

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Brazilian pianist Nelson Freire to make much-anticipated return to Sydney after two decade absence**

*“In the age when overt showmanship reaps big rewards and grabs lots of attention, the Brazilian pianist Nelson Freire offers a gentle reminder that decorous piano playing and interpretive depth have an irresistible power all their own.” – The New York Times*



**Nelson Freire plays Schumann: Rachmaninoff's 2<sup>nd</sup> Symphony  
21, 23 & 24 Sep**

**Nelson Freire in Recital  
26 Sep**

A towering pillar in classical music, Brazilian pianist Nelson Freire will perform in Sydney for the first time in 20 years when he joins the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for three concerts at the Sydney Opera House before giving an intimate solo recital at the City Recital Hall.

The famously modest pianist, who made his solo debut aged five, is universally recognised as one of the world's great musicians and attributes his career in classical music to both fate and his Brazilian heritage.

“Somehow destiny made me a pianist, I didn't have to choose,” Freire says. “Of course being Brazilian certainly reflects in my playing; in that I try to be as honest and generous in my music making as possible. This is what I want to come out when I play.”

Freire will join fellow Brazilian conductor Marcelo Lehninger and the SSO to perform Schumann's Piano Concerto, a work filled with irresistible beauty and lyricism. For his recital, Freire will perform a glorious program featuring some of his most loved composers including JS Bach, Beethoven and Chopin, each of whom he credits as holding “a unique place in music”.

The Brazilian pianist last performed with the SSO in 1996 when he performed Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 at the Sydney Opera House.

Since his international career began in 1959, he has appeared at virtually every important musical centre and has worked with countless distinguished conductors and orchestras. A great musical collaborator, he has toured extensively with pianist Martha Argerich, who will make her Australian debut with the SSO in 2017. Together they share a long-time musical partnership which has seen them record several discs together, including a live recital at the Salzburg Festival.

Friere has an extensive discography and was included by Philips in its historic series *Great Pianists of the 20th Century*, released in 1999. He has been an exclusive Decca artist since 2001, his releases including major works by Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Debussy, Liszt, as well as the two Brahms Concertos with the Gewandhaus Orchestra under Riccardo Chailly.

**#ENDS#**

### **Concert Details**

**NELSON FREIRE PLAYS SCHUMANN:  
RACHMANINOFF'S 2ND SYMPHONY  
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House**

Wed 21 Sep, 8pm  
Fri 23 Sep, 8pm  
Sat 24 Sep, 8pm

**BEETHOVEN** Coriolan Overture  
**SCHUMANN** Piano Concerto  
**RACHMANINOFF** Symphony No.2

**Marcelo Lehninger** conductor  
**Nelson Freire** piano

**NELSON FREIRE IN RECITAL  
City Recital Hall**

Mon 26 Sep, 7pm

Featuring solo piano music by **JS Bach, Beethoven & Chopin**

**Nelson Freire** piano

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