

**AUSTRALIAN
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**MEDIA KIT
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MEDIA RELEASE

The Australian World Orchestra brings Australia's finest musical talent home for three extraordinary concerts

"... the Mehta Stravinsky and Mahler concert was such a thrilling night of brilliant musicianship (always GREAT when Melbourne audiences get to their feet in rapture!)" – Geoffrey Rush

"The Australian World Orchestra brings together some of the finest musicians I have had the pleasure to make music with. I adored conducting them last year." – Zubin Mehta

In July/August 2015, the Australian World Orchestra (AWO) performs under the baton of Chief Conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, **Sir Simon Rattle**, together with internationally renowned mezzo-soprano **Magdalena Kožená**. AWO will perform three electrifying performances in Australia, at the Sydney Opera House and the Arts Centre Melbourne, Hamer Hall, before the orchestra makes its international debut, accepting Zubin Mehta's invitation to perform in India in October 2015.

AWO Founder and Artistic Director, **Alexander Briger**, said: "It's so exciting that the AWO will come together in 2015 to work with the incomparable Sir Simon Rattle in Australia, and that we give our first international performances, reuniting with Maestro Zubin Mehta in India."

Since its inaugural concert series in 2011, AWO has dazzled Australian audiences and established its place as one of the world's premier orchestras. Founded through the creative vision of internationally acclaimed conductor Alexander Briger, AWO brings Australia's utmost classical music talent from around the world to perform together. The 2015 season includes 95 Australian musicians from over 30 cities and 45 of the world's leading orchestras and ensembles, from the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestras, the Royal Concertgebouw, and the London and Chicago Symphony Orchestras, as well as Australia's own magnificent state orchestras.

After the outstanding success of their 2013 series under legendary Indian conductor Zubin Mehta, which *Limelight Magazine* described as "The concert of the year ... in a word matchless", the AWO has once again attracted one of the world's most brilliant and charismatic conductors, Sir Simon Rattle.

Since 2002, Sir Simon Rattle has been Music Director of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, arguably the world's finest orchestra. Having conducted many of the world's other great orchestras and opera companies, Rattle's countless honours include a knighthood and the Order of Merit from Her Majesty the Queen. He and the Berlin Philharmonic were appointed International UNICEF Ambassadors, the first time this honour has been conferred on an artistic ensemble.

Czech mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kožená is one of the most outstanding singers of our generation, launching an international career in her mid-twenties, signing with Deutsch Grammophon in 1999. Since then, Kožená has worked with many of the world's leading conductors and ensembles, including the Berlin, Vienna and Czech Philharmonics, the Cleveland, Philadelphia and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestras, the Royal Opera House and the Berlin Staatsoper, establishing her reputation as a soloist and opera singer of first rank, as her beguiling performances hold audiences spellbound.

Sir Simon Rattle said, *"The world has heard how fantastic the AWO is and there's so many of us fighting either to play in it or conduct it. Magdalena and I are thrilled to be coming to Australia and we can't wait to work with this great orchestra."*

Sir Simon Rattle will lead the AWO performing three works, commencing with Claude Debussy's sublime "Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune" (*Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*), showcasing the orchestra's many exquisite soloists. Magdalena Kožená will join the orchestra in a world premiere to perform Debussy's gorgeous "Ariettes oubliées" (*Forgotten Songs*), which has been especially orchestrated by Australia's foremost composer, Brett Dean. The major work on this Romantic program will be Anton Bruckner's tour de force 8th Symphony, a work ingrained in Sir Simon Rattle's soul.

The AWO was proud in 2014 to have secured venue partnerships commencing with a three-year partnership with the Sydney Opera House. They are delighted now to announce that the Arts Centre Melbourne will be co-presenting the 2015 concert in Melbourne.

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THE AUSTRALIAN WORLD ORCHESTRA

The Australian World Orchestra (AWO) is one of the most exciting orchestra initiatives in Australia's cultural history. The AWO's purpose is simple: to bring together Australia's finest orchestral musicians from across the world to perform in Australia and overseas, while encouraging and developing young talent.

The Australian musicians have talent, dedication and passion and are represented in leading world orchestras including the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic, Chicago and London Symphony Orchestra. Our state orchestras have deserved reputations for excellence and perform at the highest standard. The AWO brings together the cream of our national and international musicians, providing them with the unique opportunity to perform together and on home soil.

"The traffic between Australia and the rest of the musical world, once one-directional, now goes both ways as the AWO project demonstrates." Matthew Westwood, *The Australian*

2015 PROGRAM DETAILS

In memory of Australian violist, John Lynch, RTE National Symphony Orchestra, Ireland, and a member of AWO.

CLAUDE DEBUSSY – Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (*Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*)

CLAUDE DEBUSSY – Ariettes oubliées (*Forgotten Songs*) arranged Brett Dean

ANTON BRUCKNER – Symphony No.8 in C minor

Major Concert Series

Wednesday 29 July – Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Friday 31 July – Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Saturday 1 August – Hamer Hall, Arts Centre, Melbourne

The AWO has been invited by Zubin Mehta to perform in India in October 2015.

TICKETS - 14 Nov 2014

www.australianworldorchestra.com.au

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BIOGRAPHIES

SIR SIMON RATTLE

Guest Conductor
Australian World Orchestra 2015 Season



Sir Simon Rattle was born in Liverpool and studied at the Royal Academy of Music.

Between 1980 and 1998, Rattle was Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and was later appointed Music Director. He toured and recorded extensively with the orchestra whilst also building strong relationships with the leading orchestras in London, Europe and the USA; initially working closely with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and Boston Symphony Orchestras, and more recently with The Philadelphia Orchestra. He regularly conducts the Vienna Philharmonic, with which he has recorded the complete Beethoven symphonies and piano concertos (with Alfred Brendel) and is also a Principal Artist of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Founding Patron of Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. Following his 1977 Glyndebourne Festival Opera debut, he has conducted many productions there, as well as a series for Netherlands Opera. Other notable debuts included English National Opera (1985), his US opera debut in Los Angeles (1988), Royal Opera House (1990) and Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris (1996).

For 15 years a regular guest conductor of the Berliner Philharmoniker, Simon Rattle became its Chief Conductor and Artistic Director in September 2002. As well as fulfilling a taxing concert schedule in Berlin, the partnership tours extensively and has garnered many awards for its recordings and pioneering educational work. During the past decade Simon Rattle and the Berliner Philharmoniker have commissioned many works by composers such as Adès, Berio, Boulez, Grisey, Gubaidulina, Lindberg, and Turnage.

For the Salzburg Easter Festival Rattle has conducted staged productions of *Fidelio*, *Così fan tutte*, *Peter Grimes*, *Pelléas et Mélisande*, *Salome* and *Carmen*, a concert performance of *Idomeneo* and many contrasting concert programmes, all with the Berliner Philharmoniker. Between 2006 and 2010 he also conducted Wagner's complete Ring Cycle with the Berliner Philharmoniker for the Aix-en-Provence and Salzburg Easter Festivals. His latest productions have included *Pelléas et Mélisande* and *Les Dialogues des Carmélites* for the Royal Opera House; *Tristan und Isolde* for the Wiener Staatsoper; *L'Étoile*, *Aus einem Totenhaus* and *Káťa Kabanová* for the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin; and his debut at Metropolitan Opera, New York, with *Pelléas et Mélisande*. In March this year, Rattle was announced as the new Musical Director of the London Symphony Orchestra. He will take up his appointment in 2017.

MAGDALENA KOŽENÁ

Guest Performer

Australian World Orchestra 2015 Season



Magdalena Kožená was born in the Czech city of Brno and studied voice and piano at the Brno Conservatory and later with Eva Bláhová at Bratislava's Academy of Performing Arts. She has been awarded several major prizes both in the Czech Republic and internationally, culminating in the Sixth International Mozart Competition in Salzburg in 1995.

Signed by Deutsche Grammophon in 1999, she immediately released her first album of Bach arias on its Archiv label. She was named *Artist of the Year* by Gramophone in 2004 and has won numerous other awards since, including the *Echo Award*, *Record Academy Prize*, *Tokyo*, and *Diapason d'or*. Most recent releases for Deutsche Grammophon have included 'Prayer' for voice and organ with Christian Schmidt (2013) and 'Love and longing' with the Berliner Philharmoniker and Sir Simon Rattle (2012).

Kožená has worked with many of the world's leading conductors, Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez, Gustavo Dudamel, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Bernard Haitink, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Mariss Jansons, James Levine, Sir Charles Mackerras and Sir Roger Norrington. Her list of distinguished recital partners includes the pianists Daniel Barenboim, Yefim Bronfman, Malcolm Martineau, Andrés Schiff and Mitsuko Uchida, with whom she has performed at such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Alice Tully Hall and the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, and at the Aldeburgh, Edinburgh and Salzburg festivals. Kožená's understanding of historical performance practices have been cultivated in collaboration with outstanding period-instrument ensembles, including the English Baroque Soloists, the Gabrieli Consort and Players, Il Giardino Armonico, Les Musiciens du Louvre, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Venice Baroque Orchestra and La Cetra, Basel.

She is in demand as a soloist with the Berlin, Vienna and Czech Philharmonics and the Cleveland, Philadelphia and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestras.

Kožená first performed at the Salzburg Festival in 2002 and returned in 2013 as Idamante. Kožená made her first appearance at New York's Metropolitan Opera in 2003 and has since been a regular guest. Her opera credits also include Angelina in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (Royal Opera House, 2007), Oktavian in Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* (Berlin Staatsoper, 2009), Lazuli in Chabrier's *L'étoile* (Berlin Staatsoper, 2010), and the title role in Bizet's *Carmen* (Salzburg Easter and Summer Festivals, 2012).

ALEXANDER BRIGER

Founder and Artistic Director

Australian World Orchestra 2015 Season



Alexander Briger studied in Sydney and Munich and won first prize at the "International Competition for Conductors" in the Czech Republic in 1993. He later worked closely with Sir Charles Mackerras and Pierre Boulez.

He performs regularly with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London (collaborating with such soloists as Maria Joao Pires and Murray Perahia) and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, including their tour to China in 2004 and made his BBC Proms and Berlin Festival debuts with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and Edinburgh Festival debut with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. In August 2010 he founded the Australian World Orchestra, of which he is the Artistic Director and Chief Conductor.

Alexander's 2012/13 engagements have included performances of John Adams' *I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky* at the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, following a hugely successful debut at the same theatre in 2012 conducting the Paris premiere of Adams' *Nixon in China*.

He has also worked with the Orchestre de Paris, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Konzerthaus Orchester, Berlin, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony, Swedish Radio Orchestra, Danish Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Frankfurt Radio Orchestra, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Salzburg Mozarteum, Ensemble InterContemporain, Japanese Virtuoso Symphony, Monte Carlo Philharmonic and with the London Sinfonietta, collaborating with Peter Sellars and pianist Hélène Grimaud for the premiere of Arvo Pärt's *Lament Tate*.

In Australia he has conducted all the State Symphony Orchestras. Performances with the Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras have included excerpts from Wagner's Ring Cycle, Holst's *The Planets* and Janacek's *Sinfonietta*.

He made his debut with Opera Australia in 1998 conducting *Jenufa*, and his operatic work for Opera Australia has since included *Madama Butterfly*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has also conducted *The Rape of Lucretia* (Covent Garden), *The Magic Flute* (Glyndebourne), *Rigoletto* and *The Makropulos Case* (English National Opera), *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Aix-en-Provence), *From the House of the Dead* (Canadian Opera Company), *The Tales of Hoffmann* (Royal Danish Opera), *The Bartered Bride* (Royal Swedish Opera), *Pique Dame* (Kommische Oper, Berlin), *La Bohème* and *Carmen* (State Opera of South Australia) and Bartók ballets (*Opera du Rhin*).

Future engagements include The London Symphony Orchestra's Discovery Concerts, Mahler's 9th Symphony with the Australian International Symphony Orchestra Institute, Adams's *I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky* with Teatro dell'Opera di Roma and Janacek's *Katya Kabanova* with the Toulon Opera.

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ARTISTS

VIOLIN

Dale Barltrop • Concertmaster, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra; Concertmaster, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
Natalie Chee • 1st Concertmaster, SWR Symphony Orchestra, Stuttgart
Brielle Clapson • Violinist, Sydney Symphony
Heather Cottrell • Principal 2nd Violin, Bavarian Radio Orchestra
Monica Curro • Assistant Principal 2nd Violin, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
Lerida Delbridge • Assistant Concertmaster, Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Daniel Dodds • Lucerne Festival Orchestra; Soloists of the Festival Orchestra Lucerne; Soloists of the Festival Strings, Lucerne; Guest Concertmaster; Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Stanley Dodds • Violinist, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra
Madeleine Easton • Concertmaster, Hanover Band, UK
Simon Fordham • Principal 2nd Violin, Munich Philharmonic Orchestra
Emily Francis • Violinist, BBC Symphony Orchestra
Anne Harvey-Nagl • Concertmaster, Volksoper Vienna; Koehne Quartet, Vienna
Kirsty Hilton • Violinist, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Lucerne Festival Orchestra; Co-Principal 2nd Violin, Sydney Symphony
Simon James • Assistant Concertmaster, Seattle Symphony Orchestra; Concertmaster, Seattle Chamber Orchestra
Graeme Jennings • Former Violinist, Arditti String Quartet, London; Violinist, Elision Ensemble; Senior Lecturer in Violin, Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University
Naoko Keatley • Violinist, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Joanna Lewis • 1st Violin, Koehne Quartet, Vienna; Guest Violinist, Radio Symphony Orchestra, Kangforum & Philharmonia, Vienna
Belinda McFarlane • Violinist, London Symphony Orchestra
Anna McMichael • Violinist, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam, Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, London Sinfonietta
Jane Piper • Violinist, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam
Sophie Rowell • Former Lead Violin, Australian String Quartet
Patrick Savage • Concertmaster, Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, London
Wilma Smith • Concertmaster, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
Claire Sterling • Principal 2nd Violin, Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Scott Stiles • Mozarteum Orchestra, Salzburg
Miki Tsunoda • Principal 2nd Violin, Royal Flemish Philharmonic Orchestra
Marie-Danielle Turner • Violinist, National Orchestra of Belgium
Melinda Watzel • Principal 2nd Violin, Komische Oper Berlin
Asmira Woodward-Page • Soloist, Violinist of the Momenta Quartet; Concertmaster, String Orchestra of New York City

VIOLA

Sally Clarke • Violist, SWR Symphony Orchestra, Stuttgart
Anne-Louise Comerford • Associate Principal, Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Andra Darzins • Former Principal Viola, Hamburg Philharmonic; Guest Principal, Staatskapelle Berlin & Munich Philharmonic Orchestras; Professor of Viola, University of Music & Performing Arts, Stuttgart
Brett Dean • Composer & Former Viola, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra
Chris Moore • Principal Viola, Australian Chamber Orchestra
Simon Oswell • Former Principal Viola, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra; Capitol Ensemble, Los Angeles; Hollywood Recording Artist
Tahlia Petrosian • Gewandhaus, Leipzig
Patricia Pollett • Violist, Director of Performance Studies, School of Music, University of Queensland
Fiona Sargeant • Acting Principal Viola, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
Andra Ulrichs • Principal, Basel Symphony Orchestra
Justin Williams • Assistant Principal Viola, Sydney Symphony Orchestra; Tinalley String Quartet
Katie Yap • Violinist, Australian Youth Orchestra

CELLO

Melissa Barnard • Australian Chamber Orchestra
David Berlin • Principal, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
Sharon Draper • Australian String Quartet
Catherine Hewgill • Principal Cello, Sydney Symphony
Roderick McGrath • Principal, West Australian Symphony Orchestra
Peter Morrison • Cellist, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra
Tim Nankervis • Cellist, Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Howard Penny • Cellist, Chamber Orchestra of Europe; Former Principal, Vienna Chamber Orchestra; Professor of Cello, National Academy of Music, Melbourne
Clare Rowe • The Halle Orchestra, UK
Julian Smiles • Australia Ensemble, Goldner String Quartet; Lecturer, Sydney Conservatorium of Music
Julian Thompson • Australian Chamber Orchestra

DOUBLE BASS

Kees Boersma • Principal Double Bass, Sydney Symphony
Tim Dunin • Former Double Bass, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra; Professor of Double Bass, University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz
Alex Henery • Principal, Sydney Symphony, Former Co-Principal, Philharmonia, London

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Max McBride • Former Principal Double Bass, ACO; former Co-Principal Double Bass, Sydney Symphony; Vienna State Opera; Senior Lecturer Australian National University School of Music, Canberra
Kirsty McCahon • Principal Double Bass, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra; Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
Matthew McDonald • Principal Double Bass, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra
Robert Nairn • Professor of Double Bass, the Juilliard School & Penn State University
Ciro Vigilante • Principal Double Bass, Vienna Chamber Orchestra

FLUTE

Alison Mitchell • Principal Flute, Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Emma Sholl • Associate Principal Flute, Sydney Symphony
Meg Sterling • Principal Flute, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

OBOE

Nick Deutsch • International Advisor, AWO; Solo Oboe, Frankfurt Opera; Solo Oboe, Budapest Festival Orchestra; Prof. of Oboe, Hochschule für Musik, Leipzig
Shefali Pryor • Associate Principal, Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Rixon Thomas • Solo English Horn, Royal Danish Orchestra

CLARINET

Francesco Celata • Associate Principal Clarinet, Sydney Symphony
Jon Craven • Principal Bass Clarinet, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
Paul Dean • Artistic Director and Clarinetist, Southern Cross Soloists; Artistic Director, National Academy of Music

BASSOON

Lyndon Watts • Principal Bassoon, Munich Philharmonic Orchestra; Professor of Bassoon, Berne University of the Arts, Berne
Matthew Wilkie • Principal, Sydney Symphony; Chamber Orchestra of Europe

CONTRABASSOON

Brock Imison • Principal Contrabassoon, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

HORN

Andrew Bain • Principal Horn, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra
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TRUMPET

Lukas Beno • Principal, Gewandhaus, Leipzig
David Elton • Principal, Sydney Symphony
Shane Hooten • Associate Principal Trumpet, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

TROMBONE

Scott Kinmont • Associate Principal, Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Michael Mulcahy • Trombone, Chicago Symphony Orchestra; Director, CSO Brass; Professor, Northwestern University; Chicago Chamber Musicians

BASS TROMBONE

Shannon Pittaway • Bass Trombone, Singapore Symphony Orchestra; Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Australian Brass Quintet

TUBA

David Cribb • Tuba, Gewandhaus Orchestra, Leipzig

TIMPANI

Antoine Bedwei • Co-Principal, London Symphony Orchestra

PERCUSSION

Troy Greatz • Principal, West Australian Symphony Orchestra
David Montgomery • Percussion Lecturer, Queensland Conservatorium of Music; Director, Isorhythmos Percussion

HARP

Alice Giles • Head of Harp and Senior Lecturer, ANU School of Music; First Prize, 8th Israel International Harp Competition; Director, Seven Harp Ensemble, Principal Harp, Canberra Symphony Orchestra
Marshall McGuire • Music Programmer, Arts Centre Melbourne, Elision Ensemble
Melina van Leeuwen • Australian Youth Orchestra/ANAM

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