

MEDIA RELEASE



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Mark Isaacs joins Sutherland Shire Symphony for Saturday night Sydney Proms

Internationally renowned composer and pianist Mark Isaacs will join Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra in a night of musical merriment, pomp and circumstance – plus an **Australian Premiere** performance - at the *Sydney Proms* concert in October.

In a departure from its regular Sunday afternoon program, southern Sydney's only community orchestra will come out after dark at 8pm on Saturday, 8 October at Sutherland Entertainment Centre. *Sydney Proms* will be conducted by the orchestra's Principal Conductor and Musical Director, Sven Libaek.

The highlight of the evening will be a spellbinding performance featuring special guest, the Mark Isaacs Trio. Mark will perform in the **Australian Premiere** of his suite of orchestrations, "**OVER THE RAINBOW** *Four Ballads from the Great American Songbook* for jazz trio and symphony orchestra".

This work has only been performed once before, at its world premiere at the XIIIth International Piano Stars Festival in Liepaja, Latvia, with the Liepaja Symphony Orchestra in March this year.

"Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to have the fabulous Mark Isaacs Trio as our guest artist for our special evening Sydney Proms concert," said Sven Libaek.

"Mark is an exceptional talent and we look forward to performing with him and bringing some amazing sounds to the people of southern Sydney and beyond. The orchestra is particularly honoured to support Mark in the Australian Premiere of his dazzling new work."

Born in England in 1958, Mark Isaacs was raised in Kogarah and has resided in the Sutherland Shire since 1988 (when not touring the globe). Mark began piano studies at age five, later undertaking university studies in classical piano and composition initially in Sydney. At the same time Mark was emerging as one of the major jazz players in Australia, recording his first jazz album as leader while barely out of his teens.

From his early 20s Mark has travelled extensively and studied extensively throughout the world, composing, performing and recording classical music and jazz, both as a soloist and with his trio, formed in 1986.

"The last time I performed with the SSSO, I was only just out of school," said Mark. "Sven Libaek was conducting and we did a piece for piano and orchestra that I wrote when I was 15. I am really looking forward to renewing my association with the orchestra and with Sven as well contributing to the musical life of my community here in the Shire."

The **Mark Isaacs Trio** is one of the most enduring and distinguished ensembles in modern Australian jazz.

The group's international touring activities have included a 15-city tour of Russia in 1995, which culminated in a performance in Moscow's famous Tchaikovsky Hall. Local festival engagements have included the Perth Festival, the Wangaratta Jazz Festival, Bellingen Jazz Festival, Mostly Mozart, and Musica Viva Mittagong. The Mark Isaacs Trio has released several CDs, one of which is a collaboration with internationally acclaimed UK-based trumpeter and composer, Kenny Wheeler.

The other members of the trio include bassist Ben Waples, who recently toured Europe. Drummer Evan Mannel is another Shire alumnus, who toured overseas with the Kirrawee High School Stage Band. Evan has since gone on to tour with such luminaries as James Morrison.

Other highlights of the Sydney Proms concert will include the theme from the popular television show, *Boney*, composed by the orchestra's own Principal Conductor, Sven Libaek.

SSSO Principal Flautist, Beth Moloney, will also feature as soloist in another Libaek composition, *Aria and Toccata for Flute and Strings*. The program also features an exciting tribute to the magical music of Henry Mancini, Johann Strauss Jnr's *Emperor Waltzes*, and the mainstay of any Proms concert, Elgar's famous *Pomp and Circumstance* (Marches No. 4 and 1).

Patrons will also have the opportunity to dine before the concert, with a sumptuous two-course dinner including a pre-dinner drink and tea/coffee available for just \$28 per person (bookings essential).

Tickets to the Sydney Proms (concert only) cost \$20 for adults, and \$17 for concession. To book for dinner and/or the concert, contact the Sutherland Entertainment Centre on 9521 8888.

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra is generously supported by Sutherland Shire Council. For more information about the orchestra, visit www.sssso.org. To find out more about the Mark Isaacs Trio, visit www.markisaacs.com/.

Full concert program – Sydney Proms

Sir Edgar Elgar: *Pomp & Circumstance* March No.4
Jaques Offenbach: *Barcarolle* from *The Tales of Hoffman*
George Gershwin: *Porgy & Bess* Medley
Sven Libaek: *Aria and Toccata for Flute and Strings*

Soloist: Beth Moloney

Henri Mancini: *Tribute To Mancini* Medley
Pietro Mascagni: *Intermezzo* from *Cavalleria Rusticana*
Johann Strauss Jr.: *Emperor Waltzes*
Sven Libaek: Theme from *Boney*

Mark Isaacs: **OVER THE RAINBOW** *Four Ballads from the Great American Songbook* for jazz trio and symphony orchestra

Soloist: Mark Isaacs Trio

- Sir Edgar Elgar: *Pomp & Circumstance* March No.1

