



## VISIT THE CON? PLAY AT THE CON? LISTEN AT THE CON? YES, YOU CAN!

One of Sydney's most iconic institutions – the Sydney Conservatorium of Music – plans to host an “open house” to encourage greater public appreciation and enjoyment of the venue's musical heritage.

A special event in March featuring exhibitions, masterclasses, workshops and a diverse range of free performances will aim to “knock down the door” of any community misconception that The Con is off-limits to people other than students and staff.

“Sure it is a musical institution dedicated to musical excellence and the development of world class musicians, but The Con is definitely for everyone,” said the Dean, Professor Kim Walker.

“Anyone who believes it is a cultural no-go zone for the general public is mistaken.

“We want our Open Day on Sunday 29 March to send the message that anyone and everyone can visit and see historical displays and hear all genres of the music being played, up to seven days a week.

“The fact is that the passion of the people who work and study at The Con is driven by their love of music and the general belief that music cuts through all barriers...is a medium that respects all ages, all cultures, all persuasions.”

Two highlights of the Open Day will be a large installation that has three Aeolian Harps built in to its structure and naturally creates music through the help of prevailing winds; and a finale concert that will feature a “who's who” of Australian musicians.

The “Sensational Sundays” concert will include Satu Vänskä, Alice Evans, Christopher Moore, Nikki Divall, Melissa Barnard and Timo-Veikko Valve (all members of the Australian Chamber Orchestra) playing Brahms String Quintet in G Major and Beethoven's Violin Sonata No 9 “Kreutzer;” and Ole Böhn, Maxime Bibeau and Daryl Pratt playing Charles Wuorinen's percussion masterpiece “Spinoff.”

A panel discussion on music involving Conservatorium alumni will be another drawcard, along with the voices of scores of country NSW music students performing excerpts from Carl Orff's magnificent “Carmina Burana.”

The Con, which is part of the University of Sydney, dates from 1915 and is one of Australia's first conservatoriums.

Located on the Macquarie Street boundary of the Royal Botanic Gardens, it was originally the castellated stables of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, as designed by colonial architect Francis Greenway in 1817.

The Vice-Regal Patron of The Con is the current Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO.

A specialist High School was introduced in 1919, establishing a model for music education that straddled secondary and tertiary and community sectors – a template that continues to this day.

The Con's 2009 concert series, involving a record 470 free and ticketed concerts and recitals, embraces a full spectrum of musical styles, from symphony, opera, jazz, chamber music and ensembles; soloists, duets, orchestras; classical compositions to improvisations.

Musicians who have emerged from The Con over the decades and gone on to earn national and international acclaim include: Richard Tognetti, The Presets, James Morrison, Simone Young, Richard Bonyngne, Roger Woodward and Sir Charles Mackerras

**Media inquiries to Scott Saunders, 02 9351 1298**

***The Con Open Day is on Sunday, 29 March, from 10am to 5pm***





## PROGRAM OF ACTIVITY IN BRIEF

10.00am Official Opening, SCM Forecourt  
Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony  
Dean's Welcome

10.30am to 1.30pm

- Kids concerts and activity including singing, playing and creating.
- Sound Installations
- Workshops led by well-known Australian musicians with opportunities to join in the music making.
- Conservatorium jazz groups including the legendary Judy Bailey
- Performances by Con students including big bands, string quartets, brass ensembles and more
- Open Academy Rising Stars - The Con's youngest talent perform recitals throughout the day.
- Drum Circles - you can share in the beat of this all inclusive rhythmic experience
- Masterclasses where you can see the stars of tomorrow as they demonstrate their talents and learning techniques.
- Plus - Open rehearsals, workshops, forums, tours, seminars, and much more.

1.30pm Friendship Choir  
A choir made up of students from Sydney Conservatorium High School and visiting friends from NSW Regional Conservatoria perform excerpts from Carl Orff's magnificent "Carmina Burana". A spectacular coming together of city and country.

3.00pm Finale Concert  
The first concert of 2009 for the premier chamber music series, Sensational Sundays. This concert, Unruly Passions, will feature renowned musicians Satu Vänskä, Alice Evans, Christopher Moore, Nikki Divall, Melissa Barnard and Timo-Veikko Valve (all members of the Australian Chamber Orchestra) playing Brahms String Quintet in G Major and Beethoven's Violin Sonata No 9 "Kreutzer;" and SCM faculty members and international artists Ole Böhn, Maxime Bibeau and Daryl Pratt playing Charles Wuorinen's percussion masterpiece "Spinoff."

5.00pm Conclusion of Open Day activity

