



MEDIA RELEASE
24 May 2009

MUSIC TO BRIGHTEN-UP LIGHT WALK

A series of free and ticketed after dark concerts at The Con will provide a special opportunity for people “walking on the wild side” of the inaugural **Smart Light Sydney Festival's Light Walk**.

The Con's Songlines installation is an integral part of the *Light Walk* route, which will lead participants from Observatory Hill, through The Rocks and Circular Quay, up to The Con and then onto Sydney Opera House nightly from this Tuesday 26 May until 14 June.

The program of performances, starring nationally and internationally acclaimed musicians, students and young virtuosos, will range from mini recitals to major works.

The recitals will be held in The Con Music Cafe, adjacent to *Songlines*, from 6pm. They will include emerging opera singers, three jazz sessions, a strings recital and two percussion sessions.

The opening event (27 May) will feature Sopranos Annike Wynne and Celeste Haworth.

Highlight performances include:

- **29 May:** The Con Symphony Orchestra (in the Verbrugghen Hall) playing Strauss's *Salome**
- **1 June:** Cocktail Hour Concert – The Great Clarinet (Francesco Celata), held in the Recital Hall West*
- **6 June: LICHT** will see musicians perform, for the first time in Australia, extracts from the controversial electronic orchestral music of German composer Karlheinz Stockhausen. Performances throughout the day in all venues.*
- **9 June:** Percussion Quartet (Daryl Pratt, Andrew Chan, Josh Hill, Anna Zeltzer), String Quartet and Omphalo Centric Lecture (Nigel Westlake).
- **12 June:** Sopranos Ali Manifold and Anna Dowsley and pianist Christopher Nazarian.

**Bookings essential. Tickets available from Reception*

Using low energy LED lighting, *Songlines* fits the requirements of the “smart” light art works forming the *Light Walk*, which is expected to attract thousands of visitors during festival time.

Songlines, a 10 metre high and five metre round cylinder, will alternate shades of red, blue, yellow and green light treatments each evening.

It was created as part of the Conservatorium's Open Day in March, and emanates musical sounds as prevailing winds “caress” three giant Aeolian Harps acoustically placed inside the structure.

It was officially opened by the NSW Minister for the Arts, **The Hon Virginia Judge**, and the Lord Mayor of Sydney, **Clover Moore MP**.

Songlines, created by Sydney architect **Joe Snell**, was inspired by Bruce Chatwin's interpretation of Indigenous Australian's ancient invisible pathways told in song. Joe is also contributing another artwork to *Light Walk*, co-created with Mary-Anne Kyriakou and located within Customs House.





SYDNEY
CONSERVATORIUM
OF MUSIC

Dean and Principal, Professor **Kim Walker**, said: “The Con is where music is made and nurtured, so we are thrilled to provide a special program of concerts for the public to help brighten what is already a spectacular festival.

“Having *Songlines* as part of the route is a real treat and those participating can expect to hear some outstanding performances from our finest musicians and singers along the way.

“The cafe recitals will allow people to take a break, get a snack and have a drink.”

Full details of The Con’s Concert Program is available at www.thecon.com.au

Smart Light Sydney is a core component of **Vivid Sydney**, a major showcase of concerts and other live music, new technology, nightscapes, symposia and exhibitions.

Media inquiries

Scott Saunders on 02 9351 1298

