

MEDIA RELEASE

Famed German conductor Christoph von Dohnányi to make long-awaited Australian debut with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra

*“Dohnányi may be just a couple of months shy of his 86th birthday, but his ability to energise a score and keep it light on its feet remains entirely undiminished.” - George Hall, *The Guardian*, July 2015*



**Romantic Memories: Dohnanyi Conducts Bruckner
6, 8 & 9 April**

**Dohnanyi Conducts Brahms: An Australian First
14, 15, 16 April**

One of the world’s most esteemed and distinguished conductors, Christoph von Dohnányi, will make his long-awaited Australian debut at the Sydney Opera House with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra next month.

The 86-year old German maestro, known for his pioneering work with the Cleveland Orchestra and Philharmonia Orchestra in London, will visit Australia for the very first time to conduct two programs dedicated to the late romantic German repertoire for which he is renowned.

According to SSO Director of Artistic Planning Benjamin Schwartz, these concerts present a uniquely exciting opportunity for Sydney audiences to see one of the world’s greatest living conductors perform at the Sydney Opera House with Australia’s flagship orchestra.

“The SSO is absolutely thrilled to welcome Christoph von Dohnányi to Sydney for his debut performances in Australia,” Schwartz says. “Maestro von Dohnányi’s attention to detail, unerring

sense of style and pacing, and deeply informed musicianship have for decades served as virtual guarantors of inspiring concerts from the greatest orchestras around the world.”

The first program – **Romantic Memories** – will see von Dohnányi conduct Bruckner’s Fourth Symphony; an emotionally powerful work from its dawn trumpet fanfares and birdcalls to its grand, uplifting finale. The first half of the concert will feature Berg’s profoundly moving Violin Concerto, performed by German violinist Carolin Widmann who von Dohnányi refers to as the “ultimate interpreter of the work”.

The conductor will begin his second program with the SSO – **Dohnanyi Conducts Brahms** – with Lutosławski’s haunting *Funeral Music* followed by a performance of Berg’s lyrical and romantic *Seven Early Songs* featuring soprano Camilla Tilling. This will be followed by a performance of Brahms’ Symphony No. 2, perhaps the most attractive and endearing of the composer’s symphonies.

#ENDS#

Concert Details

ROMANTIC MEMORIES: DOHNÁNYI CONDUCTS BRUCKNER
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Wed 6 Apr, 8pm
Fri 8 Apr, 8pm
Sat 9 Apr, 8pm

BERG Violin Concerto
BRUCKNER Symphony No. 4, Romantic

Christoph von Dohnányi conductor
Carolin Widmann violin

DOHNÁNYI CONDUCTS BRAHMS: AN AUSTRALIAN FIRST
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Thu 14 Apr, 1.30pm
Fri 15 Apr, 8pm
Sat 16 Apr, 2pm

LUTOSLAWSKI Funeral Music
BERG Seven Early Songs
BRAHMS Symphony No. 2

Christoph von Dohnányi conductor
Camilla Tilling soprano

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Principal Partner



Artists

Christoph von Dohnányi

Christoph von Dohnányi is recognised as one of the world's most distinguished conductors. He served as the Cleveland Orchestra's sixth Music Director from 1984 to 2002 and is now the orchestra's Music Director Laureate, the first conductor to hold this post. He also has a long-standing relationship with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, starting with his appointment as the Orchestra's Principal Guest Conductor in 1994. He served as Principal Conductor for 11 years from 1997, before being appointed Honorary Conductor for Life in 2008.

Christoph von Dohnányi is also a regular guest conductor with the Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, and the Vienna Philharmonic. His many awards and recognitions include the degree of Doctor of Music from the Royal Academy of Music, the Eastman School of Music and The Oberlin College of Music in Ohio.

Carolin Widmann

German violinist Carolin Widmann's activities span the great classical concerti, new commissions, solo recitals, a wide variety of chamber music and increasingly, period instrument performances, including play/direction from the violin. She was voted Artist of the Year at the 2013 International Classical Music Awards and has released a number of recordings all met with critical acclaim.

She has performed with the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Orchestre National de France, Tonhalle Zurich, Czech Philharmonic, Vienna Radio Symphony, London Philharmonic, BBC Symphony and Bayerische Rundfunk with distinguished conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Riccardo Chailly, Sir Roger Norrington, Vladimir Jurowski, Marek Janowski, and Pablo Heras-Casado. She is the Artistic Director of Germany's oldest chamber music festival, the *Sommerliche Musiktage Hitzacker*, and regularly appears at other festivals including the *Berliner Festspiele*, *Salzburg*, *Lucerne*, *Festival d' Automne* and *Mecklenburg-Vorpommern*.

Since 2006, she has been professor of violin at Leipzig's University of Music and Theater "Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy".

Carolin Widmann plays a G.B. Guadagnini violin from 1782.

Camilla Tilling

Since her acclaimed 1999 debut as Corinna (*Il viaggio a Reims*) at New York City Opera, Swedish soprano Camilla Tilling has performed at the world's most prominent opera houses and concert halls with the greatest orchestras and conductors.

She is a regular guest of the Berliner Philharmoniker, Orchestre de Paris, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, NDR Sinfonieorchester and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Recent highlights include Berg's *Sieben frühe Lieder* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Lionel Bringuier, Strauss' *Vier letzte Lieder* at the Salzburg Festival with the Philharmonia Orchestra under Christoph von Dohnányi, Mahler's Symphony No.4 at the BBC Proms with the London Symphony Orchestra and Bernard Haitink, and Beethoven's Symphony No.9 with the Berliner Philharmoniker at Berlin's *Waldbühne* under Sir Simon Rattle.



Principal Partner

