

The Queensland Orchestra

MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday, November 26, 2009

A TIME TO REJOICE

Handel's *Messiah* | 8pm, Saturday December 5

One of Britain's most admired conductors, Stephen Layton, will electrify audiences on Saturday December 5, when he conducts Handel's *Messiah* with The Queensland Orchestra at the QPAC Concert Hall.

Mr Layton's exquisite interpretations of Handel's greatest works have been praised by audiences across the globe from the Sydney Opera House to the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam.

Mr Layton now promises to captivate Brisbane music lovers as he leads The Queensland Orchestra in their finale concert event of the 2009 Season.

Director of Artistic Planning for The Queensland Orchestra, Richard Wenn says Mr Layton is one of the best choral conductors of his time.

"Stephen demonstrates exceptional musicianship in his exhilarating performances," said Mr Wenn.

"The appeal of *Messiah* to present-day audiences is the accessibility of the story and the thematic material cementing it as a favourite for families" said Mr Wenn.

Mr Wenn encourages Brisbane families to celebrate the arrival of Christmas and take a moment to reflect with one of the most renowned pieces of sacred music.

"*Messiah* covers the prophecy of Christ's coming and birth, his rejection and suffering, crucifixion and resurrection – the latter marked by the famous *Hallelujah Chorus*," said Mr Wenn.

Layton has hand-picked the singers for this performance; soloists Miriam Allan (soprano), Clint van der Linde (counter tenor), Paul McMahon (tenor), and Jonathan Lemalu (baritone). Also joining the performance will be the Brisbane Chorale.

On composing *Messiah* Handel declared, "I think I did see all Heaven before me"; more than 250 years later, audiences continue to be inspired by this greatest of all oratorios, a unique musical and emotional experience.

Tickets to Handel's *Messiah* are from \$50 and are on sale now through QTIX. Visit www.qtix.com.au or call 136 246.

- Ends -

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Concert Details

Handel's *Messiah*
8pm, Saturday, December 5
QPAC Concert Hall

Conductor: Stephen Layton

Soprano Miriam Allen

Counter Tenor Clint van der Linde

Tenor Paul McMahon

Baritone Jonathan Lemalu

Choir Brisbane Chorale; Directed by Emily Cox

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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Queensland Symphony
Orchestra

STATE ORCHESTRA TAKES A KEY CHANGE

Queensland's beloved State Orchestra has recently launched its 2010 Season, and announced a major key change.

The organisation will now be known as the 'Queensland Symphony Orchestra' and has introduced a new, complementary logo incorporating the reds and oranges of the Queensland sun.

2010 will mark a new beginning for the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and a renewed commitment to the organisation's mission, 'to touch the hearts and minds of all Queenslanders through music'.

While the organisation is now trading under the name, 'Queensland Symphony Orchestra', all 2009 concerts will continue to be advertised under previous branding due to annual communications that remain in the marketplace regarding the 2009 Season.

If you have any enquiries, or would like a copy of the 2010 Season brochure, please contact the Marketing Department on 07 3833 5042 or 07 3833 5046.