

Media Release

15 March 2017

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra



Australia's first Orchestral Performance master's degree launches at University of Melbourne with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

A two-year Master of Music (Orchestral Performance) will launch today at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (MCM) when University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis and Chair of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) Board Michael Ullmer sign an official Memorandum of Understanding.

The very first qualification of its kind in the Asia Pacific region, the two-year degree has been developed to provide future generations of performing musicians greater employment opportunities both nationally and internationally.

Director of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Professor Gary McPherson, said the program is expected to attract the finest Australian and international musicians, providing them with the vital skills required to develop their careers.

“In addition to developing elite-level performance skills, we want young musicians to be able to manage their professional lives and understand what it takes physically and mentally to sustain a career across decades of performing music.”

“During the course they'll learn how to identify, manage and prevent the types of health risks associated with performing music and have practical experiences working alongside MSO staff in a host of areas, such as artistic program development, philanthropy, the music library, education outreach programs, and marketing and advertising.”

MSO Managing Director, Sophie Galaise said students will have the opportunity to perform alongside MSO musicians and be mentored by them as they progress through a course that is unique on the world stage.

“We are delighted to be part of such a unique program nurturing young musicians, facilitating collaborations and giving them the opportunity to work with the MSO in state of the art rehearsal facilities and a major international performance venue.

“The graduates of the Orchestral Performance master's degree will be fully prepared to use their skills, knowledge and understandings within any world-class orchestra, anywhere in the world.”

The course will run out of MCM's new [Ian Potter Southbank Centre](#) next door to the Melbourne Recital Centre and MSO's Iwaki auditorium and management facilities.

The Master of Music (Orchestral Performance) program will commence in 2018 with enrolments set to open in April this year.

More information via: mcm.unimelb.edu.au/mso.

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