



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular to land in Wellington**

Wellington will be invaded by Daleks, Cybermen and a host of other *Doctor Who* monsters in February next year, as the BBC's smash hit *Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular* takes the stage at the 2014 New Zealand Festival.

Touring with a new show based on the recent Doctor Who 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proms in the UK, *Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular* will play three performances at Wellington's TSB Bank Arena on 21 and 22 February 2014. This is the first time the show has come to New Zealand, following sell-out seasons in Melbourne and Sydney last year.

A musical celebration of the iconic TV series, aisles will be overrun with *Doctor Who* characters as the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra performs composer Murray Gold's captivating music from the *Doctor Who* series. Overhead specially edited sequences of Matt Smith's performance as the Eleventh Doctor will appear on the big screen.

New Zealand Festival Artistic Director, Shelagh Magadza, is expecting the *Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular* to be one of the hottest tickets at next year's Festival, which marks her first as Artistic Director.

"We're expecting an invasion from around the country. This show really is spectacular, it dances between fantasy and reality and will appeal to people of all ages, whether they're theatre regulars, music lovers or *Doctor Who* fans old and new," says Ms Magadza.

*Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular* is being presented in association with BBC Worldwide Australia and New Zealand. Helen Pendlebury, Head of Commercial, Entertainment and Children's Brands, is thrilled to bring this unique event to New Zealand for the first time.

"It's a very exciting time as Doctor Who celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and we are delighted to give Kiwi fans a chance to experience the series in a whole new way. The 2014 tour will also include performances in Melbourne and Brisbane."

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra is excited to partner with the New Zealand Festival to open the Festival with this special event.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to bring the world of *Doctor Who* to New Zealand and celebrate the Doctor Who 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary," says NZSO Head of Artistic Programming, Melissa King.

The *Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular* will appear as part of the New Zealand Festival at the TSB Bank Arena, Wellington on 21 and 22 February. Tickets go on sale to the General Public on 30 August 2013 with pre-sales available from 26 August 2013 from Ticketek.

*Ends*

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#### **Notes to Editors**

- *Doctor Who* will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 23 November 2013 in the UK with an epic adventure starring Matt Smith and Jenna Coleman with David Tennant, John Hurt and Billie Piper. New Zealand viewers will be able to see it on Prime.
- The series is watched by an estimated 80 million viewers in 206 countries around the world and has been honoured by the Guinness World Records as both the longest running and most successful science-fiction series in the world.
- The New Zealand season of *Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular* is funded by New Zealand Major Events and Wellington City Council.
- The New Zealand Festival (formerly New Zealand International Arts Festival) takes place in Wellington from 21 February – 16 March 2014.
- Details of the full Festival programme are announced on 23 October 2013 at [festival.co.nz](http://festival.co.nz).