

media release
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TSO finishes 2016 on high note in China

THE Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra finished 2016 on a high note, with a successful tour to China underway, increased subscriber numbers and a modest financial surplus.

In releasing the 2016 Annual Report at the organisation's AGM, TSO Chairman David Rich said he was delighted that such a successful year finished with the tour to China in full swing, but that it was just as important to not underestimate the TSO's other achievements.

"In 2016 there were a number of musical highlights, but in particular our performance of excerpts from Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* conducted by our wonderful Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Marko Letonja, with world-class soloists, Nina Stemme and Stuart Skelton."

"This concert attracted a significant interstate audience, achieving a standing ovation and further adding to the profile and reputation of the TSO."

Dr Rich said the rise of the TSO Chorus, under the leadership of June Tyzack, had contributed to the enjoyment of the orchestra, with performance highlights

including Gilbert and Sullivan extracts, Bach's St Matthew Passion and Haydn's The Creation.

"The TSO has recorded a small surplus of \$6,612, while our subscription series continued to grow along with single ticket sales, increasing some 20 per cent for the year," Dr Rich said.

"To see a one in five increase in subscription and ticket sales is something any business would be proud of and shows the increasing recognition that the TSO is truly a world-class orchestra.

TSO Managing Director Nicholas Heyward welcomed the appointment during the year of Emma McGrath as the orchestra's new Concertmaster.

"Before coming to the TSO, Emma was a member of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra and has quickly established herself as truly outstanding musician and leader of the orchestra," Mr Heyward said.

"In addition to this, we are delighted that Marko Letonja has agreed to a seventh year as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director meaning he will be with us until at least the end of 2018.

Mr Heyward said the orchestra continued to reach larger and more diverse audiences, with the successful Live Sessions concerts at Hobart's Macquarie Point, while the Skyfields Festival at Sheffield saw some 4,500 enjoy the TSO performing with Missy Higgins.

"During Mona's Mofa and Dark Mofa Festivals the orchestra continued to play to packed houses," Mr Heyward said.

"2016 has been a successful year and to finish with the tour of China underway, subscriber and ticket sales up by 20 per cent and a modest surplus is a fantastic result and sets the scene for an even more successful year in 2017," Mr Heyward said.

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TSO 2016 Annual Report available at: https://www.tso.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/TSO0959-Annual-Report_2016_2.pdf

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