



MEDIA RELEASE

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Enjoy some *Christmas Magic* with Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra will weave a spell-binding afternoon of orchestral treats plus some traditional Christmas favourites when it presents ***Christmas Magic*** at Sutherland Entertainment Centre on Sunday, 16 December.

Principal Conductor and Musical Director Sven Libaek will lead the Shire's only community orchestra from 2.30pm through a thrilling program of works including Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival*, Beethoven's *Symphony No.3 "Eroica"*, and Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*.

The Orchestra will also welcome Guest Soloist Monique Irik, whose dazzling talents will light up Khachaturian's *Violin Concerto*, before the SSSO farewells the year with everyone's favourite Christmas Carols.

"***Christmas Magic*** will be a wonderful way to finish our concert year," Mr Libaek said.

"Guest Soloist Monique Irik is a superb young talent, whose extraordinary technique shines in her interpretation of Khachaturian's *Violin Concerto*.

"Beethoven's *Symphony No.3* and Barber's *Adagio for Strings* also promise to provide a magical musical experience for our audience, and there will be plenty of festive cheer with Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival* and the traditional favourite Christmas carols.

"The Orchestra would also like to thank our audiences, the Friends of the SSSO, Sutherland Shire Council and all those organisations which have so generously supported us in 2007.

"We look forward to bringing more wonderful music to the people of the Sutherland Shire and beyond in 2008, and wish everyone all the best for the festive season," Mr Libaek said.

Monique Irik has been playing the violin from a young age. She attended the Conservatorium High School where she studied with Emma West and was also the recipient of the Estlaman Martin Harrison Scholarship. In 2002, Monique was awarded her A Mus A, and later in 2004, her L Mus A. In 2003, Monique was accepted into the Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Arts program at the University of NSW where she holds the prestigious Sony Foundation Youth Music Scholarship.

Monique has had extensive orchestral and solo experience. Playing with various ensembles such as the Australian Youth Orchestra where she has performed at the Perth Arts Festival, Adelaide Arts Festival and the Sydney Opera House, as well as being accepted into the Sydney Sinfonia - a mentoring orchestra for the Sydney Symphony.

She has performed the Khatchaturian Violin Concerto with the University of NSW Orchestra, and has also performed many public solo recitals.

In 2006, Monique was accepted into the Exchange program of the University of NSW, where she was awarded an Academic Scholarship to study at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She studied the violin with Prof. Andrew Dawes and had wonderful performing opportunities and experiences. Monique now continues her studies with Marina Marsden and is currently preparing for orchestral auditions as well as her Honours program for next year.

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1970. Over the past 37 years, it has developed to become one of Australia's most prestigious community orchestras and a major training orchestra for young musicians. The orchestra performs a series of four concerts each year in Sutherland and regularly tours to other centres around NSW as well.

Sven Libaek first conducted the Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra in 1975, and took over as resident conductor in 1996. A graduate of the famous Julliard School in New York, Mr Libaek is an internationally renowned composer of film and television scores. He was a leading composer for the animation company, Hanna-Barbera, and has worked with many artists including Neil Diamond and Lionel Ritchie.

Tickets for ***Christmas Magic*** cost \$20 for adults and \$17 for concessions, with primary schoolchildren accompanied by an adult admitted FREE! Tickets are available by contacting Sutherland Entertainment Centre on 9521 8888. The Centre is located at 30 Eton Street, Sutherland.

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra is generously supported by Sutherland Shire Council. For more information about the orchestra, visit www.sssso.org.

Christmas Magic – Full concert program

- Leroy Anderson: *A Christmas Festival*
- Aram Khachaturian: *Violin Concerto*
soloist Monique Irik, violin
- Samuel Barber: *Adagio for Strings*
- Ludwig van Beethoven: *Symphony No.3, "Eroica"*

Stop press: Subscriptions are open from 1 December 2007 to 28 February 2008 for Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra's 2008 concert season. For details, contact Sutherland Entertainment Centre on 9521 8888.