



MEDIA RELEASE

MELBOURNE YOUTH MUSIC ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW GENERAL MANAGER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Melbourne Youth Music Chairman Peter Garnick has announced a number of significant appointments to key positions. The 'engine room' of Melbourne Youth Music has received an injection with the appointment of Chris Clark as General Manager. Chris brings to MYM his significant experience with orchestras and music training in Australia and abroad having worked at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Opera Australia.

MYM Chairman Peter Garnick commented: *"Melbourne Youth Music has been providing music training and performance opportunities for young Victorian musicians for nearly four decades. Changes in the funding and educational environment over the past five years have precipitated some major challenges for MYM. The appointment of Chris will help us to meet these challenges and help ensure the continued growth and success of Melbourne Youth Music."*

Melbourne-based conductor and orchestral trainer Fabian Russell has been appointed as the organisation's inaugural Artistic Director. In this new role, Fabian will develop program plans and oversee the performance and training activities of MYM's seven ensembles as well as the annual Summer School, together attracting over 1200 student musicians.

Fabian continues in his role as the Music Director of MYM's flagship ensemble, the Melbourne Youth Orchestra. Under his leadership the MYO has achieved a number of performance firsts. Recent performances have included the Myer Music Bowl as part of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's concert series and also as the orchestra for the 2009 Carols by Candlelight. As a result of these two performances alone, the MYO's audience now numbers into the millions.

Garnick further commented, *"Melbourne Youth Music is extremely fortunate to have harnessed Fabian's passion and imagination for music. For two years we've watched extraordinary growth in the artistic standards of the MYO. Fabian's leadership and charisma engenders exceptional commitment on the part of his young musicians. The application of Fabian's talents and experience for the benefit of our entire program means that the possibilities are limitless."*

The 100 piece Melbourne Youth Orchestra is currently in rehearsal for their first concert in the 2010 Series with a selection of works linked by the keyboard. The concert will feature soloist Michael Kieran Harvey performing Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No.2*, Rachmaninoff's *Etude-Tableaux* and Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, originally composed as a suite for Piano. The performance will take place at the Australian National Academy of Music, South Melbourne Town Hall on Sunday 18th April at 2:30pm.

Ticket sales and enquiries can be directed to the MYM office on (03) 9416 4366, Adults \$25, Concession \$20, Children under 6 Free.

In line with MYM's growth strategy, new General Manager Chris Clark also announced the formation of the Melbourne Youth Jazz Orchestra *"The Melbourne Youth Jazz Orchestra will work under the direction of Ross Irwin, a talented young musician who has extensive experience as a singer, songwriter, trumpet player, composer and arranger. The advanced ensemble will come together performing some exciting repertoire, headlining the 2010 Bands Festival at Federation Square as well as working towards supporting local and touring ensembles in some of Melbourne hottest jazz clubs."*

Melbourne Youth Music is also excited to announce that the Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra, one of Melbourne Youth Music's training orchestras will be under the guidance of well known Melbourne pianist, composer and conductor, Stefan Cassomenos. Chris Clark said *"We believe that Stefan's ability to connect with young people and his extraordinary musicianship coupled with his exciting ideas for the development of the ensemble, promise great things for the future of music education and orchestral training in Melbourne."*