



**MEDIA RELEASE Sydney / Melbourne
& announcing touring expansion to Brisbane**

A BAROQUE GENIUS, HEARD ANEW

VIVALDI UNWIRED

Brandenburg mixes the Baroque sound with Mac laptop for world premiere of Max Richter's RECOMPOSED - VIVALDI on period instruments

The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra (ABO) will give the period instrument world premiere of award-winning British composer Max Richter's worldwide hit **Recomposed – Vivaldi: The Four Seasons** in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane this May.

The celebrated baroque ensemble – which has just won the prestigious \$80,000 Sidney Myer Performing Arts Group Award for 2014 – will reveal a different side of its creativity during *Vivaldi Unwired*, mixing a digital element with its period instruments.

ABO artistic director **Paul Dyer AO** will swap his harpsichord for an Mac laptop for the performances, joining concertmaster and soloist **Brendan Joyce** on baroque violin and 25 musicians on stage for a stunning fusion of classical music and modern technology.

Max Richter's modern taken on Vivaldi's **The Four Seasons** is an audacious and wonderful work recomposed for orchestra and synthesiser by one of the most influential composers and prolific contemporary music artists of this generation.

Inspired by Bach, punk rock and ambient electronica, Richter is known for his monumental solo albums, as well as collaborating on operas, ballets, art installations and theatre, television and film scores, including blockbusters **Shutter Island** and **Prometheus**.

His interpretation of **The Four Seasons**, which phases and loops the original material, has met critical acclaim and topped the iTunes classical chart in the UK, Germany and the USA.



Brendan Joyce baroque violin



Christina Leonard soprano saxophone

Paul Dyer said **Recomposed – Vivaldi: The Four Seasons** was an extraordinary creation that showed respect for the original.

“Max Richter has perfectly illustrated how great music is constantly revealing itself and can flourish under radically different interpretations, whilst retaining its indestructible genius,” Paul said.

“He took a leap of faith when he decided to recompose such a treasured work but actually Vivaldi’s original *Four Seasons* would have sounded very different on the instruments of the day to the classic we think we know,” Paul said.

“Vivaldi’s **Four Seasons** not only needs an outstanding soloist but also a performer who is commanding. Richter’s **Recomposed** needs a musician with that extra edge, someone that can bridge the ancient and modern, who can turn things upside-down and change the way we look at things. For me, that player had to be **Brendan Joyce**,” adds Paul.

For its Australian tour, **Vivaldi Unwired’s** ultra modern take on a baroque classic will share the program with Bach’s **Brandenburg Concerto No.3** (one of the works that gave the orchestra its name), a double violin concerto by Vivaldi and a flute concerto by CPE Bach that has been reimagined for the soprano saxophone. Audiences will be treated to the lyrical gifts of Australian soloist **Christina Leonard** for this soaring work, who made this new arrangement after falling in love with the piece having stumbled across it on You Tube.

PAUL DYER is one of the nation’s leading specialists in period performance styles. From Carnegie Hall to Sydney Opera House, he has devoted his performing life to the harpsichord, fortepiano and chamber organ as well as conducting the ABO and **Brandenburg Choir**.

BRENDAN JOYCE is a long-standing member of the **Australian Brandenburg Orchestra** and one of its Guest Concertmasters. He hails from Brisbane where he is Leader of **Camerata of St John’s**. His leadership of Camerata is described by **The Australian** as "dynamic". He was concertmaster for the **Orchestra of the Antipodes** in **Pinchgut Opera’s** highly praised **Griselda** (2011) and has performed with the **ACO** and America’s **Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra**.

Saxophonist **CHRISTINA LEONARD** is heavily involved in the arrangement, commissioning and concert promotion of music in new and exciting frameworks. She has performed with the **Sonic Art Ensemble**, the **Alpha Ensemble**, **Sydney Symphony Orchestra** and the **Australian Opera Ballet Orchestra**, as well as recorded for **ABC Classic FM** and **Fine Music FM**. She has appeared with the Brandenburg during its popular **Noël! Noël!** Christmas concerts and its 25th anniversary gala season, premiering a new work by **Elena Kats-Chernin**.

PROGRAM

JS BACH Brandenburg Concerto No.3 BWV 1048

VIVALDI Concerto for Two Violins Op.3, No.8 RV522 from *L'estro armonico*

CPE BACH Concerto for Flute in A minor, Wq 166

(arranged for soprano saxophone by Christina Leonard)

RICHTER Recomposed - Vivaldi: The Four Seasons

Brendan Joyce (Australia) baroque violin

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SYDNEY

CITY RECITAL HALL ANGEL PLACE

EVENINGS @ 7pm

Wed 6 May

Fri 8 May

Sat 9 May

Wed 13 May

Fri 15 May

MATINEE @ 2pm

Sat 9 May

BOOKINGS:

Brandenburg

(02) 9328 7581 or

www.brandenburg.com.au

City Recital Hall Angel Place

(02) 8256 2222 or

www.cityrecitalhall.com

Tickets range from \$71 to \$166

(Concessions/Under 30 available)

Booking fees apply.

BRISBANE

**CONCERT HALL, QUEENSLAND
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE**

Mon 11 May @ 7.30pm

Tues 19 May @ 7.30pm

BOOKINGS:

QPAC

136 246 or

qpac.com.au

Tickets range from \$68 to \$152

(Concessions/Under 30 available)

Booking fees apply.

MELBOURNE

**ELISABETH MURDOCH HALL,
MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE**

Sun 17 May @ 5pm

Mon 18 May @ 7pm

BOOKINGS:

Brandenburg 1300 782 856 or

www.brandenburg.com.au

Melbourne Recital Centre

(03) 9699 3333 or

www.melbournerecital.com.au

Ben Dollman (Australia) baroque violin
Christina Leonard (Australia) soprano saxophone
Australian Brandenburg Orchestra
Paul Dyer AO artistic director/synthesiser

Tickets range from \$68 to \$152
(Concessions/Under 30 available)
Booking fees apply.

BRISBANE EXPANSION

The ABO has announced Brisbane will become a permanent touring destination for its annual season for the first time.

Over five years, the Brandenburg has established a full series of six concerts in Melbourne each year and now has set its sights on the Queensland capital. It will perform two concert series - **Vivaldi Unwired** and **Riccardo Minasi, Italian Baroque Violin** - at QPAC's Concert Hall in 2015, expanding further over the next five years.

REVIEWS OF RECOMPOSED - VIVALDI: THE FOUR SEASONS CD

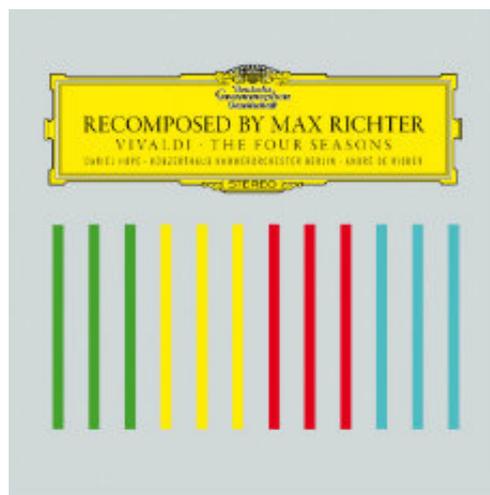
*"One of the cleverest pieces of musical postmodernism... Teasingly, he leaves large sections of the four violin concertos intact, but just when one least expects it the music's familiar patterns are subverted. Harmonic sequences are pushed to almost comical proportions, rhythms are thrown out of symmetry by dropping or adding beats, swaths of electronica-like string textures are patched in... Stylistically, it is a nod to 1980s minimalism, particularly by way of Michael Nyman's neo-baroque score for The Draughtsman's Contract, but it is also injected with techno and dance music reminiscent of the 90s Ministry of Sound. These influences may seem dated but Richter comes up with something unquestionably contemporary in flavour and makes these nearly 300-year-old concertos gleam like new. FIVE STARS" **The Australian***

*"[Richter] notices that his own taste in repeating patterns doesn't mesh with the apparently similar patterns in Vivaldi. They obey a different logic, and the friction between them generates a fascinatingly ambiguous colour. Richter teases out and heightens this colour... a subtle and often moving piece of work . . . the field of the classical remix has finally become interesting." **The Daily Telegraph, UK***

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CLICK HERE TO HEAR MAX RICHTER TALK ABOUT RECOMPOSING VIVALDI'S MASTERPIECE



RECOMPOSED BY MAX RICHTER
Vivaldi: The Four Seasons
Released on the Deutsche Grammophon label. Distributed by Universal Music Australia.

AUSTRALIAN
BRANDENBURG
ORCHESTRA



MACQUARIE

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

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