

The Queensland Orchestra



Ontour onstage

Circus reinvented in Brisbane

The Queensland Orchestra present X-collective in ***Circus of Fools***
Friday 19 June, 7.30pm Queensland Academy for Creative Industries

Knives will be thrown by a blind psychic, a Rod Stewart song belted out on bagpipes, and the circus completely reinvented when the cabaret ensemble X-collective bring a brand new musical performance, *Circus of Fools*, to Brisbane on Friday 19 June, 2009.

X-collective, The Queensland Orchestra's cabaret ensemble will perform *Circus of Fools*. Presented by The Queensland Orchestra this kooky group of 12 instrumentalists, one singer and a hunchback juggler, is a very different kind of musical act; re-creating the art of circus performance while playing classical works by Vivaldi and Puccini and cabaret favourites such as *Climb Every Mountain*, *Luck be a Lady* and *Somewhere* from West Side Story.

Sideshow attractions include a few unusual instruments, a clown with no sense of humour, a Cirque du Soleil impersonation and a very naughty horse; adding a stroke of bawdy comedy to the musical mix.

Circus of Fools follows the slightly offbeat and enormously entertaining story of an iconic Australian circus in financial trouble. It is up to the only people left on staff, a very motley crew of musos, to ensure the show goes on. After some comedic but failed attempts at regular circus tricks, they decide to do what they do best: let music do the talking.

Fabulous costumes, with some exquisite headdresses and flamboyant couture by designer Leivi Jones decorate a shining cast of virtuoso musicians from the state's leading symphony orchestra, led by singer and actress Leisa Barry-Smith and directed by Craig Allister Young.

Leisa Barry-Smith says this is a musical for one and all, '*Circus of Fools* offers the chance for everyone to see some exceptionally talented musicians having a huge amount of fun!'

'Standing ovation stuff...people are still raving about it' Audience feedback, Longreach 2007

'It's zany! It's wacky! It's entertaining!' Isis Town and Country

'Great to have a laugh and hear some amazing music.' Gympie audience member

PERFORMANCE COMMENCES 7.30PM **Adults \$40 Concession \$25**. For tickets and more information visit www.qtix.com.au

END RELEASE

For further information, images and interviews contact Sue-Anne Chapman, Marketing Manager, The Queensland Orchestra on 0402 005 261 or chapmans@thequeenslandorchestra.com.au

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

X-Collective

X-Collective is the cabaret ensemble of The Queensland Orchestra, and has delighted regional Queensland audiences since 2002.

See the website for more details: www.x-collective.com.au

Performers:

Leisa Barry-Smith (Singer)
Brynley White (Violin/Jazz violin)
Gail Aitken (Violin/Bagpipes)
Graham Simpson (Viola)
Craig Allister Young (Cello/Singer)
Marian Heckenberg (Bass/Electric Bass)
Karen Lonsdale (Flute/Piccolo/Singer)
Alexa Murray (Oboe/Cor Anglais)
Kate Travers (Clarinet)
Hugh Ponnuthurai (Bassoon/Singer)
Paul Rawson (Trumpet/Flugle)
Neil Favell (Horn)
David Adelt (Percussion)
Darryl Keys (Hunchback)

Songs:

Climb Ev'ry Mountain (The Sound Of Music)
Luck Be A Lady Tonight (Guys and Dolls)
Bachanale (by Saint-Saens)
Libertango (by Piazzolla)
I won't Dance
Nessun Dorma (by Puccini)
Vivaldi Megamix
Somewher (Westside Story)
I Will Survive
The Flower Duet
Skylark
The Lion Sleeps Tonight
Polovsian Dances (by Borodin)
Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?