



adelaide symphony orchestra

PRINCIPAL PARTNER **Santos**

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Background

As one of Australia's most dynamic orchestras with a vital role at the centre of the South Australian cultural community, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra continues to experience the success of its growth in artistic prosperity.

The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra was founded as a 17 player radio ensemble in 1936 and performed its first series of public concerts in 1937. The orchestra reformed in 1949 as the 55 member South Australian Symphony Orchestra. In 1974 the name was changed back to Adelaide Symphony Orchestra with 64 members. The current size is 75 members.

The ASO received international acclaim for the hugely successful Wagner Ring Cycles, staged in 1998 and 2004, conducted by Jeffrey Tate and then Asher Fisch. Subsequent reviews and recordings with world wide distribution brought the ASO to the world's attention with glowing critical acclaim. A 2004 Ring Cycle review by FANFARE (USA) proclaimed the ASO to be... "absolutely world class...you'd think the Vienna Philharmonic...had been brought to Adelaide for these performances".

The ASO has attained a new level of excellence through its current Chief Conductor and Music Director Arvo Volmer (2004 – present) and has recently made history as the first Australian orchestra to record and release the entire Sibelius symphony cycle on CD. The orchestra's current Mahler symphony cycle (2006 – 2012) under Maestro Volmer is the first of its kind for South Australia.

The ASO has performed to acclaim in China, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong (1996), Kuala Lumpur (2005) and most recently in America, including a concert in New York's famed Carnegie Hall in 2009.

Described by one of Australia's leading popular artists as one of "Australia's most progressive and open minded orchestras" the ASO leads the way in presenting a diverse range of musical offerings including collaborations with such artists as José Carreras Nigel Kennedy; Burt Bacharach, Herbie Hancock, Pinchas Zukerman and Adelaide hip hop artists Hilltop Hoods.

Chief Conductor & Artistic Director

Arvo Volmer took up his appointment as Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in January 2004. Current plans are for him to continue in this role until the end of 2013. Chief conductor search processes are currently underway to fill this position at that time.

The Season

The orchestra's yearly season usually starts following the annual leave break at the end of January and continues until mid December. There is a mid year break of nine days usually rostered in July.

During a typical year, the orchestra plays a main subscription series of up to 14 orchestral concerts that are performed at the Adelaide Festival Theatre or the Adelaide Town Hall. The ASO Showcase series cater to a variety of interest groups from jazz to popular music while educational concerts are regularly produced involving either the orchestra or smaller ensembles. The ASO also performs outdoor concerts such as Symphony Under The Stars and Alfresco concerts that attract large audiences in the warmer months. Tea & Symphony concerts and other concerts at a variety of venues have an enthusiastic following. From time to time, regional tours are organised to a variety of main centres around the State.

The ASO supports State Opera South Australia and the Australian Ballet with pit services for about a quarter of the year. The ASO also plays a significant role in the Adelaide Festival with its opera and concert performances.

Internal structures.

The ASO has a number of internal committee structures covering artistic, OH&S, industrial and other day to day issues. The Manager, Artistic Planning will give artistic feedback to the ASO Management Committee while chairing the Artist & Repertoire Committee and the Section Leader meetings. The ASO Management Committee is made up of managers and players representatives. The Artists & Repertoire is made up of the Concert Master and player representatives while the Section Leaders meeting involve Concert Master, Section Leaders and managers as required.