

# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6 April 2011

AUSTRALIAN  
BRANDENBURG  
ORCHESTRA

## HAUNTING HANDEL

SYDNEY 13, 14, 18, 20, 21 May @ 7pm  
MELBOURNE 22 May @ 5pm & 23 May @ 7pm



## Meet Fiona Campbell.

José Carreras loves sharing the stage with her & she has sung Björk & Sting with the Brodsky Quartet.

In May she stars in the first Brandenburg concert headlined by a mezzo soprano in 21 years.

This Perth mum is without doubt one of Australia's hottest classical music artists.

*"Venus in voice and form"* Opera-Opera

**Fiona Campbell** is one of the finest performers of her generation. As the preferred touring guest of international stars **José Carreras** and **Barbara Bonney**, her world is full of gorgeous gowns, standing ovations, limos, five-star hotels and wearing expensive diamonds on stage that require the constant presence of a security officer in the wings.

Between gigs Fiona drops the dresses and diamonds for a more domestic existence with her husband and children - making their school lunches, or driving them to sport or music lessons.

This May, Fiona will become the first mezzo soprano to headline a Brandenburg concert in 21 years.

"The castrati were the vocal superstars of the baroque and composers wrote fantastic music for heroic male characters with high voices," says **Paul Dyer**, Brandenburg Artistic Director.

"For our very first concert we had a mezzo soprano as the guest artist. Since then I've only used male countertenors to perform the great castrato arias, including the legendary **Andreas Scholl** and **Philippe Jaroussky**."

"In modern times when these male roles are sung by women - generally mezzo sopranos or contraltos - they are known as 'pants roles'," explains Paul.

"In Fiona Campbell we have a singer who has the vocal prowess and commanding presence to pull off the triumphant heroes and tragic heroines of Handel's great operas. Her tone is so beautifully shaped. It has such a rich colour."

"If I had to pick one incredible moment in this concert, it would have to be *Lascia ch'io pianga*. It is one of the most exquisite arias you will ever hear. You listen to it and time stops. The world first heard *Lascia* in 1711 during Handel's Opera Rinaldo. It is the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this work and we have this brilliant Australian bringing this immortal aria to life. It is going to be unforgettable.

"Prepare to be spellbound by Fiona Campbell."

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

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

Media information, interviews and pictures :

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# Haunting Handel

**Fiona Campbell** mezzo soprano

"Fiona Campbell steals the show" The Sydney Morning Herald

**Australian Brandenburg Orchestra**

**Paul Dyer** artistic director/ harpsichord

**Vivaldi** Sinfonia in C Major from Farnace, RV 711  
**Vivaldi** Aria – *Sorge L'irato nembo* from Orlando Furioso, RV 728  
**Vivaldi** Aria – *Sol per ti mio* from Orlando Furioso  
**Vivaldi** Concerto for Oboe in C Major, RV 450  
**Handel** Aria – *Where Shall I Fly* from Hercules HWV 60

**Handel** Overture to Julius Caesar HWV 17  
**Handel** Aria – *Mi Lusingo a dolce affetto* from Alcina HWV 34  
**Handel** Aria – *Se bramate d'amar* from Xerxes HWV 40  
**Handel** Concerto Grosso Op 3 No 2 HWV 313  
**Handel** Aria – *Lascia ch'io pianga* from Rinaldo HWV 7  
**Handel** Aria – *Doppo notte* from Ariodante HWV 33



MACQUARIE

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

**SYDNEY** City Recital Hall, Angel Place

Fri 13, Sat 14, Wed 18, Fri 20, Sat 21 May @ 7pm

**BOOKINGS:** City Recital Hall Box Office (02) 8256 2222 or [www.cityrecitalhall.com](http://www.cityrecitalhall.com)  
 Brandenburg Box Office (02) 9328 7581 or [www.brandenburg.com.au](http://www.brandenburg.com.au)  
 Ticketmaster 136 100 or [www.ticketmaster.com.au](http://www.ticketmaster.com.au)

Tickets range from \$60 to \$140.00 (Concessions available). Booking fees apply.

**MELBOURNE** Melbourne Recital Centre

Sun 22 May @ 5pm & Mon 23 May @ 7pm

**BOOKINGS:** Melbourne Recital Centre (03) 9699 3333 or [melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au)  
 Ticketmaster 136 100 or [www.ticketmaster.com.au](http://www.ticketmaster.com.au)

Tickets range from \$55 to \$125.00 (Concessions available). Booking fees apply.

**Media information, interviews and pictures :**

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