

**MEDIA RELEASE**

30 October 2008

**THE MUSIC OF OUR TIMES HEADED FOR SYDNEY**

Sydney will host the world's biggest festival of contemporary music – World Music Days - in 2010.

Musicians from up to 50 countries will be involved in the festival that will involve up to 20 concerts, staged across Sydney – from the CBD to as far west as Penrith and Campbelltown.

Australia's bid, a collaboration of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the Aurora Festival, Australian Music Centre and ABC Classic FM, was accepted wholeheartedly this week by the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) meeting in Lithuania.

World Music Days is held annually. The 2008 festival has just finished in Lithuania, and next year will be held in Sweden.

The ISCM, formed in Salzburg in 1922, is devoted to the promotion and presentation of contemporary music – “the music of our time.”

“This is a tremendous result and a massive boost for contemporary music in general and Australian lovers of what is an extremely versatile genre of music, in particular,” said the Dean and Principal of The Con, Professor Kim Walker.

“It will bring diverse music from around the globe to Greater Sydney as well as showcase the very best of our musicians and vocalists, both solo and ensemble –from strings to radiophonics, piano duos to electric trios, from sacred choral music to didgeridoo remixes.”

All concerts in the festival will be recorded and broadcast on ABC Classic FM, delivering a national audience, and through agreements with overseas broadcasters, international reach.

The Aurora Festival segment of World Music Days will embrace up to 12 concerts at six venues over a 10 day period, and include the works of some 37 composers and world and Australian premiere performances.

Likely venues include Parramatta, Casula, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Penrith, Blacktown, Cecil Hills and in the CBD at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

The World Music Days festival is scheduled for the end of April-early May.

**Media inquiries Scott Saunders 02 9351 1298**