

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Sydney Symphony Orchestra bound for Newcastle, Taree and Port Macquarie

24-27 May 2016



Audiences in Newcastle, Taree and Port Macquarie will have the opportunity to see the Sydney Symphony Orchestra perform live in their hometowns, as Australia's flagship orchestra embarks on its annual regional tour this month.

Sydney Symphony Orchestra Assistant Conductor Toby Thatcher and more than 50 SSO musicians will leave the Orchestra's home, the Sydney Opera House, to perform three major public performances as well as a series of education and schools concerts throughout the mid-north coast of NSW from the 24-27 May.

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts the Hon. Troy Grant MP said the NSW Government is focused on ensuring regional communities have access to great artistic and cultural opportunities. "As the state local member for Dubbo I know the importance to a regional community of having access to the best musical and cultural experiences. This is why I and the whole NSW Government is thrilled to support the SSO in bringing world-class performances and its award-winning education program to regional communities in NSW."

Sydney Symphony Orchestra Director of Learning and Engagement Linda Lorenza agrees: "This is a chance for local children to get up close and personal to the workings of an orchestra. Some of them may be hearing a concert live for the first time; to hear a performance by some of Australia's finest musicians is something very special."

The education concerts have been designed especially for school children and are a fun way for children to interact with classical music as they sing, dance and learn about the different sections of an orchestra. Some lucky members of the audience are even chosen to try their hand at conducting the musicians.

Ms Lorenza said the regional tour would be a highlight of the Orchestra's 2016 season for not only regional audiences, but also the musicians who always cherish the experience.

“Many of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s performances each year take place away from our home at the Sydney Opera House – in hospitals, schools, concert halls and theatres throughout NSW,” Ms Lorenza said. “Touring is such an important part of what we do and our musicians thoroughly enjoy their time on the road getting to know our supporters and audiences in regional areas.”

For the public concerts, the SSO will be playing four exciting and colourful pieces of music: Mozart’s sublime Horn Concerto No. 4, Schubert’s Symphony No. 5, Australian composer Andrew Schultz’s *Endling* and Prokofiev’s beloved *Classical Symphony*.

Principal Horn Ben Jacks, who will be the soloist in the Mozart Concerto, is looking forward to performing for the regional audiences.

“Mozart’s Fourth Horn Concerto is one of my favourite pieces of music, so I’m thrilled to be bringing it to audiences in Newcastle, Taree and Port Macquarie. There are so many different characters to listen out for in the concerto – it’s humorous in parts, emotional in others. There’s something there for everyone!”

The SSO’s 2016 regional tour is made possible thanks to the support of the NSW Government and corporate sponsor Rex.

**# ENDS #**

**CONCERT TIMES:**

**NEWCASTLE**

Tuesday 24 May 7.30pm – Public Performance  
Wednesday 25 May 10am & 11.30am – School Concerts  
City Hall, Newcastle

**TAREE**

Wednesday 25 May 7.30 pm – Public Performance  
Thursday 26 May 10am & 11.30am – Schools Concert  
Manning Entertainment Centre, Taree

**PORT MACQUARIE**

Friday 27 May 10.00am & 12pm – Schools Concerts  
Friday 27 May 6.30pm – Public Performance  
Glasshouse, Port Macquarie

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM BOX OFFICES IN EACH VENUE

VISIT: <http://www.sydneyssymphony.com/education/for-schools-teachers/schools-concerts-activities/regional-tour.aspx>

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