



MAESTRO ZUBIN MEHTA TO CONDUCT THE ACCLAIMED AUSTRALIAN WORLD ORCHESTRA IN MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY

**“I cannot tell you how much I am looking forward to once more conducting the great Australian World Orchestra!”
Maestro Zubin Mehta**

Media release embargo date: Tuesday 30 November. Maestro Zubin Mehta proclaimed it ‘one of the top ten orchestras on earth’ after conducting The **Australian World Orchestra** in 2013 and in 2015 he invited the AWO to perform with him in India.

Now, in 2022, the legendary Maestro will once again lead the AWO as it comes together for two unmissable and much anticipated performances in Sydney and Melbourne. Maestro Zubin Mehta is recognised as one of the world’s greatest Strauss interpreters, and for these concerts he will conduct the Australian World Orchestra in performances of three of Richard Strauss’s most famous tone poems – *Don Juan*, *Till Eulenspiegels Lustige Streiche* and *Ein Heldenleben*.

**“In truth, I became a conductor because deep down I wanted to conduct Richard Strauss’s tone poems.”
Maestro Zubin Mehta**

Announcing the concerts AWO’s Artistic Director, Alexander Briger AO, said: “Following the recent challenges we are so delighted to be coming together as an orchestra once again led by one of the world’s most extraordinary conductors. Zubin has a deep connection with the AWO musicians, forged first here in Australia, and then when we toured India with him and embarked on a number of special programs throughout India with his Mehli Mehta Music Foundation. There is no better way to celebrate the joy of music making than for the Australian World Orchestra’s wonderful musicians to be performing the Richard Strauss tone poems conducted by the world’s finest interpreter of Strauss.”

It has been said that what Shakespeare was to the sonnet, Richard Strauss was to the tone poem. A tone poem (sometimes referred to as a ‘symphonic’ poem) is a piece of orchestral music, usually performed in a single, continuous movement, whose inspiration is sourced from a poem, short story, novel, or other (non-musical) source.

Strauss’s tone poems are among the most striking works of the orchestral repertoire. The descriptive power of these compositions is intended to both inspire and move listeners, taking the concept of realism in music to an unprecedented level. Strauss’s unique expression is why his tone poems are widely regarded as the pinnacle of this orchestral form.

The Australian performances follow the Australian World Orchestra’s inaugural UK tour in August 2022 as part of the UK|AU Cultural Exchange. The UK concerts will be conducted by Maestro Zubin Mehta. Australian soprano Siobhan Stagg will also perform with the AWO as part of the UK/Australia Season, singing Debussy’s *Ariettes oubliées*, the orchestration of which was commissioned by the AWO from Brett Dean in 2015. More details to be announced soon.

Read Maestro Zubin Mehta’s biography [here](#).

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN WORLD ORCHESTRA

Audacious, exhilarating and with limitless vision, the Australian World Orchestra (AWO) is recognised as one of the most exciting initiatives in Australia’s cultural history.

Founded in 2011 by Artistic Director and Chief Conductor Alexander Briger AO, its mission is to bring together Australia’s finest classical musicians – from ensembles at home as well as all around the world – to create something uniquely electrifying. Touring within Australia and overseas has won the Orchestra an enviable reputation and established new audiences for classical music, while the AWO education program has helped foster the next generation of Australian musicians.

The AWO's musicians are drawn from the world's finest orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Concertgebouw and Australia's orchestras and ensembles. The immense talent, coupled with its grand, award-winning sound, has seen many of the world's finest conductors including Sir Simon Rattle and Riccardo Muti lead the orchestra both in Australia and overseas. The Australian World Orchestra has been hailed by audiences and critics alike as charismatic, inspiring and one of a kind.

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**

"Since its launch in 2011 the Australian World Orchestra has become an international musical phenomenon with top maestros forming a queue to come to conduct it. I haven't heard the Brahms played better. In fact it's difficult to imagine that it could be done better." **THE DAILY TELEGRAPH**

"One of the world's greatest orchestras. Technically elite, musically profound. Australian. Like no other. Despite 30 years in the Chicago Symphony under Solti, Barenboim, Haitink and Muti, and countless top drawer guest conductors, I remain Australian. When I returned to Australia for my first AWO season, my heritage made itself felt as I experienced an energy like no other. You could hear it crash a wave through the entire AWO, as the sophisticated consciousness of a musical language was ignited by this deep shared heritage." **Michael Mulcahy, Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

AWO 2022 CONCERT SERIES
CONDUCTED BY MAESTRO ZUBIN MEHTA
Richard Strauss's tone poems
Don Juan
Till Eulenspiegels Lustige Streiche
Ein Heidenleben

Wednesday 31 August • Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne
Friday 2 September • Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Bookings & Information: www.australianworldorchestra.com.au



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