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MYM ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH FREEMASONS VICTORIA & MYO 2011 CONCERT SERIES

Melbourne Youth Music has today announced a new partnership with Freemasons Victoria and details of the Melbourne Youth Orchestra 2011 Concert Series.

The partnership with Freemasons Victoria began at the Melbourne Youth Orchestra's recent Sidney Myer Music Bowl performance, where Grand Master Vaughan Werner presented a donation to Melbourne Youth Music of \$25,000 and pledged a further \$25,000 of support in the second half of 2011.

Freemasons Victoria Grand Master Vaughan Werner is delighted at how well the values of the two organisations complement each other, commenting, "*We as Freemasons strongly believe that our principles make a difference. In Melbourne Youth Music we have found a partner that shares our belief in the importance of continued self development, ongoing community involvement and promoting excellence. We are extremely happy to be associated with MYM.*"

The partnership presents MYM with further financial assistance necessary to cement its position as the finest training organisation for young musicians in Victoria and provides important support for the ongoing development of MYM and its programs. Founded in 1967, MYM is a not-for-profit music education organisation funded as part of the Victorian Department for Education and Early Childhood Development's Strategic Partnerships Program. MYM programs aim to complement and extend existing musical training in schools and also provide students with access to some of Melbourne's finest music educators and instrumental specialists.

MYM Artistic Director Fabian Russell said, "*This generous donation from Freemasons Victoria will ensure Melbourne Youth Music is able to continue to provide first-class educational and performance opportunities for Victoria's next generation of professional musicians and community leaders. As a token of our appreciation we are pleased to acknowledge Freemasons Victoria as Presenting Partner of the Melbourne Youth Orchestra 2011 Concert Series.*"

The Melbourne Youth Orchestra 2011 Concert Series comprises four programs, each presented at the South Melbourne Town Hall (Australian National Academy of Music) and featuring some of the most challenging orchestral repertoire from across the 19th and 20th centuries. These concerts will showcase the astounding depth of talent nurtured and developed through Melbourne Youth Music's programs.

The first concert in the series, on Sunday 10 April at 2:30pm, will feature Prokofiev's *Third Piano Concerto*, with Stefan Cassomenos as soloist, and Mahler's *Fifth Symphony*, under the direction of Principal Conductor Fabian Russell.

Concert 2 will see Fabian Russell lead the orchestra through Messiaen's rarely performed *Turangalila Symphony*, a piece of epic proportions calling for an augmented percussion battery as well as several exotic solo instruments.

Renowned Melbourne musician Kristian Winther will appear as Guest Conductor in the third concert, performing as violin soloist in Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* and then conducting Holst's masterpiece for massed orchestral forces, *The Planets*.

The final concert will open with Berlioz's *Roman Carnival Overture* and Melbourne Youth Orchestra Principal Trumpet, Josh Rogan, performing Tomasi's *Trumpet Concerto*. The orchestra will then bring down the curtain on its 2011 Concert Series with a performance of the complete ballet score to Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloé*.

Tickets for each concert are \$25 for adults, \$20 for concession and free for children under 6 years. For ticket orders and further enquiries, please call MYM on 9376 8988. For more information about the Melbourne Youth Orchestra or any of Melbourne Youth Music's ensembles please visit MYM's website at www.mym.org.au.

Enquiries

Rob Shirley

Tel: 03 9376 8988

Email: mym@mym.org.au

Web: www.mym.org.au

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