



MEDIA RELEASE

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Symphonic legends come alive with the Sutherland Shire Symphony

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra will serve up a score of timeless orchestral hits in a concert celebrating ***Symphonic Legends*** this month.

Special Guest Conductor Jodie Spooner-Ryan will lead the Shire's only community orchestra through a delightful selection of works from Grieg to Dvorak, at Sutherland Entertainment Centre from 2.30pm on Sunday, June 25.

Ms Spooner-Ryan is no stranger to the SSSO or the Shire's arts community, having conducted the orchestra on previous occasions. She is also the Director of the renowned Sutherland Shire Choral Society.

"I am delighted to be conducting the Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra's *Symphonic Legends* concert," Ms Spooner-Ryan said.

"It is a pleasure to work with these dedicated musicians, and the program I have selected promises something that will appeal to everyone. Each piece is based on a folk-tale, a story, a legend, and there is a sense of connection between each of the composers and their passion for portraying story through music.

"The work by Gerald Finzi, *Let Us Garlands Bring*, is based on five sonnets by one of the greatest story tellers of all time – William Shakespeare."

The SSSO will also welcome Guest Soloist, David Greco (Baritone), who will feature in the Finzi work.

Jodie Spooner-Ryan graduated from the University of New South Wales with a Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education in 1995. She has been teaching classroom music including HSC Music for the past 10 years.

In 2000 Ms Spooner-Ryan travelled to the United States where she completed a two-year full time Master of Music (Choral Conducting) at Florida State University At Florida State, she was also Assistant Conductor for the University Philharmonia Orchestra, Assistant Conductor for the Men's Glee Club and Musical Director for the University's production of "The Music Man", as well as Musical Director for Calvary United Methodist Church in Tallahassee.

Ms Spooner-Ryan was accepted as an Associate Conductor at the Conductors' Institute, University of South Carolina, and was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda – the American National Music Honor Society for her outstanding achievements. Returning to Australia, Ms Spooner-Ryan was Head of Music at St. Vincent's College, Potts Point, until 2004 when she took maternity leave.

She is now teaching part-time classroom music at Meriden School, where she also conducts the choirs, and private piano and musicianship at Santa Sabina College. Ms Spooner-Ryan is on the committee for the Australian National Choral Association (NSW branch) where she organises Choral Conducting workshops and festivals.

A graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, **David Greco** is a member of Cantillation and Pinchgut Opera, appearing in productions of Purcella's *The Fairy Queen*, Monteverdi's *L' Orfeo* and most recently in Rameau's dramatic masterpiece *Dardanus*.

Mr Greco has appeared as soloist with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, the Sydney Phillharmonia Choir and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. He recently toured with highly acclaimed early music artist Emma Kirkby as a soloist and chorister on her recent Musica Viva concerts in Australia with Cantillation.

Mr Greco has just been accepted into the highly competitive Opera School at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, UK.

Tickets for Symphonic Legends 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 .

Symphonic Legends – Full concert program

- Dmitri Kabalevsky: *Overture to Colas Breugnon*
 - Gerald Finzi: *Let us Garlands Bring* (Featuring Baritone, David Greco)
 - Edvard Grieg: *Peer Gynt Suite No. 2*
 - Antonin Dvorak: *Symphony No. 8*
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