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MELBOURNE YOUTH MUSIC ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF THE 2010 BANDS FESTIVAL

Melbourne Youth Music General Manager, Chris Clark, has today announced program details for the 2010 Bands Festival. The May Bands Festival has been running since 2005, when it was a collaboration between The University of Melbourne and Blackburn High School. The program now runs as an initiative of Melbourne Youth Music and in 2010, ten bands will perform in four concerts across two days of performances at BMW Edge, Federation Square Melbourne, May 29 & 30.

Chris Clark added: *"We're sure this year's festival is going to be an extremely successful event. A great range of bands from across Melbourne and beyond have accepted our invitation and are preparing exciting repertoire for presentation."*

Headlining the festival will be the newly formed Melbourne Youth Jazz Orchestra. Under the direction of talented musician Ross Irwin, the ensemble will perform two sets of music from big band giants such as Thad Jones, Duke Ellington, Gil Evans and the Buddy Rich Big Band.

"The Melbourne Youth Jazz Orchestra has been rehearsing hard for the last couple of months, preparing some of the most challenging and historically important big band works of the last 80 years. We are very excited to perform at the upcoming MYM Bands Festival"
– Ross Irwin, Director

Also featuring at the Bands Festival will be MYM's own Melbourne Youth Wind Symphony. In January this year, Melbourne Youth Music appointed Rick Plummer to take over the reins of this exciting young ensemble. Rick has recently relocated to Melbourne having grown up in Adelaide, where his professional engagements included working with the Australian Army Band, Elder Conservatorium Wind Ensemble and the Adelaide Youth Orchestra.

Rick commented: *"My vision for Melbourne Youth Wind Symphony is to nurture and promote a life-long love for music and the creative process. The Melbourne Youth Wind Symphony has been through a period of musical growth, exploring a diverse range of classic Wind Band repertoire. The MYM Bands Festival is our opportunity to perform works that enhance creativity, imagination, and the expressive spirit of our students."*

MYM Artistic Director, Fabian Russell added: *"The much anticipated MYM Bands Festival at BMW Edge brings together some of Melbourne's most distinguished musicians for what promises to be a truly entertaining event. Come along to see and hear for yourself, if you love bands then this is not to be missed."*

Included in this year's line up of bands are Melbourne High School Senior Stage Band, Monash Wind Symphony, Blackburn High School Concert Band and the Melbourne Wind Ensemble with conductors Amy Wert and Jemima Bunn who close out the Saturday evening concert with works by Jack Stamp, Eric Whitacre and Dimitri Shostakovich's Festive Overture. The Melbourne Wind Ensemble consists of professional musicians and music educators with a passion to perform outstanding works for wind band.

"We are looking forward to our inaugural performance at the Melbourne Youth Music Bands Festival and promoting excellence in wind ensemble performance. The Melbourne Wind Ensemble is honoured to give the Australian premiere at this festival of "Three Dances of Enchantment" by Luigi Zaninelli - a new work for wind band."

- Jemima Bunn, Conductor Melbourne Wind Ensemble

Further program details are available via the Melbourne Youth Music website, individual concert tickets are now on sale by calling Melbourne Youth Music on (03) 9376 8988, through participating ensembles or at the door.

Adult: \$20, Concession \$15, Children under 6 Free

Media enquiries: Ben Kringas
Tel: 03 9376 8988
Email: mym@mym.org.au
www.mym.org.au

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