



13 May 2010

TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR - SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS SECOND SHOWCASE SERIES

Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) proudly presents Southern Cross Soloists' second Showcase Series concert for 2010, featuring guest flautist **Wissam Boustany** on 1 June 2010.

Commissioning and performing new music is the lifeblood of Brisbane-based chamber ensemble **Southern Cross Soloists (SXS)**, and on **1 June 2010**, with **internationally-acclaimed flautist Wissam Boustany**, they'll showcase the ensemble's high virtuosity in a varied program of unique chamber music for winds, piano and soprano.

The program features **Poulenc's Sextet**, a piece described as chamber music of the most engaging and colourful kind, **Ravel's Scheherazade**, a true gem in his compositions for voice, **Handel's Nel dolce dell'oblio HWV134**, **Copland's As it fell upon a day** and Japanese composer **Schuhei Isobe's Maskerade – Variations on Twinkle Twinkle Little Star**.

Joining Southern Cross Soloists on this tour is **London-based flautist, Wissam Boustany**. One of only a few flautists to have launched a successful career as an international soloist, Wissam is a performer who inspires audience with his energetic and communicative music making.

Born in Lebanon, Wissam began his musical studies in Beirut, before moving to Britain in 1977. His experiences with the war in Lebanon have greatly influenced his outlook on both life and music, which led him to found **Towards Humanity, a multi-decade international initiative working with musicians and charities**, helping communities who suffer from the tragedies of war. In 1997 the Lebanese Government awarded him a knighthood in recognition of his music and peace work.

"Working with a musician like Wissam brings so much more depth to your understanding and feeling for what it is that we do. Both musically and intellectually he

is a leader of our generation and it is an honour to share the stage with him," said Paul Dean, Southern Cross Soloists' Artistic Director and Clarinetist.

This concert is part of a national tour, which sees Southern Cross Soloists and guest flautist Wissam Boustany performing in Launceston (25 May), Hobart (28 May), Brisbane (1 June), Sydney (3 June), Canberra (4 June) and Melbourne (9 June).

The Southern Cross Soloists will perform *Happy Birthday Robert Schumann* on 12 October, the third and final concert in their 2010 showcase series, in QPAC's Concert Hall.

Southern Cross Soloists are a company-in-residence at QPAC.

For further information about Southern Cross Soloists visit www.southernxsoloists.com

QPAC PRESENTS TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR BY THE SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS

WHEN Tuesday 1 June 2010, 7pm
WHERE Concert Hall, QPAC, South Bank Cultural Centre
TICKETS Adult: \$54.00
Concession: \$34.00
Under 30: \$44.00
BOOKINGS www.qpac.com.au or phone 136 246

Program
Handel *Nel dolce dell'oblio HWV134*
Schuheh Isobe *Maskerade – Variations on Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*
Copland *As it fell upon a day*
Ravel (arr Dean) *Scheherazade*
Poulenc *Sextet*

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More information on SXS

Southern Cross Soloists (SxS) were established in 1995 and since that time have built a reputation as one of Australia's leading chamber music ensembles. The ensemble maintains an extensive schedule of performing, teaching and recording. Annually, they present a subscription series in Brisbane, tour nationally with guest artists, appear at numerous festivals around Australia and present the world class Bangalow Music Festival. Since their inception they have also toured internationally, including visits to the United States, New Zealand, Canada, South Korea and China.

The ensemble has a strong commitment to furthering music education in Australia, particularly in regional Queensland, and they present an annual music camp in Rockhampton as well as visiting one or two regional centres to inspire music students over an intense weekend of masterclasses and performances. Their dedication to music and education was nationally recognised in 2009 when they were awarded 2009 APRA Classical Music Award for the Most Outstanding Contribution to Australian Music Education for their annual SunWater & Stanwell Winter Music School in Rockhampton Queensland.

Southern Cross Soloists are also dedicated to supporting Australian works and composer, and released an all-Australian CD in 2004 titled *Australia*. Since its formation, the ensemble has commissioned more than 45 new works with financial assistance from the Australia Council for the Arts. Composers who have been commissioned by the ensemble include Richard Mills, Brett Dean, Gerard Brophy, James Ledger, William Barton and Paul Stanhope.

Southern Cross Soloists are currently company-in-residence with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

Southern Cross Soloists features six of Australia's most accomplished musicians:

Director and clarinettist **Paul Dean** is much in demand as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player. He regularly appears at national Festivals and with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Grainger Quartet and the Endeavour Trio.

Tania Frazer, formerly Principal Oboe with the Israel Symphony Orchestra, enjoys a busy career as a soloist and teacher and regularly appears as the principal oboist with the Brandenburg Orchestra and Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Leesa Dean is on the staff at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and the University of Queensland. Together with Tania and Paul, Leesa performs for the Musica Viva in Schools program throughout Queensland.

Lyric soprano **Margaret Schindler**, a Senior Lecturer at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, is a nationally recognised teacher who is also in great demand as a recitalist, particularly for her performances of baroque and contemporary repertoire.

Horn player **Peter Luff** is also a Senior Lecturer at the Queensland Conservatorium, as well as Associate Principal Horn with The Queensland Orchestra (now Queensland Symphony Orchestra). He is highly regarded as a player and teacher throughout Australia while also developing a successful career as a conductor.

Kevin Power pursues a busy freelance career as a pianist, performing regularly as a soloist, accompanist and chamber musician. He was formerly on the staff of the Queensland Conservatorium and is the Chorus Master and Musical Director of The Queensland Choir.

