



**MEDIA RELEASE
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The Australian Youth Orchestra under the baton of Christopher Hogwood to delight audiences with two nights of Mendelssohn's symphonies.

Wednesday 14, December: The February 2012 Season of The Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO) culminates in two concerts with English conductor Christopher Hogwood and Melbourne-based pianist Amir Farid at Melbourne Recital Centre on 27 February and 1 March.

The brilliant young musicians of the AYO will delight Melbourne audiences with a selection of some of the best-loved works of Felix Mendelssohn. For members of the AYO, this is not just a chance to perform in one of the world's best concert halls; it's an opportunity to learn from luminary conductor Christopher Hogwood at a formative moment in their musical careers.

The Australian Youth Orchestra is one of the world's most prestigious and innovative training organisations for young pre-professional musicians, showcasing the talents of Australia's brightest young musicians performing at the highest level. Each year, the AYO is formed from different musicians aged 12 – 28 from all over Australia, selected in a highly competitive rigorous national audition process. Many of the musicians who are selected for the AYO will have been through some of the 12 training programs offered by the organisation, designed to nurture musicians at all levels from the emerging, gifted, school-aged student, to those on the verge of a professional career. The AYO has toured internationally and performed at prestigious venues and festivals including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the BBC Proms and at home at the Sydney Opera House and the Perth International Arts Festival. In 2013, the Orchestra will travel to Europe under the great German conductor, Christoph Eschenbach and Grammy Award-winning violin soloist, Joshua Bell. 65% of Australia's professional orchestral musicians are AYO alumni and former participants feature significantly in the personnel of the world's greatest orchestras.

Colin Cornish, CEO, The Australian Youth Orchestra, said today, "The Australian Youth Orchestra is excited to share the stage with Christopher Hogwood, a pioneer in the performance of Mendelssohn's music, and to collaborate with another of Australia's fine young talents, Amir Farid."

Once described as 'the von Karajan of early music', Christopher Hogwood is universally acknowledged as one of the most influential exponents of the historically informed early-music movement. Equally passionate about music of the 19th and 20th centuries, he has worked with leading symphony orchestras and opera houses around the world, amassing a catalogue of over 200 recordings with the Academy of Ancient Music.

EVENT DETAILS

Monday 27 February and Thursday 1 March 2012

7.30pm, Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre

Tickets - \$50 (\$25 concession)

Book at melbournerecital.com.au or call the Box Office on 03 9699 3333

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