

# AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 12 August 2008

## HANDEL'S Fire and Water Traffic-stopping Royal party music

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**Alfredo Bernardini** guest director & baroque oboe (Italy/Netherlands)

"Handel's **Music for the Royal Fireworks** was massively popular and caused traffic chaos," says, **Paul Dyer**, Brandenburg Artistic Director.

"Even the first open air rehearsal in 1749 brought London to a standstill for three hours as the horse drawn carriages of over 12 000 eager music-lovers caused gridlock."

"Handel had proved that he hadn't lost his magic touch," says Paul. "His Royal Fireworks music was written to publicly mark the end of the War of the Austrian Succession and was so successful because it is musically thrilling and evokes the most exciting baroque party imaginable," adds Paul.

"This is why I've chosen it to spearhead our National tour of 2008."

In a rarity on the one program and to create a truly gala Handel concert event, Paul has teamed the Fireworks music with Handel's other famous royal celebration music – the **Water Music** suites.

The Water Music suites were written for a Royal event thirty two years earlier in 1717, when King George I and a large gathering of English nobility partied on open barges on the Thames.

"They obviously partied hard and the King didn't get home until 4.30am," says Paul. "He loved the music so much that he had the fifty exhausted musicians on the barges play Handel's wonderful creation three times over!"

After making his Brandenburg debut in 2006, the Italian king of the Baroque oboe **Alfredo Bernardini** returns as guest director for this gala tour.

"Alfredo is an extraordinary musician and director, a mischievous man with a zest for life and celebration," says Paul. "He is the perfect choice to lead the Orchestra on this merry romp and our national tour for 2008."

**SYDNEY**            **5 to 13 Sept** (6 concerts including matinee)  
**BRISBANE**        **18 Sept**  
**PERTH**            **20 Sept**  
**MELBOURNE**    **22 Sept**

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

**STEVEN GODBEE PUBLICITY**  
Media information, interviews and pictures  
PHONE: 0408 706 099  
EMAIL: [sgpublicity@bigpond.com](mailto:sgpublicity@bigpond.com)



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## HANDEL'S FIRE & WATER

### AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA

**ALFREDO BERNARDINI** guest director and baroque oboe (Italy/Netherlands)

**PAUL DYER** artistic director & harpsichord

### PROGRAM

**Handel** *Water Music*, Suite in D major, HWV 349  
**Handel** *Water Music*, Suite in G major/minor, HWV 350  
**Handel** *Water Music*, Suite in F, HWV 348  
**Handel** *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

**SYDNEY** City Recital Hall, Angel Place 6 performances, including Sunday matinee

**EVENINGS** Fri 5, Sat 6, Wed 10, Fri 12, Sat 13 September @ 7pm

**MATINEE** Sunday 7 August @ 3pm

Tickets range from \$24.50 to \$111.50 Booking fees apply.

City Recital Hall Box Office 02 8256 2222 [www.cityrecitalhall.com.au](http://www.cityrecitalhall.com.au) or

Brandenburg Box Office 02 9328 7581

### BRISBANE QPAC

Thursday 18 September @ 8pm

Tickets range from \$35.00 (under 30) to \$79.00 Booking fees apply.

Bookings: QTIX on 136 246 or [qtix.com.au](http://qtix.com.au)

### PERTH Perth Concert Hall

Saturday 20 September @ 8pm

Tickets range from \$35.00 (under 30) to \$79.00 Booking fees apply.

Bookings: BOCS Ticketing on (08) 9484 1133 or [bocsticketing.com.au](http://bocsticketing.com.au)

### MELBOURNE Hamer Hall, The Arts Centre

Monday 22 September @ 8pm

Tickets range from \$45.00 (under 30) to \$85.00 Booking fees apply.

Bookings: Ticketmaster on 1300 136 166 or [ticketmaster.com.au](http://ticketmaster.com.au)

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

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EMAIL: [sgpublicity@bigpond.com](mailto:sgpublicity@bigpond.com)

