

THE ORCHESTRA PROJECT PERFORMS MENDELSSOHN AND MAHLER

On Tuesday 10 December 2019, The Orchestra Project will perform its inaugural concert in Sydney at the Verbrugghen Hall, Conservatorium of Music. Under the direction of esteemed conductor Fabian Russell, The Orchestra Project will be joined by Harry Bennetts, Associate Concertmaster of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, as soloist in Mendelssohn's iconic Violin Concerto in E Minor. The performance will conclude with Gustav Mahler's transcendent Symphony No. 4 featuring multi-award winning soprano Lorina Gore.

Mahler himself described the melodies of this symphony as "*a dewdrop on a flower that suddenly illuminated by the sun, bursts into a thousand lights and colours.*" This beautifully structured masterpiece takes audiences on a transformative journey from the child-like simplicity of the opening sleigh bells through to the divine Finale – *The Heavenly Life* from Mahler's song cycle *The Youth's Magic Horn*. The Orchestra Project is thrilled to be joined by one of Australia's finest sopranos, Opera Australia Principal Artist Lorina Gore.

Sydney-born violinist Harry Bennetts makes his debut with The Orchestra Project for this performance. Harry is an alumnus of the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) and the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. He has performed concertos with the Melbourne, Tasmanian, Willoughby, and Canberra Symphony orchestras and is rightfully considered to be one of the true rising stars of the Australian classical music community.

The Orchestra Project was established by conductor Fabian Russell in 2002 as a training ensemble for the development of Australia's best young orchestral musicians. This critically acclaimed ensemble provides opportunities for gifted young musicians to play alongside the very best musicians from Australia's professional orchestras.

Nick Deutsch, ANAM Artistic Director said "ANAM is pleased once again to support The Orchestra Project. It offers our students the chance to perform large-scale symphonic repertoire under the expert guidance of one of the country's most accomplished orchestral educators and alongside many of its leading orchestral instrumentalists. We are delighted that The Orchestra Project will be making its long-awaited Sydney debut."

Founding patron of The Orchestra Project, Australian composer and conductor, Richard Mills AM said "This project offers young people the opportunity for a serious encounter with the great literature for orchestra under the expert guidance of a wonderful musician, inspired educator, and fine conductor. I am proud to be its patron."

Chair of The Orchestra Project Inc., Professor Peter Tregear, commented: "The Orchestra Project offers young musicians to work beside leading orchestral musicians in an especially intensive and rewarding artistic and educational environment. But it also gives the wider public an opportunity to hear such works performed with exceptional commitment and intensity at a very affordable price!"

"...rarely will you hear a performance which matches the energy, dedication and passion delivered by Fabian Russell and the musicians of The Orchestra Project"

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"If this is the future for Melbourne music, it's in good hands."

The Age

Performance Details:

Where: Verbrugghen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music

When: 7pm, Tuesday 10 December 2019

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