

media release

13 March 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



TSO suspends all upcoming performances

2020 Season on hold following Department of Health Advice

In light of recommendations from the Australian Government Department of Health and Public Health Services Tasmania concerning the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the **Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra** will suspend all public performances immediately until further notice.

TSO Chief Executive Officer Caroline Sharpen said, 'Whilst it is heartbreaking to cancel upcoming concerts – particularly *A German Requiem* this Saturday which is fully rehearsed and performance-ready, we accept the advice of Australia's Chief Medical Officer. We are monitoring the situation and will be back as soon as it is safe for Tasmanian audiences. In the meantime, we will find new and creative ways to connect with the Tasmanian community to bring joy and enrichment into people's lives, particularly in these uncertain times.'

The TSO Box Office will be in touch with all those who hold tickets to concerts that fall within this period to discuss the options available to them. The largest performing arts organisation in Tasmania, the TSO's secured funding and reserves ensure the suspension of performance activity is not a material risk to its long-term future.

Despite a pause in concerts open to the public, the TSO will continue to rehearse and perform during the period and will upload content digitally to YouTube. All ticket buyers, supporters and friends – indeed, all Tasmanians – are invited to keep up to date with the orchestra's activities at **TSO Daily Dose** via the orchestra's digital and social media channels.

TSO Daily Dose will include concert footage, interviews, behind-the-scenes glimpses and rehearsal clips. It will offer a taste of the full range of the TSO's activities including Master, Matinee and Family Classics concerts, education projects, TSO Live Sessions, new music commissions, TSO Chorus and training programs. In short, it will allow everyone to maintain a connection with the TSO without setting foot inside the concert hall.

Music demands an audience and all of us take pleasure and comfort from music. The TSO values its audience dearly and looks forward to maintaining and, indeed, building that audience online through **TSO Daily Dose**. Connect with the TSO across all its digital platforms: website, Facebook and YouTube.

Sharpen said, 'For now, Live it Online! is the orchestra's slogan. On behalf of all musicians, choristers and staff we thank you for your understanding and can't wait to welcome you back to a concert soon.'

The TSO will review its response to the COVID-19 pandemic in early April.

Press contact, including interview and image requests:

Samuel Cairnduff

Director Marketing and Communications

0401 396 755 / cairnduffs@tso.com.au