

# The Queensland Orchestra

# MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday, August 6, 2009

## STATE ORCHESTRA BOASTS FELLOWSHIP WONDER

Twenty-six-year-old Paddington resident and Section Principal Clarinet of The Queensland Orchestra, **Irit Silver**, has recently been announced as one of only 19 Queenslanders awarded the prestigious Churchill Fellowship for 2009.

Honouring the memory of Sir Winston Churchill, the Churchill Fellowship gives Australian citizens the opportunity to travel overseas to engage in research or analysis of a chosen project or issue that cannot be easily carried out in Australia.

Ms Silver, a full-time member of The Queensland Orchestra since 2007, will receive a grant of \$22,000 enabling her to travel to Germany.

In Germany, Ms Silver will experience working with some of the best orchestras and teachers in the world, and extend her skills in orchestral leadership.

Ms Silver says being awarded the Churchill Fellowship is a highlight of her young career.

"Being only 26 and obtaining my leadership position with The Queensland Orchestra has been an amazing experience both personally and professionally," Ms Silver said.

"So to be offered another amazing opportunity... to travel to Germany and further my studies in orchestral music and leadership makes me feel so fortunate," Ms Silver said.

Ms Silver intends to share the knowledge and experience she will gain as part of her overseas travel and study with her colleagues at The Queensland Orchestra and the music community in Queensland.

Patrick Pickett, CEO of The Queensland Orchestra, is particularly proud of Ms Silver's achievement.

"Irit is a remarkable musician whose achievements at such a young age are a true testament to her incredible dedication and passion for classical music and The Queensland Orchestra" Mr Pickett said.

Other members of The Queensland Orchestra who have previously been awarded the Churchill Fellowship include Warwick Adeney (Concertmaster), Jason Redman (Principal Trombone and Board Member) and Alexis Kenny (Principal Flute).

For more information on the Churchill Fellowship follow the link at [www.churchilltrust.com.au](http://www.churchilltrust.com.au)

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## **BIOGRAPHY:**

Irit Silver completed a Bachelor of Music Performance in 2004 at the Victorian College of the Arts, studying with Robert Schubert and Craig Hill. In 2005, she completed the Advanced Performance course at the Australian National Academy of Music.

Irit has appeared regularly with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra and in 2006 was the holder of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellowship. She was part of an extensive concert tour around Tropical North Queensland in 2005, and the Australian Youth Orchestra in 2005. In 2008 she was involved in the Stradbroke Chamber music festival and the Soft Soft Loud Festival in 2009. She has appeared as a guest principal with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, soloist with The Queensland Orchestra and has played with the New Sydney Wind Quintet at The Huntington Festival.

Irit is currently Principal Clarinet with The Queensland Orchestra.

**Irit Silver is available for interviews.**

**For more information, or to confirm an interview time please contact:**

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