

MEDIA RELEASE

One of the world's best conductors of film music joins the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for Hollywood classics

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Hollywood Rhapsody: 16, 17 & 18 June
Channel Crossings: 23, 25 & 25 June



30 MAY 2016

Charismatic British conductor John Wilson will join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for an exciting journey through the golden age of Hollywood when he takes the podium for a program of cinematic highlights from classic films such as *Ben Hur*, *Psycho* and *Casablanca*.

Wilson is synonymous with The John Wilson Orchestra, formed in 1994, which specialises in recording contemporary film soundtracks and authentic concert performances of classic film musical scores. The conductor and arranger has famously recreated and resurrected many of orchestral scores belonging to famous MGM musicals that were discarded in the 1970s.

Sydney Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Andrew Haveron, who has been friends with Wilson since they met while studying at the Royal College of Music in the early 1990s, says nobody can bring to life this era of film music like this conductor.

“I’ve performed the Hollywood Rhapsody program with John before at the Proms and I’m looking forward to sharing this music with audiences here in Sydney,” Haveron says. “These concerts will be a chance to hear music from a bygone era, as the program is essentially a potted history of film music. You don’t often get to hear these pieces played live.”

Music from *Star Wars*, *Citizen Kane*, *Gone with the Wind* and *The Adventures of Robin Hood* will feature as part of this program of brilliant music from the golden age of Hollywood.

“The *Robin Hood* suite has some of my favourite music in it – I will happily play it any day of the week,” Haveron adds. “And *Tom and Jerry at MGM* will be a blast – it’s very hard and great fun!”

Wilson will also conduct the SSO in Channel Crossings with 35-year-old American pianist Jonathan Biss as soloist in Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G, a work that captures the mood of Paris in the Jazz Age – chic, capricious and seductive. Channel Crossings will also feature Vaughan Williams’ *A London Symphony*, a musical portrait of the great city filled with English spirit.

Jonathan Biss is a world-renowned pianist who shares his deep musical and intellectual curiosity with classical music lovers in the concert hall and beyond. In addition to performing a full schedule of concerts, he has spent nine summers at the Marlboro Music Festival and has written extensively about his relationships with the composers with whom he shares a stage.

A member of the faculty of his alma mater the Curtis Institute of Music since 2010, Biss led the first massive open online course (MOOC) offered by a classical music conservatory, *Exploring Beethoven's Piano Sonatas*, which has reached more than 100,000 people in more than 160 countries.

#ENDS#

Hollywood Rhapsody

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Thu 16 Jun, 6.30pm

Fri 17 Jun, 8pm

Sat 18 Jun, 8pm

*Music from the Golden Age of Hollywood
including highlights from:*

RAKSIN Laura

HERRMANN Psycho, Citizen Kane

KORNGOLD The Adventures of Robin Hood

STEINER Gone With the Wind

RÓZSA Ben Hur

John Wilson conductor

Tickets: \$39-\$124

Channel Crossings: Ravel & Vaughan Williams

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Thu 23 Jun, 1.30pm

Fri 24 Jun, 8pm

Sat 25 Jun, 2pm

BAX Tintagel

RAVEL Piano Concerto in G

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS A London Symphony
(Symphony No.2)

John Wilson conductor

Jonathan Biss piano

Tickets: \$39-\$13

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

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