

MEDIA RELEASE



3 April 2006

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra dazzles Sydney's south with *Northern Lights*

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra (SSSO) will bring the *Northern Lights* down under to Sydney's south this month in its first concert for 2006.

Sutherland Shire's only community symphony orchestra will take to the Sutherland Entertainment Centre stage on **Sunday, 23 April 2006** at 2.30pm, under the baton of Musical Director and Principal Conductor, Sven Libaek.

In a concert that celebrates the star talents of the northern European orchestral repertoire, Mr Libaek has chosen a selection of works that will dazzle and intrigue.

"These works light up the musical stratosphere," Mr Libaek said.

"From the beautiful and tragic romance of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, Fantasy Overture to the majesty of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and Larssen's *Concertino for Trombone and Strings*, *Northern Lights* will take the audience on a remarkable musical journey."

Mr Libaek said the Orchestra is thrilled to welcome Guest Soloist, Gregory van der Struik, who will feature in the Larssen Concerto.

Gregory van der Struik has been Principal Trombone with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra since 1987.

He studied trombone with Geoffrey Bailey and Arthur Hubbard at the Sydney Conservatorium High School and graduated as an Associate of the State Conservatorium of Music. He has undertaken extensive freelance engagements with professional orchestras as well as holding principal positions in the ABC Sinfonia, the Australian Youth Orchestra and the Sydney Youth Orchestra.

As a soloist, Greg has released and been featured on a number of CDs which emanate from the Trombonis Australis Project, initiated in 1990 to develop and present an Australian contribution to international brass repertoire. He has performed in Australia, Europe and Asia as a recitalist and with ensembles such as the Orchestre de Picardie, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Australian Air Force Air Command Band.

He is a founding member of the Early Brass Consort of Sydney and has been active in promoting Opera Australia Brass which made a highly successful concert tour of China in May 2000. Future projects include recordings of repertoire for trombone and organ as well as recitals for national and local radio.

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Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1970. Over the past 36 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 *Northern Lights* are available by contacting Sutherland Entertainment Centre on 9521 8888 and cost \$20 for adults and \$17. Primary school children accompanied by an adult are admitted free. Sutherland Entertainment 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/

***Northern Lights* – Full Concert Program**

- Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky: *Romeo and Juliet*, Fantasy Overture
 - Lars-Erik Larsson: *Concertino for Trombone and Strings*,
Soloist: Gregory van der Struik, trombone
 - Ludwig van Beethoven: *Symphony No.7* , Op.92
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