

sydney philharmonia choirs

artistic & musical director brett weymark

HIGHLIGHTS

AWARDS

SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS received a Helpmann Award for **Best Symphony Orchestra Concert** for the performance of Stravinsky's **Oedipus Rex & Symphony of Psalms** in the 2010 Sydney Festival.

Our Chamber Singers performance of Purcell's *King Arthur* received a *Limelight Magazine Award* nomination for Best Opera.

Three programs were listed as best classical music events in 2010 by *TimeOut Sydney* magazine.

TOURS

In 2002, Sydney Philharmonia was the first Australian choir to sing at the BBC Proms, performing Mahler's Eighth Symphony under Simon Rattle.

In 2010 Sydney Philharmonia celebrated its 90th Anniversary of music-making with a tour to London and a return appearance at the opening night of the Proms. SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS was hailed by reviewers at the Royal Albert Hall: 'the real stars were amassed choruses of the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, BBC Symphony Chorus and the choristers of St Paul's and Westminster Cathedrals and Westminster Abbey. Their dynamic range and sheer exuberance at times blew the roof off that great hall.'

ANNIVERSARIES

Our 90th anniversary in 2010 presented Berlioz *Te Deum* at the Sydney Opera House, 'A display of power through numbers.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

GUEST APPEARANCES

In 2011 SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS performed alongside Sydney Symphony in the Bell Shakespeare Company in 'Midsummer Shakespeare' for Symphony in the Domain.

Dawn Chorus spectacular choral performance at Bondi Beach in the 2009 Sydney Festival to audiences of over 7,000.

The Symphony Chorus and Chamber Singers also appeared with the Sydney Symphony in Mahler's Third and Eighth symphonies under Vladimir Ashkenazy in 2010.

Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* as part of the Opening Ceremony for the Nagano Winter Olympics.

Britten's *War Requiem* at the 2007 UWA Perth International Arts Festival,

2004 Melbourne Festival

Performing in the Opening Ceremony of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney, 2000.

SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS Appeared with the Sydney Symphony performing Mahler's Eighth for the Olympic Arts Festival in 2000
SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS performed two concerts with Barbra Streisand during her *Timeless* tour, recording a CD of this tour.

FILM SOUNDTRACKS

SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS sang for the Oscar nominated film *Australia*.
SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS also sang for the Oscar and BAFTA award-winning film *Happy Feet*.

COMMISSIONS AND PREMIERES

Peter Sculthorpe's *To Music* composed especially in honour of Sydney Philharmonia Choirs 90th Anniversary
Andrew Schultz's *Beach Burial* was shortlisted for APRA Awards 2011
Moya Henderson's *I'd Like to Name Them All By Name: Anna Akhmatova's Requiem*

WORKING WITH RENOWNED CONDUCTORS

Sir Charles Mackerras had a long association with Sydney Philharmonia and became a Patron of the Choirs in 1980. He conducted the Choirs as early as 1971 in Janacek's Glagolitic Mass and Handel's *Semele*. The performance collaboration with Sir Charles continued up to 2007 and included many highlights such as Berlioz' *The Trojans* and *Damnation of Faust*, Haydn's *Mass in Time of War and Creation*, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* (recorded with the Sydney Symphony in 2002) and Mozart's *Great Mass in C Minor*. Sir Charles, with his brother Alastair Mackerras (also a Patron of the Choirs) actively fostered and encouraged the development of Sydney Philharmonia Choirs as Australia's leading choral organisation and gave great support to the establishment of its rehearsal venue at Pier 4 Walsh Bay.

www.sydneyphilharmonia.com.au