

# Australian Festival of Chamber Music

## MEDIA INFORMATION: April 20, 2006



## Musical magic to premiere in Queensland outback

Some of Queensland's most remote and spectacular locations will welcome the haunting sounds of the didgeridu and classical strings during the unique musical adventure, the Australian Festival of Chamber Music's Xstrata Copper Outback Tour.

Announcing the program today, Artistic Director, Christopher Latham said the Outback Tour would mix Queensland's dramatic scenery with a program of newly composed Australian works for didgeridu and strings, some commissioned especially for the experience.

"The five-day Outback Tour will visit Cloncurry, Ernest Henry Mine, Mt Isa, Normanton and Karumba, bringing just a glimpse of the AFCM program to far western Queensland communities, some incredibly remote, and all spectacularly beautiful," he said. "Legendary Australian didgeridu player William Barton will join with emerging musicians the Fyra Quartet - Janet Anderson, violin, Natalie Low, violin, Anna Colville, viola, Katherine Philp, cello - in performing six premiere works amongst the repertoire, far from the great concert halls of the world."

"The Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville is a world class event, and this year we will welcome over 80 Festival artists and special guests from around the world. The performances created over the 10-days are extraordinary and The Outback Tour is a way of taking this event to regional communities who may never experience such musical magic."

Premiere works will include *Sculthorpe - String Quartet no 9 for didgeridu and string quartet*; *Glass - String Quartet no 2 "Company"*; *Elena Kats-Chernin Silver Poetry*; *Lee - Morango - Like a Tango*; *Barton - Sacred Song* and *Hindson - Technologic*.

Music lovers have the opportunity to accompany this tour, from Friday 23 June through to Tuesday 27 June inclusive. From Townsville, the Tour will travel by Macair to Cloncurry on Friday, 23 June to be guest performers at the Cloncurry Shire Hall for the blacktie Sportsman's Dinner. This dinner will be on the eve of the NRL's City -v- Country football match.

The Tour will then visit the Ernest Henry Mine for a staff concert and mine tour. In the afternoon there will be opportunity to experience the local culture and characters, and the distinct possibility of playing the national anthem or pre-match entertainment at the NRL's City - v - Country football match. On Sunday, 25 June, the Tour moves to Mt Isa where the artists will conduct masterclasses with local students and enjoy the award winning Outback at Isa tourist centre, including the Riversleigh Fossil Centre and Laboratory followed by a community concert at the Civic Centre.

Travelling up to the heart of the barramundi on Monday June 26, artists will spend the day touring Normanton before heading to Karumba for a spectacular sunset cruise followed by a concert on the deck of the Sunset Tavern. The tour concludes on Tuesday June 27, returning to Townsville.

Seating is limited for this exclusive tour and will cost \$1500 per person. Participants will be accepted on a first in basis upon payment. Interested parties should contact the AFCM on 07 4771 4144.

The AFCM Outback Tour is presented by Xstrata Copper, MacAir Airlines and the Queensland Government. The AFCM is made possible by sponsorship from a number of organisations. AFCM Presenting Partners include Townsville City Council, Arts Queensland and Queensland Events. The AFCM is benefiting from a three-year \$150,000 investment under the Significant Regional Events Scheme, part of the Queensland Events Regional Development Program (QERDP). The scheme identifies & supports those events that have a particularly strong track record of growth and economic success. The QERDP is a QLD Government initiative designed to take unique and creative regional events to their full potential. Since the program began in 2001, over \$5.7 million has been invested in more than 265 regional events. Telstra Country Wide is a valued program partner.

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