

MEDIA RELEASE



Maestro Johannes Fritsch makes special guest appearance as he lowers his baton as Chief Conductor of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Johannes Fritsch, internationally renowned German conductor and music maestro, is guest conductor for **'The Prodigy Collective' - Festival of Youth Orchestras** in Brisbane from Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 December 2014.

As he steps down after seven years as Chief Conductor of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Maestro Fritsch will conduct two free evening concerts in the Old Museum Concert Hall on Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 December commencing at 7 pm. In the final evening concert at QPAC Concert Hall, all orchestras including the Queensland Youth Symphony, Sydney Youth Orchestra, Canberra Youth Orchestra, Gold Coast Youth Symphony and Christchurch Youth Orchestra will perform in an all groups concert on Friday 5 December commencing at 7 pm.

"I've been delighted to see so many Queensland Youth Orchestra players advance to the QSO and other major Australian orchestras. It will be a privilege to finish as QSO Chief Conductor on such a high note conducting these brilliant new generation musicians in Brisbane," said Johannes Fritsch.

Accepting his first position as conductor at the age of 22, Johannes has enjoyed a prestigious international career spanning 30 years. He has worked and performed with many great orchestras and opera companies throughout the world, such as the Hamburger Sinfoniker, Berliner Sinfonie Orchester, Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Opera Stockholm, Malmö Operan and Opera Australia in Sydney and Melbourne.

Whilst majoring in conducting and piano at the Carl Maria von Weber Music Academy in Dresden, Johannes has also studied violin, trumpet and organ. **'The Prodigy Collective' - Festival of Youth Orchestras** is an amazing experience for Australia and New Zealand's finest young musicians to combine their skills, and create a musical masterpiece through their passion for orchestral playing.

John Curro AM MBE, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Queensland Youth Symphony, is a great supporter of the festival and advocate for music amongst youth, especially within education. He has also developed a strong relationship with the Christchurch Youth Orchestra, starring as a guest conductor several times.

Tickets for the final concert can be purchased online at qpac.com.au or by calling 136 246.

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