



MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday, February 18, 2010

CHIEF CONDUCTOR FOR QSO

QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES THREE-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR CHIEF CONDUCTOR JOHANNES FRITZSCH

Queensland Symphony Orchestra announced today a three-year extension to the existing contract of Chief Conductor Johannes Fritzsich.

This will take the relationship between the State's largest performing arts organisation and the highly regarded Maestro through to the end of 2013.

Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Patrick Pickett, said Maestro Fritzsich's artistic skills have been of significant benefit to the artistic and technical development of the Orchestra since his initial appointment in 2008.

"Maestro Fritzsich is an inspirational and visionary leader of considerable artistic talent...our Orchestra is flourishing under his leadership," said Mr Pickett.

"Our State Orchestra is moving into a new chapter that is remarkably exciting for all Queenslanders; the Board and Management felt it essential that Maestro Fritzsich continue as a key driver in this time of transformation" said Mr Pickett.

In October of 2009, Queensland Symphony Orchestra announced a name change (previously The Queensland Orchestra), corporate re-branding and also launched its 2010 Season; a program that promises world-class soloists and outstanding repertoire to take Queensland music enthusiasts on a dynamic musical journey of discovery and entertainment.

Maestro Fritzsich's contract extension will also see him involved in the Queensland Symphony Orchestra's move to South Bank, to a purpose-built building alongside the ABC (projected for completion in 2011).

Maestro Fritzsich said that he is committed to ensuring that Queensland Symphony Orchestra makes a direct and vital contribution to the cultural life of Queensland.

"It is my great privilege to be Chief Conductor during this exciting time of renewal for our wonderful orchestra," Maestro Fritzsich said.

"Through dynamic approaches to orchestral music making, we will ensure a vital engagement in the culture of our community and in achieving our vision to touch the hearts and minds of all Queenslanders," he said.

Maestro Fritzsich was born in Meissen, Germany and received his higher education at the Carl Maria von Weber Music Academy in Dresden.

Having conducted throughout Europe for the past 25 years, Maestro Fritzsich is highly regarded both in the opera house and the concert hall for his attention to detail, excellent control of balance and energetic performances.



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Queensland Symphony Orchestra Director of Artistic Planning, Richard Wenn said Maestro Fritzsch brings a wealth of experience to the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

“His recent performances of Richard Strauss, Shostakovich and Stravinsky have been revelatory,” said Mr Wenn.

“This is an exciting time for the artistic growth of our Orchestra and, under the direction of Fritzsch, the Orchestra is developing a distinctive sound colour and nuances that have not been evident before... the results are being noticed here in Queensland and internationally,” he said.

Maestro Fritzsch, his wife, Australian violinist Susan Collins and their three young daughters divide their time between Europe and Australia. In addition to his role as Chief Conductor of Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the Maestro also holds the position of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Grazer Philharmonisches Orchester and Grazer Oper, Austria.

Despite his demanding schedule, Maestro Fritzsch is keen to share with others his deep appreciation of music as a valuable tool in the life of individuals and community groups.

“As a community, we cannot survive without the arts...our art is our soul and the complexity of our art reflects our level of advancement, reveals our willingness to open our hearts and minds and to be challenged,” Maestro Fritzsch said.

“For me it is the magic of sound, especially that sound produced by a great orchestra which speaks to me and challenges my mind...it is passion...it is hope,” he said.

To experience a performance by Queensland Symphony Orchestra led by Chief Conductor Johannes Fritzsch visit www.qso.com.au for a full list of concert events and booking information.

Ends.

For more information, images and interview opportunities please contact:

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