



MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN MUSICIANS LIMBER UP FOR BEIJING

Australia has earned its first “gold medal” of the Beijing Olympics seven months out from the Games.

The Sydney Conservatorium of Music is one of 10 international music academies selected to participate in a Cultural Olympiad to be held in the run-up to the Opening Ceremony of the Olympics on August 8.

The two week event will involve a spectrum of performances by solo and group musicians from each institution as well as a grand finale orchestral and choral performance.

The Con team of 12 will comprise musicians drawn from a mixed pool of students, lecturers and alumni.

They include: Professor Kim Walker (Bassoon), Doctor Neal Peres Da Costa (Harpsichord), Daniel Yeadon (Cello), David Papp (Oboe), Caroline Wenborne (Soprano), Ben van Tienen (Piano), Elizabeth Gormley (Violin), Luke Spicer (Viola), Heather Lindsay (Cello) others to be confirmed shortly.

The other nine institutions participating are:

Central Conservatorium of Music (Beijing, China), Julliard School (New York, USA), Korean National University of the Arts (Seoul, Korea), Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music (Budapest, Hungary), Royal Academy of Music (London, England), Shanghai Conservatory of Music (Shanghai, China), Sibelius Academy (Helsinki, Finland), Universität Mozarteum (Salzburg, Austria), Yale School of Music (New Haven, USA)

Sydney’s selection was championed by the Dean of the Sydney Conservatorium, Professor Kim Walker, who last year actively promoted the concept during an International Music Forum in Shanghai.

“This is a very exciting development and as one of only 10 participating institutions is a tribute to Sydney’s standing in international music,” Professor Walker said.

“Our performances will include traditional European and contemporary Australian works.

“To ensure a national representation, members of the Conservatorium team have been drawn from across the country.”

The first official Olympic Arts Festival was held at the Melbourne Games in 1956. Barcelona formally introduced the Cultural Olympiad in 1992.

The Sydney Games embraced the Cultural Olympiad tradition with four distinct festivals – Festival of the Dreaming (1997), A Sea Change (1998), Reaching the World (1999), and the Olympic Arts Festival in 2000.

