

ADELAIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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Adelaide Symphony Orchestra MEDIA RELEASE

ASO Deep Purple Jon Lord Coup

Rock royalty is headed to the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in founding **Deep Purple** member and one of the world's most influential Hammond Organ rock blues players, **Jon Lord**.

The ASO is delighted to confirm that Jon Lord will make three exclusive Australian appearances with the ASO from **Thursday 27 March – Saturday 29 March 2008** as part of the orchestra's 2008 Showcase series concert, **ASO Plays Deep Purple**.

Jon Lord and the ASO will open the ASO Plays Deep Purple concerts with the only Australian performances of his famed Concerto for Rock Group and Orchestra. The concerto, which was the first concerto written for rock music, was originally performed at the Royal Albert Hall in 1969 with Deep Purple and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The Concerto has since been performed again with London Symphony Orchestra to mark the thirtieth year since the concerto's premiere.

History will be made in March 2008 at the Festival Theatre when the Concerto is performed for the first time with one of Adelaide's most recognisable and treasured rock personalities, 'Zep Boy' Vince Contarino and band who most recently performed the music of Led Zeppelin with the ASO to full houses at the Festival Theatre. For Contarino the ASO Plays Deep Purple with Jon Lord will be new territory. 'It's such an amazing project and performing with Jon Lord will be a career highlight', Vince enthused.

Speaking from his London home, Jon Lord is looking forward to connecting with the ASO, an orchestra he has heard a great deal of praise for. 'I am well aware of the quality of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. I have heard much praise for the orchestra throughout Europe. The ASO are well regarded internationally and I am thrilled to be working with them in these magical concerts', Jon Lord said.

ASO Chief Executive Rainer Jozeps is thrilled with this exciting development in the ASO's hugely successful Showcase Series which has delivered a string of sell out performances featuring the music of iconic rock groups including Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd.

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'Securing Jon Lord for ASO Plays Deep Purple, is like the ASO securing the presence of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart when we play his music! Jon Lord was the creative and musical force behind such classic rock anthems as *Smoke on the Water* and *Black Night*, and with Jon on stage with ASO musicians we know that we'll be offering a musical moment for audiences to remember for many years to come', Jozeps said.

Jon Lord is recognised for his Hammond organ blues-rock sound and for his pioneering work in fusing rock and classical or baroque forms and most famously as a co – founding member of Deep Purple.

Beyond Deep Purple Jon Lord has focused on composing and low key blues/ rock performances. Most recently Lord's composition Durham Concerto, commissioned by Durham University for its 175th anniversary celebrations, received its world premiere on 20 October 2007 in Durham Cathedral by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and featured Lord on Hammond Organ.

With the ASO Showcase Series already renowned for its popularity among ticket buyers the announcement of Jon Lord's involvement in ASO Plays Deep Purple will have rock enthusiasts fighting to secure tickets in what will be an historic night for both rock and classical audiences Australia wide.

Bookings for ASO Plays Deep Purple can be made through **BASS** 131 246
www.bass.net.au

ASO Plays Deep Purple **Thursday 27 March, 8.00pm Friday 28 March, 8.00pm
Saturday 19 March, 8.00pm**

For further media information:

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