

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Australia’s major symphony orchestras welcome ABC’s investment in regional Australia

The Adelaide, Melbourne, Queensland, Sydney, Tasmanian and West Australian Symphony Orchestras welcome the announcement that the ABC will invest \$15m per year in regional content.

ABC Managing Director Michelle Guthrie confirmed that “Regional investment will be a priority...” as part of a new strategy and transformation program.

Regional investment is also a key priority for Australia’s six symphony orchestras, which reach nearly one million listeners in the concert hall each year, and a further seven times that number via ABC Classic FM.

“We are pleased that the ABC will recruit up to 80 new roles in regional Australia over the next 18 months” stated Nicholas Heyward, Managing Director of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

“We are particularly hopeful this will include key personnel such as the technicians and producers who record and broadcast the orchestras’ regional performances”.

Chief Executive Officer of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Craig Whitehead added “In a state as large as WA, it is vital that our recent performances are broadcast regularly on ABC Classic FM. We work hard to engage as many Australians as possible, and the best way to do that is through live or recent broadcasts of our concerts right across the country”.

Around a third of Australians live outside capital cities and can listen to concerts given by the six symphony orchestras on ABC Classic FM, which broadcasts around 300 concerts per year of music performed by Australian ensembles.

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