



SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS TOUR TASMANIA

LAUNCESTON (26 October), HOBART (27 October)



Media kit

Media interviews and images

Prue Vercoe | 02 8904 0822 | prue@tjc.com.au

0410 541 663 | www.tjc.com.au

September 2008

For immediate release
24 September 2008



MEDIA RELEASE

One of Australia's most innovative chamber ensembles, Southern Cross Soloists, brings its own unique sound down south for special two-concert tour of Tasmania: October 2008

Mozart	<i>Batti Batti and Vedrai carino from Don Giovanni</i>
Beethoven	Quintet Opus 16
Ravel	<i>Greek Songs</i>
Chabrier	<i>España</i>
Canteloube	Excerpts from <i>Songs of the Auvergne</i>

Since its formation in 1995, the Southern Cross Soloists (SXS) has established itself as one of the most exciting musical ensembles in Australia, developing an international reputation for ground-breaking performance. In October this six-member ensemble will bring its distinctive sounds to Tasmania in a special two-concert tour, which completes its 2008 national tour.

The ensemble's **unique combination of oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, piano and soprano** allows for the performance of a wide variety of repertoire in many different genres. Tasmanian audiences will be treated to well-known favourites from **Mozart's** *Don Giovanni* opera, along with **Beethoven's** Quintet Opus 16, **Ravel's** *Greek Songs*, **Chabrier's** lively Spanish rhapsody *España* and excerpts from **Canteloube's** *Songs of the Auvergne*, which will transport listeners to the picturesque setting of the French countryside.

The first concert is a matinee performance in **Launceston** on **Sunday 26 October** at **3pm**, in Inveresk's School of Visual & Performing Arts. This is followed by an evening performance in **Hobart** on **Monday 27 October** starting **8pm**, in the Hobart Town Hall.

SXS Artistic Director Paul Dean says "the concert tour provides the players with plenty of scope to do what they do best – make brilliant music. We are delighted to provide an opportunity to present some wonderful repertoire – a combination of well-known favourites and a new arrangement of some great Spanish repertoire.

This two-concert tour is part of SXS seventh national tour, with preceding concerts in Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra. This tour is also punctuated by the highly anticipated release of its new ABC Classics disc, entitled *The Three Cornered Hat: Spanish Fantasies*, available now in all leading ABC stores nationally.

This joint CD recording with Slava Grigoryan features exquisite songs by three of the great names of Spanish music – Rodrigo, Grandos and Falla, along with a new work by SXS's *Composer in Focus*, James Ledger and a new arrangement of Chabrier's lively Spanish rhapsody *España*.

Launceston Presented in association with Musica North
Sunday 26 October – 3:00pm
North School of Visual & Performing Arts, Inveresk
Tickets: \$28-\$38, Bookings: Ph (03) 6323 3742

Hobart
Monday 27 October – 8:00pm
Hobart Town Hall
Tickets: \$35-\$46, Bookings: Ph (03) 1800 001 190

MEDIA: For information, images & interviews please contact TJC: (02) 8904 0822, Prue Vercoe
0410 541 663, prue@tjc.com.au

tjc ~ to join creatively
suite 101, 55 lavender st milsons point nsw 2061 australia
p +61 2 8904 0822 | f + 61 2 8904 0932 | tjc.com.au

SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS

Since their formation in 1995, *Southern Cross Soloists* has established a firm reputation as one of the most respected, innovative and exciting music ensembles in Australia, developing an international reputation for ground-breaking performance along the way.

The group's unique combination of oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, piano and soprano allows for the performance of a wide variety of repertoire in many different genres and their concert programs regularly range from Baroque cantatas through the standard (and not so standard) classical and romantic compositions for winds and piano, to works combining voice and instruments, in particular songs with instrumental obligato.

The Soloists maintain a busy schedule of performing, teaching, conducting, presenting masterclasses and recording. They have undertaken successful international tours, most recently to Canada (February 2008) and China (November 2007), where they received very enthusiastic responses. Previous tours have included the United States, New Zealand, Canada and South Korea. The ensemble also makes national tours within Australia each year, in 2008, with guitarist Slava Grigoryan, to coincide with the release by ABC Classics of the CD they recorded together in 2007. In previous years, they have toured with Yossi Arnheim (Principal Flute with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra) and Slava Grigoryan (2006) and harpist Marshall McGuire (2007). They have also appeared at the Camden Haven Music Festival in Port Macquarie, the Brisbane Festival, the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival and the Port Fairy Festival.

In 2002 the ensemble established the Bangalow Music Festival, held annually in the northern NSW heritage village of Bangalow. The Festival offers a weekend of diverse programs, breathtaking performances and camaraderie between musicians and the audience, inspiring Peter Sculthorpe to label the event as the "finest Festival held outside of a capital city". Guests at the Festival have included Ilya Konovalov (Concertmaster of the Israel Philharmonic), Tankstream Quartet, Australian String Quartet, Peter Sculthorpe, Tel Aviv Trio, Genevieve Lacey, Brett Dean, Marshall McGuire, David Berlin, Stephen McIntyre, the Melba Quartet, Collusion, Slava and Leonard Grigoryan, Fusion Piano Duo and Mark Gasser. The Festival has also featured the premieres of seven works in its short history. Australian composers featured at the Festival have included Peter Sculthorpe, Brett Dean, Gerard Brophy, Paul Stanhope, Gordon Kerry, Andrew Schultz, Kat McGuffee and Damian Barbeler.

An established and demonstrated dedication to music education takes the ensemble throughout regional Queensland each year, giving individual and group lessons, workshops and concerts. In 2007 they visited Bundaberg and Cairns to inspire music students over a concentrated weekend of masterclasses and performances. Their partnership with Major Player Enterprises in Rockhampton has ensured the continued growth and expansion of these programs, which have now benefited thousands of students in regional Queensland. During one week in July 2005 alone, the ensemble gave instruction to over 1600 music students from Emerald, Blackwater, Rockhampton and Yeppoon.

2006 witnessed the launch of the SunWater and Stanwell Winter Music School held in Rockhampton in July. 112 high-school music students from across Queensland gathered for an intensive week of concerts, classes, workshops, rehearsals and lessons, which culminated in a sold-out Grand Finale Concert showcasing the student's spectacular outcomes. The success of this event has ensured that the Winter Music School will become a regular biennial event in Rockhampton during the Queensland June/July school holidays.

Southern Cross Soloists have a strong commitment to commissioning and performing Australian music. The group released an all-Australian CD in late 2004 featuring the music of Gordon Kerry, Paul Stanhope, Richard Mills, Steven Stanfield and Vincent Plush, amongst others. Other recordings available include *LIVE* (2002), *NINA* (2002), *Russia* (2000) and *Concert Sampler* (1998).

2007 has seen the premieres of new works by Stuart Greenbaum and Andrew Schultz, commissioned by the ensemble with funds provided by the Australia Council for the Arts. Further new works have been commissioned from James Ledger and William Barton for 2008. Southern Cross Soloists are currently *Ensemble in Residence* at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.

The group features six of Australia's leading musicians:

Director and clarinetist **Paul Dean** is much in demand as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player. He regularly appears at national Festivals and with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Grainger Quartet and the Endeavour Trio.

Tania Frazer, formerly the principal oboe with the Israel Symphony Orchestra enjoys a busy career as a soloist and teacher and regularly appears as the principal oboist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

tjc ~ to join creatively

suite 101, 55 lavender st milsons point nsw 2061 australia

p +61 2 8904 0822 | f + 61 2 8904 0932 | tjc.com.au

Leesa Dean is on the staff at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and the University of Qld. She makes regular guest appearances with The Queensland Orchestra and with Tania and Paul, performs for the Musica Viva in Schools program throughout Queensland.

Lyric soprano **Margaret Schindler**, a Senior Lecturer at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, is a nationally recognised teacher who is also in great demand as a recitalist, particularly for her performances of baroque and contemporary repertoire.

Horn player **Peter Luff** is a Senior Lecturer at the Queensland Conservatorium as well as acting associate principal horn with The Queensland Orchestra. He is highly regarded as a player and teacher throughout Australia while also developing a successful career as a conductor.

Kevin Power pursues a busy freelance career as a pianist, performing regularly as a soloist, accompanist and chamber musician. He was formerly on the staff of the Queensland Conservatorium, and is the Chorus Master and Musical Director of The Queensland Choir.

Southern Cross Soloists

manager@southernxsoloists.com | 07 3735 6351 | www.southernxsoloists.com