

PRESS RELEASE

10 February 2016

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH ANNOUNCED AS THE FILMED NARRATOR OF THE *LIFE STORY* PROM

SECOND RELEASE OF TICKETS TO THE *LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS*

APRIL 13 – 16, HAMER HALL, ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

While Melbourne eagerly awaits the inaugural BBC Proms Australia, organisers have today announced the inclusion of Sir David Attenborough as the filmed narrator of the *Life Story* Prom. In addition, a second release of tickets to *Last Night of the Proms* will go on sale this coming week, to meet the demand of enthusiastic Australians as well as two further *Classics for Kids* concerts.

Sir David Attenborough, the iconic broadcaster and naturalist, will film special video segments exclusively for BBC Proms Australia. With the Queensland Symphony Orchestra performing Murray Gold's original score, the *Life Story* Prom will see Sir David Attenborough introduce footage sequences from the BBC's stunning natural history television series, played out on the big screen.

"We are thrilled to have Sir David Attenborough on board as the filmed narrator of the Life Story Prom" said Helen Pendlebury, Head of Business Development for BBC Worldwide ANZ. *"His video introductions will guide audiences through the breath-taking excerpts from Life Story, complementing the Queensland Symphony Orchestra's performance of Murray Gold's incredible soundtrack. We know that Australian audiences and fans of natural history are going to love this event."*

An iconic event in the United Kingdom, and beloved by British audiences for over 120 years; **BBC Proms** is one of the world's foremost musical experiences, and comes to Australia for the very first time in 2016. The classical concert series will take place over four days (**April 13-16**) at **Hamer Hall** and will be the first time the Proms has been held outside of the UK in this way.

In an Australian first, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Youth Orchestras will unite under the one program. The MSO's Chief Conductor, **Sir Andrew Davis** will join Music Director Designate for the QSO,

Alondra de la Parra and a host of domestic and international musical virtuosi including cellist and BBC Young Musician 2012, **Laura van der Heijden**; internationally renowned Argentinian pianist **Sergio Tiempo** and Australian beatboxing powerhouse, **Tom Thum**, who has collaborated with Australian composer and conductor, Gordon Hamilton to create a truly unique beatbox and classical music experience, *Thum Prints*.



- Continues -

The final concert, *Last Night of the Proms* is a best of British line-up of classical favourites, conducted by Sir Andrew Davis leading the MSO. As is tradition in the UK, *Last Night of the Proms* is a celebration of national identity in truly British fashion, with a second release of a limited number of tickets now on sale.

BBC Proms Australia will also present a series of interactive children's concerts - the perfect way to introduce the next generation to the joys of classical music. *Classic for Kids* will feature the Sydney Youth Orchestras performing repertoire from history's most significant and popular composers. Conductor John Ockwell, with the help of much loved children's character **Hey Duggee**, will guide children through the different instruments of the orchestra. Presented by CBeebies, *Classic for Kids* is an inspirational and educational experience ideal for children 2-8 years old.

The extended programme also gives attendees a chance to meet the people behind the music with *Proms Extra*, a series of pre-concert talks with the featured composers and conductors; a fascinating insight into the performances and the world of classical music.

With more to be announced in the coming months, BBC Proms Australia is an impressive addition to the Australian musical calendar with a truly British flavour.

PROM 1	PROM 2	PROM 3 & 4 – LIFE STORY PLUS - PROMS EXTRA: CLASSICS FOR KIDS	LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS
Wed 13 April, 7:30pm	Thurs 14 April, 7.30pm	Fri 15 April, 7:30pm & Sat 16 April, 2pm PROMS EXTRA: Fri 15 April and Sat 16 April 9:30am and 10:45am and 12pm	Sat 16 April, 7:30pm
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Sir Andrew Davis <i>conductor</i> Laura van der Heijden <i>cello</i>	Queensland Symphony Orchestra Alondra de la Parra / Gordon Hamilton <i>conductors</i> Sergio Tiempo <i>piano</i> Tom Thum <i>beat boxer</i>	Queensland Symphony Orchestra Jeremy Holland-Smith <i>conductor</i> PROMS EXTRA: John Ockwell conducts and narrates for children 2-8	Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Sir Andrew Davis <i>conductor</i> Liane Keegan <i>contralto</i>

To purchase tickets for BBC Proms Australia, or further information including full program details and updates, visit bbcpromsaustralia.com

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BBC Proms Australia is supported by the GREAT Britain campaign.

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