

## ASO Season 2009 Overview

With a commitment to securing and presenting world class concert programmes the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's Season 2009 delivers a stellar line up of some of the biggest names the world of music has to offer.

The Season incorporates four Gala events including exclusive concerts with opera legend **José Carreras** and violin superstar **Pinchas Zukerman**, the pinnacle ASO Master Series, world class virtuosos including **Marc-André Hamelin**, Conductors including Australian **Simone Young** and the orchestra's enriching relationship with its Chief Conductor and Music Director **Arvo Volmer** and one the strongest line ups in the cross generational appeal of the orchestra's Showcase Series headlined by **Roberta Flack**.

### GALA SERIES

The ASO's Gala Concerts will celebrate the ASO with one of the true stars of the international opera stage in the great tenor **José Carreras**. As part of the series the ASO will perform two exclusive concerts with American violin phenomenon **Pinchas Zukerman**, who will perform with his Canadian cellist wife **Amanda Forsyth**. The Gala Series will present a huge showpiece for the orchestra and Maestro Volmer in Verdi's magnificent Requiem including a combined chorus of 200 voices. Another milestone will be a performance of Handel's traditional Messiah, which will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the composer's death.

### MASTER SERIES

The 2009 Master Series program, comprising 12 concerts features the core repertoire of the symphonic form including twentieth century masters such as Mahler, Elgar and Stravinsky with an increased presence from Maestro Volmer, who will conduct eight of the twelve concerts. The program will continue the orchestra's **Mahler symphony cycle** project, with Volmer conducting symphonies No. 1 and No.4 in the Adelaide Festival Theatre.

In 2009 the ASO has secured an array of international virtuosos including Canadian **Marc-André Hamelin** (piano), Adelaide born **Adele Anthony** (violin), French young gun **Cedric Tiberghien** (piano), British legend **Imogen Cooper** (piano), winner of the prestigious Paganini competition **Feng Ning** (violin), France's **Gautier Capuçon** (cello), the Australian debut of **Freddy Kempf** (piano) and a unique program with the **Australian String Quartet**.

Guest conductors include **James Judd** and **Olari Elts** with whom the orchestra enjoys favoured relationships as well as the "new blood" of **Marko Letonja** and the Adelaide debut of **Simone Young**, one of the leading conductors in the world today.

## SHOWCASE SERIES

The Showcase Series returns in 2009 with one of the strongest line ups in years. Headlined by one of the most celebrated women in music history, **Roberta Flack** the series will also encompass performances with the king of romance **Engelbert Humperdinck** and popular Australian singer songwriter **Ben Lee**. Israeli born Sydney based singer songwriter **Lior** will perform in a special Valentine's Day concert in Adelaide Botanic Gardens and the orchestra will premiere a new show by current Adelaide Festival Director **Paul Grabowsky** with Australian songstress **Katie Noonan** and Australian jazz legend **Vince Jones**. The ASO will also perform a Broadway tribute with a cast of the best of Australian musical theatre including **Todd McKenney**, a celebration of Viennese music with the vivacious **Nicholas Milton** and a tribute extravaganza to the music of **ABBA**.

## EDUCATION SERIES COUP

The ASO broaden their community reach even further in 2009. The ASO's Education Series has scored a major coup, having been invited to present the international world premiere of Li – Cunxin's award winning children's book **The Peasant Prince**, a children's adaptation of the international best seller Mao's Last Dancer, composed by Katy Abbott with choreography by **Graeme Murphy**.

## COMMUNITY SERIES

The Community Series will expand with a bold revamped **Santos Symphony under the Stars**, celebrating its tenth year anniversary. In a first the orchestra will also debut its **Classic Hour** concert series in recognition of the anniversary years of Haydn and Mendelssohn under Arvo Volmer.

# ADELAIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



**SEASON 2009**

**Carreras, Zukerman, Flack, Mahler and Volmer  
The World of Music Comes to the ASO**

**Adelaide Symphony Orchestra Launch Season 2009**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL MIDNIGHT 12 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**José Carreras, Roberta Flack** and one of the world's prolific and gifted violinists in **Pinchas Zukerman** are among the names bound for the ASO as part of the 2009 Season which was announced today.

In addition to the star attractions, the orchestra and its Chief Conductor **Arvo Volmer** also announced that the ASO will continue its Mahler symphony cycle in 2009, by performing Mahler's symphonies No.1 and No.4 as part of orchestra's Master Series. It was also revealed that Volmer, who was appointed Chief Conductor in 2004, will conduct eight of the twelve Master Series concerts as well as two of the ASO's Gala concerts and one of the orchestra's popular Showcase performances.

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra Chief Executive Rainer Jozeps said, 'For the ASO 2009 is set to be a massive year showcasing the best of both international and Australian music. The calibre of artists this Season has attracted is testament to not only the orchestra, but Adelaide, the city of culture. No longer does one have to be in New York or London to experience the depth and breadth of the world of music which the ASO will showcase in 2009'.

The breadth of the world of music is demonstrated in the range of performances the ASO will present in Season 2009. From the international star attractions across each of the orchestra's Series' to the range of great symphonic moments brought to life in Adelaide, including the grand works of **Gustav Mahler** and Giuseppe Verdi.

The world of music truly is reflected in Season 2009 with a sense that the best in the world of music is coming to you.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF ASO SEASON 2009 INCLUDE:

### GALA SERIES HIGHLIGHTS

- **Adelaide hosts opera superstar José Carreras - February**

One of the finest tenors of his generation, he has created definitive interpretations of romantic roles such as Verdi, Puccini and Donizetti not to mention becoming a household name as one of the Three Tenors. This performance is part of a limited orchestral tour which will see the tenor appear in Adelaide and Brisbane only.

- **Spectacular performance of Verdi's Requiem – May**

The Adelaide Symphony Chorus expands to include the Brisbane Chorale for what will be a majestic performance under Maestro Volmer and a major project for the ASO and the Adelaide chorale community.

- **The ASO with Pinchas Zukerman – Exclusive to Adelaide - August**

Zukerman, a living legend, great violinist and conductor has recorded over 100 works and has been nominated for 21 Grammy Awards. Among a highlight of his ASO performances will be his interpretation of Brahms Double Concerto, which will be performed with his wife and Principal cello of the National Arts Centre Orchestra Amanda Forsyth.

## **MASTER SERIES HIGHLIGHTS**

- **ASO Music Director and Chief Conductor Arvo Volmer**

Arvo Volmer in his fifth year with the ASO conducts eight of the twelve Master Series concerts. His influence is felt throughout the Season with Sibelius (MS 4), Stravinsky (MS 3) and Shostakovich (MS 8, 9)

- **Performances of Mahler's Symphonies No.1(MS1) and No.4(MS 12)**

As part of the ASO Mahler symphony cycle. The opening of the third movement in symphony No.1 features a double bass solo, distinguishing it as one of the few symphonic pieces to use an instrument in this manner.

- **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mendelssohn celebrated throughout year (MS3, 4, 6, 8)**

One of the greats of the orchestral world is honoured as part of an international celebration which will also see Arvo Volmer conduct Mendelssohn in the debut of the Classic Hour concert series.

- ***Marc-André Hamelin* September 2009 residency (MS8, MS9)**

After sell – out performances with the ASO in 2006, one of the greatest piano virtuosos is back performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.3 and Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No.1 over two weeks.

- **Australian composition**

Season 2009 features works from Ross Edwards (MS4), Carl Vine (MS5), Peter Sculthorpe (MS 11), Matthew Hindson (MS5) and Nigel Westlake. (MS1)

## **SHOWCASE SERIES HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Roberta Flack and the ASO - February**

The eagerly awaited return of legendary singer songwriter Roberta Flack to open the Showcase Series, performing all her timeless hits including celebrated chart-topping hits "*Killing Me Softly*," "*The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face*," and "*Where Is the Love*".

- **Ben Lee and the ASO - March**

Popular Australian singer songwriter Ben Lee will collaborate with the ASO bringing his hit songs such as performing orchestral makeovers of hits including '*Gamble Everything for Love*', '*We are all in This Together*' to life with the help of some of Australia's most noted composers/ arrangers.

- **ASO Plays ABBA - May**

The ASO will pay tribute to ABBA with a Finnish twist in the form of youthful vocal group Rajaton, who hail from the North and have had huge success with their eclectic performances and hit recording with the Lahti Symphony Orchestra. The ASO performances are an Australian premiere.

- **Engelbert Humperdinck and the ASO - December**

The Adelaide return of the king of romance in Engelbert Humperdinck who will make audiences swoon with the ASO celebrating his recent 40<sup>th</sup> year in the music industry. Performing hits such as '*Release Me*', '*The Last Waltz*' and '*There Goes My Everything*' Humperdinck is sure to excite.

### **ASO Season 2009 Subscription Season – ON SALE NOW**

Compose your Own subscription packages are available from just 3 concerts!

Compose your Own and save up to 20%

For subscription packages contact the ASO on (08) 8233 6233

ASO Single tickets on sale 1 December 2008

Book through BASS outlets, Dial 'N' Charge 131 246 or online [www.bass.net.au](http://www.bass.net.au)

### **For further media information on the ASO's 2009 Season:**

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## **MASTER SERIES ARTIST PROFILES 2009**

**Feng Ning**

**Violin**

**Paganini Violin Concerto No.1**

Feng Ning is the winner of dozens of prestigious prizes including most recently the first prize of the famous Paganini Violin Competition in Italy (2006) and the first prize of the Michael Hill International Violin Competition in New Zealand (2005) Still in his twenties, Feng has recently released a new album of Paganini violin pieces through Channel Classics. In Adelaide he will perform the rarely heard and notoriously difficult Paganini Violin Concerto No.1.

**Barry Douglas**

**Piano**

**Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.3**

Barry Douglas won the Gold Medal in 1986 at the Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition in Moscow. Douglas recorded with Rachmaninov Piano Concertos No.1 and 3 with the Russian State Symphony Orchestra under one of the greatest conductors of our time in Evgeny Svetlanov ten years ago. The recording was recently discovered and released in June 2008.

**Imogen Cooper**

**Piano**

**Mozart Piano Concerto No.23**

Imogen Cooper is particularly renowned as an exponent of the Viennese classical repertoire and her recordings of the Mozart concertos with the Northern Sinfonia on the Avies label have received glowing reviews.

**Adele Anthony**

**Violin**

**Ross Edwards Maninyas**

Adelaide favourite Adele Anthony enjoys a rapidly expanding and acclaimed worldwide career. In her first Adelaide appearance since 2006 Adele will perform a new work, Maninyas by renowned Australian composer Ross Edwards. Adele has expressed great admiration for Edwards and Maninyas.

**Australian String Quartet**

The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) was established in 1985 and is Quartet-in-Residence at the Elder Conservatorium of Music at The University of Adelaide. It tours both nationally and internationally, and has had a major impact on the musical life of Australia. The current membership of Sophie Rowell and Anne Horton, violins, Sally Boud, viola, and Rachel Johnston, cello was established in 2006.

**Simone Young**  
**Conductor**

Simone Young was the first woman to conduct The Vienna Volksoper, The Vienna Staatsoper and The Paris Opera and The Vienna Philharmonic. Renowned for work her work in European opera houses and as one of best conductors in the world she will be making her ASO debut in 2009.

**Cedric Tiberghien**  
**Piano**  
**Prokofiev Piano Concerto No.2**

Cedric Tiberghien is considered one of the most exciting pianists to emerge out of France. Internationally, Cedric's career was spurred when he won the 1st Prize, alongside with the Audience and the Orchestra's Awards, at the 1999 Long-Thibaud Competition in Paris. This led to over 150 engagements, including 7 visits to Japan (including a Suntory Hall recital and concertos with New Japan Philharmonic and Tokyo Philharmonic) and appearances throughout Europe.

***Marc-André Hamelin***  
**Piano**  
**Piano Concerto No.3**  
**Shostakovich Piano Concerto No.1**

While making his name as a specialist in Romantic pieces, frequently by unknown composers Marc – Andre Hamelin has attained a level of artistic maturity where he is beginning to be recognised as a great interpreter of the classic piano repertoire including Beethoven.

**Olari Elts**  
**Conductor**

Estonian born Olari Elts has established a strong relationship with the ASO over a number of years. He has visited the orchestra on an annual basis for the last three years.

**Gautier Capuçon**  
**Cello**  
**Haydn Cello Concerto in C major**

Gautier Capuçon was born in Chambéry, south-east France. Between 1997-8, as a student, he was cellist in the European Community Youth Orchestra (now the European Union Youth Orchestra) and also in the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester, playing under distinguished conductors including Bernard Haitink, Pierre Boulez and Claudio Abbado. He now enjoys a flourishing concert career and is in demand internationally as a soloist, playing with many of the world's leading conductors and orchestras. He also has a passion for chamber music. Capucon currently records for Virgin Classics and plays a 1701 Matteo Goffriller cello.

**James Judd**  
**Conductor**

James Judd has an established relationship with the ASO and was Principal Guest Conductor of the ASO from 2000 – 2003. Specific highlights with the ASO have been Mahler's Symphony No.5 (2000), Mahler's Symphony No.1 (2002) Elgar's Symphony No.1 (1999) and ASO's Grainger Festival (2003) Judd's recording of the music of Peter Sculthorpe with the ASO has won international acclaim including accolades from Gramophone Magazine.

**Freddy Kempf**  
**Piano**  
**Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1**

Freddy Kempf has become one of the most important young artists of today performing to sell-out audiences all over the world. He has built a unique reputation both as an explosive and physical performer as well as serious, sensitive and profoundly musical artist.

**Piers Lane**  
**Piano Greig Piano Concerto**

London-based Australian pianist Piers Lane has a flourishing international career which has taken him to more than forty countries. In the past few years, his engagements have included concerto performances at New York's Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Centre; a three-recital series called Metamorphoses at London's Wigmore Hall.