



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

3 December 2006

### **Festive fun with Sutherland Shire Symphony's *Musical Pictures***

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra will bid adieu to 2006 with a tantalising program of intriguing musical treats plus some traditional Christmas favourites when it presents ***Musical Pictures*** at Sutherland Entertainment Centre on Sunday, 17 December.

Principal Conductor and Musical Director Sven Libaek will lead the Shire's only community orchestra through a thrilling program of works including Moussorgski's evocative *Pictures at an Exhibition*, exquisitely orchestrated by Maurice Ravel.

Other highlights will include Chase's Christmas Medley and Christmas carols. The Orchestra will also welcome guest soloist, saxophonist Jason Xanthoudakis, whose extraordinary talents will feature in Glazounov's *Concerto for Saxophone and Strings, Op.109*.

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

"Guest soloist Jason Xanthoudakis is a dazzling concert saxophonist who is sure to delight with his interpretation of Glazounov's delightfully crafted concerto.

"Moussorgski's *Pictures at an Exhibition* is also an inspiring work for both the audience and the orchestra, and there will be plenty of festive cheer with Chase's Christmas Medley 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 2006.

"We look forward to bringing more wonderful music to the people of the Sutherland Shire and beyond in 2007, and wish everyone all the best for the festive season," Mr Libaek said.

A graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Jason Xanthoudakis studied saxophone at Melbourne University and the Victorian College of the Arts He has also studied in Paris, Amsterdam and London.

Jason holds numerous Australian and overseas diplomas including a Distinction from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (UK). In 2000 he won the 3MBS Performer of the Year Award.

Jason has a busy performance schedule which includes the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, as well as frequent solo recitals around Australia. He has performed several live broadcast recitals on 2MBS-FM and has recorded for ABC Classic FM.

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 ***Musical Pictures*** 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](http://www.sssso.org).

#### ***Musical Pictures – Full concert program***

- Chase: *Christmas Medley*
- Alexander Glazounov: *Saxophone Concerto in E flat, Op.109*  
soloist Jason Xanthoudakis, saxophone
- Modeste Moussorgski: *Pictures at an Exhibition*
- Christmas Carols

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***Stop press: Subscriptions will be open from 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007 for Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra's 2007 concert season. For details, contact Sutherland Entertainment Centre on 9521 8888.***