

MEDIA RELEASE

Virtuosic duo Amy Dickson and Colin Currie join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for world premiere of new work by Australian composer Ross Edwards

Mahler 4: Sounds of Heaven
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
7 – 11 July



9 JUNE 2016

Two of the world's greatest classical music talents, Australian saxophonist Amy Dickson and Scottish percussionist Colin Currie, will join forces next month to perform the world premiere of Ross Edwards' new double concerto, *Frog and Star Cycle*, with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra on 7-11 July.

Edwards, who is regarded as one of Australia's preeminent and most influential composers, has specifically written *Frog and Star Cycle* to be performed by Dickson and Currie and is filled with praise for the exceptionally talented pair.

"Amy is an extraordinary performer. She's full of enthusiasm, game for anything and also just a lovely person to work with," Edwards says. "This is the first time I've worked with Colin but I've heard him perform many times and he's just a phenomenon – absolutely amazing and extraordinarily athletic. And best of all, like Amy, he likes a challenge – nothing's too difficult!"

Dickson, who shares a special friendship with Edwards and has collaborated with him on a number of compositions - including the premiere of his saxophone concerto *Full Moon Dances* - approached the composer to write the double concerto. Like many of Edwards' other works, *Frog and Star Cycle* is inspired by nature and will require the soloists to embody spiritual 'characters'.

“Amy will perform the role of the serene Earth Mother, a role she’s become accustomed to performing in my music, and as such will be dressed in a long white gown,” Edwards says. “Colin will take on the role of the Shaman – a healer with access to the spirit world and a strong affiliation with frogs. He’s very excited to see the costume that we come up with for him!”

The premiere of *Frog and Star Cycle* will be followed by a performance of Mahler's Fourth Symphony, music that has its own dance-like qualities and optimistic spirit.

Frog and Star Cycle has been commissioned by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra with the generous support Andrew Kaldor AM and Renata Kaldor AO.

#ENDS#

Mahler 4: Sounds of Heaven

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Thu 7 Jul, 1.30pm

Fri 8 Jul, 8pm

Sat 9 Jul, 2pm

Mon 11 Jul, 7pm

EDWARDS *Frog and Star Cycle* (Premiere)

MAHLER Symphony No.4

Lothar Koenigs conductor

Sylvia Schwartz soprano

Amy Dickson saxophone

Colin Currie percussion

Tickets: \$39-\$134

Bookings through Sydney Symphony Orchestra 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday on 8215 4600 or select your own seat at: www.sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com

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Principal Partner



Amy Dickson

Sydney-born Amy Dickson has spearheaded something of a classical saxophone revival, on account of her unique take on the genre and her distinctive approach to the instrument. She made history in 2013 when she was the first saxophonist and the first Australian to win the *MasterCard Breakthrough Artist of the Year Classic Brit Award* with her third album released on Sony Music, and has been nominated for two Grammy Awards. Widely renowned for her remarkable and distinctive tone and exceptional musicality, Dickson has performed throughout the world in venues including Wigmore Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and the Sydney Opera House. She has also performed as a soloist with many orchestras including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Vienna Chamber Orchestra. Dickson has released five critically acclaimed recordings for Sony Music and is deeply committed to the development of new repertoire for the saxophone, whilst also championing existing repertoire.

Colin Currie

Hailed as “the world’s finest and most daring percussionist” (Spectator), Colin Currie is a solo and chamber artist at the peak of his powers. Championing new music at the highest level, Currie is the soloist of choice for many of today’s foremost composers and he performs regularly with the leading orchestras and conductors, as well as being the Artist in Residence at London’s Southbank Centre. Currie’s unrivalled commitment to commissioning and creating new music was recognised in 2015 by the Royal Philharmonic Society who awarded him the *Instrumentalist of the Year Award* for his achievements. From his earliest years Currie forged a pioneering path in creating new music for percussion, winning the *Royal Philharmonic Society Young Artist Award* in 2000 and receiving a *Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award* in 2005. Currie has recorded many concerto, recital and chamber works including most recently Alexander Goehr’s *Since Brass, nor Stone* released on NMC. His recording of Rautavaara’s *Incantations* with the Helsinki Philharmonic/Storgårds (Ondine) was released to critical acclaim and won a 2012 Gramophone Award.

Ross Edwards

One of Australia’s best-known and most performed composers, Ross Edwards has created a distinctive sound world which reflects his interest in ecology and his belief in the need to reconnect music with elemental forces, as well as restore its traditional association with ritual and dance. His music, universal in that it is concerned with age-old mysteries surrounding humanity, is at the same time connected to its roots in Australia, whose cultural diversity it celebrates, and from whose natural environment it draws inspiration. As a composer living and working on the Pacific Rim, he is conscious of the exciting potential of this vast region.

Ross Edwards’ compositions include five symphonies, concertos, choral, chamber and vocal music, children’s music, film scores, a chamber opera and music for dance. His *Dawn Mantras* greeted the dawning of the new millennium from the sails of the Sydney Opera House in a worldwide telecast. His compositions often require special lighting, movement and costume. A recipient of the Order of Australia he lives in Sydney and is married with two adult children.



Principal Partner

