

MEDIA RELEASE



Congratulations to John Curro on “Queensland Greats” Award

Music legend John Curro AM MBE was honoured as one of five Queensland Greats this week within days of Queensland Youth Orchestras’ (QYO) 50th birthday on Wednesday 22 June that he founded.

Incredibly, 50 years on, the celebrated music educator and musician continues as Director of Music of QYO and Conductor of its internationally renowned senior orchestra, the Queensland Youth Symphony.

Several of Queensland’s greatest living musicians, all QYO alumni, are performing in Brisbane in this year’s Golden Jubilee celebration concerts in homage to John Curro – clarinettist Paul Dean, violinist Dene Olding, pianist Stephen Emmerson and oboist Diana Doherty.

QYO President Peter Geroff congratulated John on the latest honour, announced on Sunday by Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk.

“The initiative John took in establishing QYO and the decades of commitment have ranked QYO among the finest youth orchestra organisations in the world, and helped place Queensland as the leading state in young music in Australia,” Peter said.

“On behalf of the 460 young musicians in QYO’s seven orchestras and ensembles this year, of the thousands of QYO players who have gone before them, and of the countless audience members, young and old, throughout Queensland and far beyond, thank you John for your wonderful, vibrant, living legacy.”

Announcing six Queensland Greats to mark Queensland Day, Ms Palaszczuk said the prestigious awards recognised outstanding Queenslanders for their lifetime of dedication and contribution to the development of our state and their role in strengthening and shaping our community.

“It is an honour to acknowledge these inspiring Queenslanders who have made a lasting, positive difference to our great state,” Ms Palaszczuk said.

QYO’s 50th anniversary celebrations continue this year with:

- An international festival of youth orchestras – “The Prodigy Collective” – culminating in a combined concert in the QPAC Concert Hall on Friday 5 August at 7 p.m.
- The third in the Queensland Youth Symphony concert series featuring Stephen Emmerson as soloist in the Mozart Piano Concerto No 24, and the Berlioz Te Deum with 300 choristers presenting one of the largest choral works ever staged in the QPAC Concert Hall, on Saturday 20 August at 7 p.m.
- The 41st annual National Youth Concerto Competition Finals Concert – “String Sensations” – with three finalists competing in Australia’s leading competition for young string players to 17 years, in the Old Museum Concert Hall on Sunday 9 October at 3 p.m.
- The QYO Alumni Orchestra , playing Mahler’s Symphony No. 5 and Diana Doherty as soloist in the Mozart Oboe Concerto, in the QPAC Concert Hall on Saturday 17 December at 7 p.m.

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