PAUL DYER Artistic Director/harpsichord

AN ALL HANDEL PROGRAM

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba from **Solomon**, HWV 67

Aria: **Non disperar** from the opera **Julius Caesar**

Aria: **V'adoro pupille** from the opera **Julius Caesar**

Concerto Grosso Op.6 No.6 HWV 324

Recit and Aria: **E pur così...Piangerò la sorte mià** from the opera **Julius Caesar**

Concerto Grosso Op.6 No.5 in D Major HWV 323

Aria: **Sweet Bird** from **L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato**

Harp Concerto Op.4 No.6

Aria: **Tornami a vagheggiar** from the opera **Alcina**

PENRITH

Dates/Time

Thurs 14 September @ 7pm

Venue

Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, PENRITH

Tickets

Tickets range from \$25 to \$44. Booking fees apply.

Bookings

JSPAC Box Office (02) 4723 7600

SYDNEY

Dates/Time

Fri 15, Sat 16, Wed 20, Fri 22 & Sat 23 September @ 7pm

Plus a MATINEE performance - **Thurs 21 May @ 11am**

Venue

City Recital Hall, Angel Place, SYDNEY

Tickets

Tickets range from \$22 (Under 30) to \$95.50. Booking fees apply.

Bookings

City Recital Hall Box Office (02) 8256 2222 or www.cityrecitalhall.com.au

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