



MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
AND THE TASMANIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS and TSO strike accord

A formal agreement to recognise the collaborative partnership between the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra will be signed today (Wednesday 8 December 2010).

A Memorandum of Understanding between UTAS, the Conservatorium of Music and the TSO will establish a framework for ongoing collaboration in music education, teaching, research and community engagement.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said that while the University and the TSO have worked collaboratively for many years, the Memorandum of Understanding will provide a framework for increasingly exciting cooperative initiatives between the two organisations.

“UTAS and the TSO are both passionate about supporting and enhancing the vibrant high performance culture in Tasmania,” Prof Le Grew said.

The MOU outlines opportunities for developing joint public performances and community-related events, working together on funding proposals to attract research grants and creating internationally-recognised professional development and training programs in the performing arts.

“We are also developing plans to share and more efficiently utilise high-cost infrastructure and performance spaces, recording facilities and technical services,” Prof Le Grew said.

More broadly, the relationship will include engagement between the TSO and the Conservatorium of Music, as well as a number of UTAS faculties and administrative sections, including the Tasmanian University Union, which has a TSO Society, and the broader UTAS staff and student population.

TSO Managing Director Nicholas Heyward said that the MOU will bolster Tasmania’s position as a centre of excellence in orchestra development, performance and training.

“The TSO is already a national leader when it comes to fostering up-and-coming talent, but our reputation for training will be taken to a new and dynamic level with the implementation of this initiative with UTAS,” Mr Heyward said.

“The TSO is committed to a continuous improvement culture and the projects developed through the MOU will help us attract and retain quality musicians with the flow-on effect of better experiences for concert-goers.”

Acting Director of the UTAS Conservatorium of Music, Dr Andrew Legg, said the MOU would have significant benefits for academic and teaching programs.

“The UTAS approach to music and performing arts is significantly focussed on ‘learning by doing - playing alongside the world’s best’,” Dr Legg said.

“This agreement will allow us to develop integrated academic programs, create opportunities for qualified academic staff and students to perform with the TSO, involve TSO members and visiting performers more directly in our teaching programs by providing guest lectures, master classes and one-on-one mentoring to develop and support the next generation of talented performers.”

Importantly, the agreement will also allow TSO members to have access to professional development opportunities at UTAS.

The MOU will be signed by the UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew and Geoff Willis, Chairman of the TSO.

The Memorandum of Understanding will be in place for three years.

Media opportunity: The media are invited to attend the signing at the MOU between UTAS and the TSO at City Hall from 10.30am. Members of the Australian International Symphony Orchestra Institute (AISOI) will be rehearsing as part of their training school and concert program.

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