

THE STARS COME OUT FOR THE RMP'S WORLD RECORD BREAKING MESSIAH!

Take Australia's favourite bass-baritone, add a sensational young tenor and international star soprano and contralto, mix with over 100 crack choral and orchestral musicians, a dynamic conductor and world record of 235 performances of Handel's *Messiah* and you have an unbeatable mix.

That's the recipe for this year's Royal Melbourne Philharmonic blockbuster world record breaking performance of Handel's *Messiah*, starring internationally acclaimed and New Zealand born bass baritone Teddy Tahu Rhodes, Rachelle Durkin (principal soprano at the Metropolitan Opera in New York), former principal mezzo from Hamburg State Opera Deborah Humble and Opera Australia's rising star tenor John Longmuir.

Despite the recent crisis of losing major City of Melbourne funding, RMP Chief Conductor Andrew Wailes is putting on a spectacular show with this incredible line up of soloists who will light up Melbourne Town Hall on Sunday December 14 at 5pm.

Once news of the RMP's funding crisis became public, the RMP has been swamped with public support and private donations from outraged music lovers, proving that Melbourne loves the RMP and is determined for the RMP to continue its fine reputation of presenting quality classical concerts to the people of Melbourne as it has done since 1853.

"It would be such a shame for Melbourne if lack of funding from Government and Council meant that the RMP was killed off, an unthinkable event in any other major city in the world" says Wailes. Apart from the huge loss the RMP would be to local performers and audiences here, Melbourne's world-record of the most unbroken annual performances of Handel's Messiah would also be lost, which would be sad."

"I have no intention of letting the RMP sink on my watch" says Wailes.

"This Messiah will be one of our best ever, and send a message to all and sundry that the RMP intends to be around for another 160 years! I'm delighted that artists of the calibre of Teddy, Rachelle, Deborah and John will be joining us this year. To many people in this city, THIS is the Messiah that matters," said Wailes with a cheeky grin.

Ending another action packed December for the RMP will be three spectacular "Carols in the Cathedral" concerts in St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 December. Featuring popular tenor David Hobson, fifty angelic voices of The Australian Children's Choir and stirring brass fanfares, it will be a triumphant end to the year for Australia's oldest surviving performing arts organisation.

Book online at www.trybooking.com/100019 or from Ticketmaster Ph: 136 100 / ticketmaster.com.au

For general enquiries and to reserve Premium Tickets phone 0408 006 828 or email rmp@rmp.org.au.

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For further information, or to donate to the RMP, visit www.rmp.org.au