



Media Release Embargo date: [24 October, 6pm](#)

## THE “MATCHLESS” AUSTRALIAN WORLD ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR 2019 SEASON

Following the sensational response to the concerts with Maestro Riccardo Muti earlier this year, the **Australian World Orchestra (AWO)** is thrilled to announce yet another eclectic and bravura program for its 2019 season, as well as the formation of **AWO SIX**, an elite ensemble of AWO all stars.



Returning to the Arts Centre Melbourne and performing in Canberra for the first time next July, AWO’s Artistic Director **Alexander Briger AO** will lead 88 of Australia’s finest musicians in performances of Nigel Westlake’s *Flying Dream* (from the film *Paper Planes*) and Leoš Janáček’s *Taras Bulba*, a rhapsody based on the novel of the same name by Nikolai Gogol, which tells the story of an old Cossack who journeys with his two sons to join other Cossacks in the battle against Poland. Featuring exquisite solos and culminating in a series of massive brass and organ cadences, a bell crescendo and a triumphant epilogue, this is rousing stuff! The program ends with the grandeur of Sibelius’ Symphony No. 2, described by the composer as “a confession of the soul.”

Alexander Briger: “I’m thrilled to be returning to Melbourne to lead the AWO in 2019, and especially thrilled to be presenting our premiere performance in Canberra. It’s a wonderfully exciting programme, with two of my favourite works, Janáček’s enthralling orchestral rhapsody *Taras Bulba*, a work that shows off the virtuosity of our players and Sibelius’s magnificent and intense 2nd Symphony, as well as our very own Nigel Westlake’s gorgeous *Flying Dream*, a work I fell in love with instantaneously.”

Following these orchestral concerts, violinists **Natalie Chee** and **Daniel Dodds**, violists **Andra Darzins** and **Tahlia Petrosian**, and cellists **David Berlin** and **Julian Thompson** will form the AWO SIX for a single performance of Mendelssohn’s passionate String Quintet No. 2 in B flat major, written when the composer was just 18 years of age, and Brahms’ String Sextet No.2 in G major, known as “Agathe” for its reference to Brahms’ infatuation with Agathe von Siebold. The concert will be held at Sydney’s City Recital Hall.

**ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN WORLD ORCHESTRA**

Since its inaugural concert series in 2011, the AWO has established itself as arguably the most exciting orchestral initiative in Australia’s cultural history, dazzling audiences in Australia, India and Singapore, performing to over 46,000 music lovers. Critics have described performances as ‘superb’, ‘joyous’, ‘stunning’ and ‘immaculate’. The AWO brings together Australia’s elite national and international musicians - represented in leading world orchestras, including the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic, Chicago and London Symphony Orchestra, as well as our state orchestras, to present unrivalled performances of musical virtuosity, while encouraging and developing new talent.

AWO have produced 3 live Orchestral recordings: Beethoven, Symphony No. 9 ‘Choral’ Alexander Briger (2013); Stravinsky, *The Rite of Spring* and Mahler, Symphony No.1 Zubin Mehta (2014); Bruckner, Symphony No.8, Sir Simon Rattle (2016).

The AWO was honoured to win the Helpmann Award for Best Symphony Orchestra Concert in 2016 and the Limelight award for Best Orchestral Concert in 2011.

**PRAISE FOR THE AUSTRALIAN WORLD ORCHESTRA**

“One of the great orchestras in the world” **Sir Simon Rattle**

★★★★★ “This stunning orchestra ... in a word: matchless” **Limelight Magazine**

★★★★★ “I can only praise this exceptional performance; there was nothing to fault. If the AWO were a permanent ensemble with this level of distinguished direction it would very soon become one of the world’s finest orchestras.” **Arts Hub**

★★★★★ “The project is not just about gathering the harvest, but also sowing the seeds”  
**Sydney Morning Herald**

"It became immediately obvious that this orchestra was exceptional. I’d place the AWO high among the best symphony orchestras of my experience... This bordered on magic." **J-Wire**

“Since its launch in 2011 the Australian World Orchestra has become an international musical phenomenon with top maestros forming a queue to come to Sydney Opera House to conduct it. I haven’t heard the Brahms played better. In fact it’s difficult to imagine that it could be done better. Muti and the AWO have set the bar at a Himalayan height.” **The Daily Telegraph**

**AWO 2019 CONCERT SERIES**

Leoš Janáček – *Taras Bulba*  
Nigel Westlake – *Flying Dream*  
Jean Sibelius – *Symphony No.2*  
*Conducted by Alexander Briger AO*  
**Friday 26 July • Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne**  
**Sat 27 July • Llewellyn Hall, Canberra**

**AWO SIX**

Felix Mendelssohn – *String Quintet No. 2 in B flat major, Op.87*  
Johannes Brahms – *String Sextet No.2 in G major, Op.36, “Agathe”*  
**Tues 30 July • City Recital Hall, Sydney**

**Bookings & Information: [www.australianworldorchestra.com.au](http://www.australianworldorchestra.com.au) / 02 8283 4527**  
**25 October GP on sale**

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