# MEDIA RELEASE

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The Brandenburg's festive tradition is now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year

# Noël! Noël!

A Celtic inspired Christmas concert with the BRANDENBURG CHOIR and AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA

With guest soloist, countertenor MAXIMILIAN RIEBL

#### - MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

- SYDNEY, CITY RECITAL HALL & CHURCHES IN CREMORNE, PADDINGTON, PARRAMATTA, WOLLONGONG & NEWTOWN

"I love devising the program for our **Noël! Noël!** Christmas concerts," says **Paul Dyer** AO, Brandenburg Artistic Director. "It is like pouring my soul into making a mixed tape for someone special and then putting on stage. I source the most beautiful, joyous and uplifting music I can find from the Renaissance right through to recent times – and then put the Brandenburg stamp on it."

**Noël! Noël!** is the Brandenburg's annual Christmas concert. In its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the series has become a festive tradition for thousands of people each year, with performances in concert halls in Sydney and Melbourne, and churches in Sydney and Wollongong. It has also resulted in two best-selling CDs, with **A Brandenburg Christmas** even hitting the ARIA Chart for pop albums in 2011.

"Each **Noël! Noël!** has a unique flavour and in 2013 I've found most of my inspiration in Celtic music," says **Paul Dyer**, "from stunningly beautiful hymns of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, a Welsh lullaby, Irish melodies and Scottish Ayres, and concluding with an epic song by **Secret Garden**. This is music in which the pure voices of the **Brandenburg Choir** will soar alongside the period instruments of the **Australian Brandenburg Orchestra**.

"In **Noël! Noël!** we blend the ancient with the modern, in our arrangements and also instrumentally. Where else would you find a cornetto, an instrument that dates back to Medieval times, performed alongside a modern saxophone?

"And this year we have a remarkable young singer from the ranks of the Brandenburg Choir who has emerged as a performer well and truly ready to take centre stage."

Currently singing in the **Belvoir St** production of **Hamlet** (alongside actors **Robin Nevin** and **Toby Schmitz**), **Maximilian Riebl** is a 22 year-old performer with music in his genes. His grandfather was a composer of advertising jingles, his uncle is a viola player with a major European career and his brother is **Felix Riebl**, the lead singer of the group **The Cat Empire**.

Born in Melbourne, Max spent some of his childhood living in Vienna where his musical gift was recognized. He politely declined an offer to be principal boy soprano with the **Vienna Boys Choir** but did take up offers of opera roles, including Cupid in the Vienna Chamber Opera's production of Blow's **Venus and Adonis**.

Max first sang on the Brandenburg stage as part of the Melbourne Grammar School Chapel Choir when he was in Year 12. Excited about the promise this young artist showed, Paul Dyer invited him to join the Brandenburg Choir. Now in his seventh Brandenburg season, Paul believes the moment has come for Max to step forth as soloist: "Max's time has come to shine. Physically, Max is a powerful young man – he even held the Australian junior bench press record in 2010 – but his voice is angelic and pure. With this beautiful sound comes great musicality and presence. Maximilan Riebl is a star on the rise."



# NOËL! NOËL! 2013

BRANDENBURG CHOIR AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA MAXIMILIAN RIEBL countertenor, guest soloist PAUL DYER artistic director / harpsichord

#### PROGRAM

Wesley (arr. Chance) Gibbons Farrant Traditional Traditional Matteis Anonymous Matteis Arlen/Harburg (arr. Dyer/Chance) Traditional Welsh (arr. Thomas) Traditional Irish. (arr. Leonard) Anonymous/Holst (arr. Chance) Javits/Springer (arr. Thomas) Berlin (arr. Rathbone) Gruber/Mohr Wade (arr. Willcocks) Loveland/Graham

Hereford (O Thou who Camest from Above) Hosanna to the Son of David Lord for they tender mercy's sake When She Came Ben She Bobbed Gilliam Callum Ciaconna The Wexford Carol Ground after the Scotch Humour Over the Rainbow Suo Gân Is Fada Liom Uaim Í My Dancing Day Santa Baby White Christmas Stille Nacht (Silent Night) O Come All Ye Faithful **Raise Your Voices** 

### 2 MELBOURNE CONCERTS

Sat 7 Dec	MELBOURNE	Melbourne Recital Centre	5pm & 7pm	
Bookings:	Melbourne Recital Centre Box Office (03) 9699 3333 or book online at www.melbournerecital.com.au			
	Ticket prices: From \$	55 / Under 30 from \$30 booking fees may app	ply	

# **3 SYDNEY CITY CONCERTS**

Sat 14 Dec	SYDNEY	City Recital Hall, Angel Place	5pm & 7pm
Wed 18 Dec	SYDNEY	City Recital Hall, Angel Place	7pm

Bookings: City Recital Hall Box Office (02) 8256 2222 or book online at www.cityrecitalhall.com Ticket prices: From \$40 / Under 30 from \$42 booking fees may apply

# 5 SYDNEY + 1 WOLLONGONG CHURCH CONCERTS

Mon 9 Dec	PARRAMATTA	St Patrick's Cathedral	7.30pm
Tue 10 Dec	CREMORNE	St Peter's Anglican Church	7.00pm
Wed 11 Dec	WOLLONGONG	St Francis Xavier's Cathedral	7.00pm
Fri 13 Dec	NEWTOWN	St Stephen's Anglican Church	7.00pm
Mon 16 Dec	PADDINGTON	St Francis of Assisi	7.00pm
Tue 17 Dec	PADDINGTON	St Francis of Assisi	7.00pm
Bookings:	Brandenburg Box Offi	ce (02) 9328 7581 or book online at www.bra	andenburg.com.au

Wollongong - Adult \$58 / Under 30 \$34 booking fees may apply

Parramatta, Newtown - Adult \$68 / Under 30 \$45 booking fees may apply Paddington, Cremorne - Adult \$78 / Under 30 \$60 booking fees may apply

All church concerts are General Admission.



MACQUARIE

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

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