

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 21 January 2014

BACH MAGNIFICAT 25th ANNIVERSARY GALA
SYDNEY 19, 21, 26, 28 February & 1 March at 7pm
Matinee 1 March at 2pm
MELBOURNE 22 February at 7pm, 23 February at 5pm

AUSTRALIAN
BRANDENBURG
ORCHESTRA

Paul Dyer pulls out all stops to celebrate 25 years of the Brandenburg

Turning back to JS Bach for the rarely-heard original version of his choral masterpiece **Magnificat** & the world premiere of Elena Kats-Chernin's epic homage to Bach, **Prelude and Cube**

"25 years ago, **Bruce Applebaum** and I started an orchestra – a period instrument orchestra with gut strings, wooden flutes and valve-less natural horns and trumpets," says Artistic Director **Paul Dyer AO**.

"We wanted Australia to experience and love the brilliance of orchestral baroque music on the instruments for which it was written, and we turned to JS Bach for inspiration. The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra is named after his Brandenburg Concertos, the pinnacle of baroque artistry.

"How would I mark 25 years of concerts and recordings with a remarkable and talented group of musicians and friends?" asks Paul. "Easy. I turned back to Bach.

"The 25th anniversary concert needed harmony and colour, energy and brilliance so we will perform the grand and flamboyant **Magnificat**. It is a showpiece, architecturally perfect and incredibly moving for both the musicians and the audience. This is a chance for the Orchestra and Brandenburg Choir to soar"

Paul also wanted to mark the anniversary by the creation of new music, specially created for the forces and unique instruments of the Brandenburg. He turned to the celebrated composer and his old friend **Elena Kats-Chernin** (the pair were post graduate piano students together at the Sydney Conservatorium).

"Elena is in seriously high demand around the world for her concert pieces, opera and theatre music," says Paul, "and many millions of people heard her glorious and glittering **Deep Sea Dreaming** in the **Sydney Olympic Games** opening ceremony."

Prelude and Cube is Elena's vivacious homage to Bach with a feeling of "celebratory grandness," she says. "The piece is like a glimpse into baroque, rather than baroque style.

"I wanted to use all the forces involved in the concert, including the Brandenburg Choir. The grander the instrumentation, the grander the formation and the grander the piece can be. The only modern instrument in the **Prelude and Cube** is the saxophone. It brings something of 'now' to the concert, which is in a way like my role."

"Elena has written an epic and happy piece that gathers momentum, becoming bigger and bigger as it builds in excitement," says Paul. "For me, that reflects the story of the Brandenburg, from our first concert on the stage of the Sydney Opera House until now. The last 25 years have been a thrilling ride that keeps gathering speed!"

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www.brandenburg.com.au

Media information, interviews & pictures:

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BACH MAGNIFICAT

Music by JS Bach and Elena Kats-Chernin

Jane Sheldon soprano soloist

Maximilian Riebl countertenor soloist

Richard Butler tenor soloist

Nick Gilbert bass soloist

Brandenburg Choir

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra

Paul Dyer AO artistic director & conductor



MACQUARIE

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

JS Bach Magnificat BWV 243a in E flat major □
JS Bach Suite No 4 BWV 1069 in D major □
Kats-Chernin Prelude and Cube □
□

SYDNEY

City Recital Hall Angel Place

EVENINGS Wed 19, Fri 21, Wed 26, Fri 28 February & Sat 1 March @ 7pm
MATINEE Sat 1 March @ 2pm

BOOKINGS City Recital Hall Angel Place (02) 8256 2222 or www.cityrecitalhall.com
Brandenburg (02) 9328 7581 or www.brandenburg.com.au
Tickets range from \$68 to \$160 (Concessions/Under 30 available). Booking fees apply.

MELBOURNE

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre

Sat 22 February @ 7pm & Sun 23 February @ 5pm

BOOKINGS Melbourne Recital Centre (03) 9699 3333 or www.melbournerecital.com.au
Brandenburg 1300 782 856 or www.brandenburg.com.au
Tickets range from \$65 to \$146 (Concessions/Under 30 available). Booking fees apply.

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