

media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



TSO announces Eivind Aadland as next Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

Highly respected Norwegian conductor to commence in 2020



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The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra today announces the major artistic leadership appointment of **Eivind Aadland** as its new Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, with a three-year engagement commencing in 2020.

A regular guest conductor of the TSO since 2005, Aadland is one of Norway's most respected conductors. He was Chief Conductor and Artistic Leader of the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra for seven seasons from 2004 and Principal Guest Conductor of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra from 2011-2013.

As Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Aadland will be responsible for the development, leadership and artistic profile of the TSO, as well as contribute to long-term strategic planning for the organisation. He will spend at least 10 weeks in Hobart annually, commencing with the 2020 season, and oversee the creation of the season of performances which includes over 30 concerts throughout the state each year, advising on the engagement of guest artists and visiting conductors.

Aadland assumes the role from current Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Marko Letonja, whose seven year tenure concludes at the end of 2018. The TSO will feature a high profile line-up of guest conductors throughout its interim 2019 season, including both Aadland - who will conduct a concert in August- and Letonja, who was recently named TSO Conductor Laureate, a three-year appointment which will bring him to Tasmania annually to conduct orchestral and operatic concerts. The artistic leadership team also includes Principal Guest Conductor, Johannes Fritzsich who will conduct multiple concerts throughout the season.

TSO Managing Director Nicholas Heyward spoke of Aadland's established connection with the orchestra. 'The TSO has been performing the most vibrant and exciting programs in its history at a very high level of technical ability and we are delighted to have engaged such a well-regarded Chief Conductor who is committed to celebrating the TSO's uniqueness and strengths. Having worked with the TSO on many occasions over an extended period Eivind has developed a very close relationship with the orchestra and a deep understanding of its dynamics and mastery of its core repertoire; he will lead our outstanding players to even greater accomplishments.'

Aadland said, 'I am thrilled at this opportunity to deepen my relationship with the brilliant TSO. As a guest conductor I have always enjoyed making music with the excellent musicians of the orchestra. I look forward to our future collaboration, which I hope will produce performances that will excite and inspire our audience.'

TSO Board Chair, Dr David Rich said, 'The Board is delighted with the appointment of Eivind Aadland as the TSO's next Chief Conductor and Artistic Director. We know him well from his multiple visits to Tasmania and we are confident that he will build very successfully on our already very strong artistic achievements and help us achieve our strategic vision 'to be a great orchestra which is musically excellent, ambitious and a creative leader, inspiring audiences across Australia and beyond.'

Aadland has worked extensively with European orchestras including regular guest engagements with the Oslo and Bergen Philharmonics and is a frequent visitor to the WDR Symphony Orchestra Köln, The National Orchestra of Belgium and Iceland Symphony Orchestra. A champion of Norwegian music, Aadland boasts a prolific discography spanning a broad repertoire range, and has recorded the complete symphonic works of Grieg.

In addition to his career as a conductor, Aadland is a devoted collector of contemporary art with an extensive private collection encompassing paintings, photography, video and installations.

The TSO's 2019 season will be announced on October 4.

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