

WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2017



MEDIA RELEASE

Sydney Symphony Orchestra Chief Conductor & Artistic Director David Robertson extends term for a further year

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO) joins David Robertson in announcing a one-year extension of his tenure as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Orchestra, taking his term to six years ending at the conclusion of 2019.

SSO Managing Director Rory Jeffes said Robertson is an inspiring leader who has helped further to enhance the Orchestra's ensemble since taking up his position at the organisation in 2014.

"Robertson is a visionary music-maker who is greatly in demand as guest conductor around the world," Jeffes said. "As our artistic leader his ambitious projects have highlighted the virtuosity of our ensemble and helped to grow internationally the profile the SSO and indeed of Sydney as a cultural destination."

"A skilled and passionate music communicator, he has cultivated strong relationships with our audience members and also our philanthropic community, of which he is part of through his personal membership of the Maestro's Circle – a group of passionate donors who support the Orchestra's vision.

"We are delighted to extend our partnership with David to the end of 2019, and also when he returns for future projects as a guest conductor beyond that."

Robertson said he was excited to join the Orchestra in announcing a one-year extension of his tenure: "This will round out my time leading this great institution to six years, ending at the conclusion of 2019; although given my love of the SSO, it's very likely you will see me return to the podium as a guest conductor for years to come."

"I love the way Sydney has the feeling of being a community but at the same time is a major world city. For me, this puts Sydney among a handful of cities where it is possible to realise projects that are difficult to accomplish anywhere else. Combined with the virtuosity and ambition of the musicians of the SSO, this makes the job of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director such a joy!"

"I am so grateful to the musicians of the SSO and our Sydney community for welcoming me to the podium as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of this great orchestra for another year. I look forward to all of the rich musical experiences we will share together between now and the end of 2019," he added.

In 2018 Robertson will continue to celebrate and explore the work of renowned composers, with a Brahms mini-festival across two weeks featuring the Australian pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk and cellist Alban Gerhardt as soloists.

He will also be bringing a real flamenco experience to the Sydney Opera House with the prodigious talents of guitarist Juan Carmona – whom he has worked with for many years – in Sinfonia Flamenca.



At the close of the 2018 season, Robertson and the SSO will undertake a major European tour with repertoire including Beethoven's Seventh and Mahler's Fifth symphonies, and *Wings of Angels* by SSO Artist-in-Residence Brett Dean. The tour repertoire will be presented to Sydney audiences across five farewell concerts before the Orchestra flies to Europe.

The SSO's 2018 season will be revealed on Thursday August 10. Visit: sydney-symphony.com for more info.

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