

AWO. BRIGER. MAHLER 9.

A FORCE OF NATURE



AUSTRALIAN
WORLD
ORCHESTRA

AUDACIOUS. EXHILARATING. LIMITLESS.

AUSTRALIAN WORLD ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCE 2023 PERFORMANCES OF MAHLER'S NINTH SYMPHONY IN MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY

"It [the AWO] comes together like a tsunami that just keeps on gathering force and gathering clarity..." –
LIMELIGHT

"There is always something irresistibly fresh about the AWO's playing - scholarship allied with experience and derring-do (...) brilliance of attack and extraordinary cohesion."

– AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW

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Following last year's exhilarating UK and Australian performances led by Maestro Zubin Mehta AC, the Australian World Orchestra will come together this November for two unmissable performances in Sydney and Melbourne. This unique and brilliant orchestra led by Internationally acclaimed AWO Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Alexander Briger will perform Gustav Mahler's breathtaking Symphony No 9 at the Sydney Opera House and Melbourne's Hamer Hall.

AWO Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Alexander Briger said: "The first time I saw this work being performed by Sir Georg Solti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Sydney in 1988, it had a life-changing effect on me. It is one of the most challenging and moving works in the canon. For me, it is perhaps the pinnacle of all symphonic music and to hear this extraordinary group of Australian musicians perform it was indeed one of my inspirations to form the AWO in the first place. It was during last year's electric season that it came to me that now is the right time for the AWO to perform this mighty and iconic work."

Gustav Mahler is universally revered as one of the leading composers of his generation, a bridging force between the romanticism of the 19th and modernism of the 20th century musical traditions; and a major influence on composers like Schoenberg, Shostakovich and Britten.

While some critics argue that Mahler's 9th (and last complete) symphony is his most original and outstanding work, others have gone so far as to suggest that it is the greatest modern symphony ever written.

Widely accepted as the first major work of the New Music movement of the 20th century, Mahler's 9th is without doubt one of his most moving and emotionally packed symphonies. Ostensibly composed in tribute to the death of his young daughter, Maria Anna, and a response to the fatal heart diagnosis he received shortly before commencing work, the symphony has traditionally been interpreted as a reflection of Mahler's philosophic acceptance of the cycles of life and the inevitability of death. An otherworldly meditation on the passage of time, the irrepressible force of nature and a search for the divine through music. The American master-conductor Leonard Bernstein described Mahler's 9th as "terrifying, and paralysing; the strands of sound disintegrate ... in ceasing, we lose it all. But in Mahler's ceasing, we have gained everything."

About the Australian World Orchestra

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, Zubin Mehta AC, Riccardo Muti and Simone Young have 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**

AWO 2023 CONCERT SERIES
CONDUCTED BY ALEXANDER BRIGER

Mahler's Ninth Symphony

Wednesday 22 November • Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne
Friday 24 November • Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Bookings & Information: www.australianworldorchestra.com.au



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