



MEDIA RELEASE

Chief Conductor and Artistic Director David Robertson and prodigious pianist Emanuel Ax open the 2018 season with a Mozart Celebration

1-10 February 2018, Sydney Opera House Concert Hall



*“Emanuel Ax makes a glorious sound at the piano, glowing with evenness and balance.”
– The Sydney Morning Herald*

16 January 2018: One of the world’s greatest concert pianists Emanuel Ax will join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Chief Conductor and Artistic Director David Robertson this February to perform six of the Mozart piano concertos at the Sydney Opera House.

A Mozart Celebration – spanning three concert programs – will be a chance for audiences to see these two great musical forces and long-time friends reunite in Sydney for the first time since 2014, when Robertson and Ax performed the complete cycle of Beethoven piano concertos with the SSO to five-star reviews.

Robertson said the success of that collaboration sparked their idea to explore the genius of Mozart across two weeks: “Emanuel Ax brings that spirit of collaboration that makes him a lot of fun to perform with and adds an overall joy to the experience. There’s this constant going back and forth between not only Emanuel and me, but with all the members of the orchestra – whether that’s the violin section or a single player in the woodwinds.

“There’s no way we could do the complete series of Mozart concertos in a couple of weeks. But what Emanuel has managed to do is choose six piano concertos that show the composer’s incredible range, whether that’s in terms of the emotional qualities – the joys, the sadness, the drama – or the means he uses to achieve them,” Robertson says. “Audiences will have not only a very enjoyable experience, but come away with a much richer and deeper understanding of how extraordinary Mozart’s achievement was.”

Two Mozart piano concertos will feature in each of three different programs alongside Mozart’s final three symphonies: No.39, No.40 and No.41 (*Jupiter*).



When Ax performed Beethoven’s *Emperor Concerto* with Robertson and the SSO in 2014, Peter McCallum for *The Sydney Morning Herald* wrote: “The shared musical conception that has emerged between [Ax], conductor David Robertson and the orchestra has been marked by flexibility, refinement and responsiveness, conjuring the works into buoyant life”. Widely considered to be one of the greatest pianists of his generation, Ax is celebrated for his poetic temperament and unsurpassed virtuosity. Ax is well known for collaborations with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Yefim Bronfman, violinist Isaac Stern and actor Patrick Stewart.

Mozart fans can also witness one of the greatest oboists of our time, François Leleux – described as “a fearless, flawless player” by *The Herald* (Scotland) – conduct and perform in the program *Mozart and the French Connection*, featuring Mozart’s *Wind Serenade in E flat*.

#ENDS#

A MOZART CELEBRATION	
<p>Dramatic Mozart Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House Thur 1 Feb, 1.30pm Fri 2 Feb, 8pm Sat 3 Feb, 2pm</p> <p>MOZART Don Giovanni: Overture, Piano Concerto No.14 in E flat, Piano Concerto No.20 in D minor, Symphony No.40.</p> <p>David Robertson conductor Emanuel Ax piano</p> <p>Tickets: \$49-\$152</p>	<p>Magnificent Mozart Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House Fri 9 Feb, 8pm Sat 10 Feb, 8pm</p> <p>MOZART The Marriage of Figaro: Overture, Piano Concerto No.19 in F, Piano Concerto No.27 in B flat, Symphony No.41 (Jupiter)</p> <p>David Robertson conductor Emanuel Ax piano</p> <p>Tickets: \$49-\$152</p>
<p>Seductive Mozart Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House Mon 5 Feb, 7pm Wed 7 Feb, 8pm</p> <p>MOZART Così fan tutte: Overture, Piano Concerto No.16 in D, Piano Concerto No.17 in G, Symphony No.39</p> <p>David Robertson conductor Emanuel Ax piano</p> <p>Tickets: \$49-\$152</p>	<p>Mozart and the French Connection City Recital Hall Thu 22 Feb, 7pm</p> <p>Sydney Opera House Fri 23 Feb, 11am</p> <p>FAURÉ Pelléas et Mélisande: Suite DEBUSSY arr. Silvestrini Rhapsody for cor anglais and orchestra MOZART Wind Serenade in E flat BIZET Symphony in C</p> <p>François Leleux conductor, oboe, cor anglais</p> <p>Tickets: \$43-\$96</p>

Tickets available from the SSO Box Office on (02) 8215 4600 or choose your own seat at sydney-symphony.com

For interviews and photos contact:

Bridget Cormack, Sydney Symphony Orchestra Head of Communications

Tel: (02) 8215 4648 | Mob: 0404 816 764 | Email: Bridget.Cormack@sydney-symphony.com



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture