

TUESDAY 5 JULY, 2011

THE WORLD'S BEST IN CLASSICAL MUSIC TEAM UP IN A SPECIAL DAY AT QPAC FOR BRISBANE FESTIVAL

In a rare treat for classical music lovers, the world's greatest pianist, Evgeny Kissin, will make his Australian debut on 11 September at QPAC, the same day a new symphony composed by celebrated Australian Elena Kats-Chernin will be performed for the first time.

The new four-part symphony, *Symphonia Eluvium*, which is Latin for 'symphony of the floods', has been commissioned for Brisbane Festival and will be performed by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra at QPAC following Evgeny Kissin's recital.

Brisbane Festival is offering exclusive premium entertainment packages for guests to enjoy the best seats at both concerts and a cocktail reception in between at QPAC's Rooftop Terrace Function Room, which Evgeny Kissin and Elena Kats-Chernin will attend. Guests will also have an ideal location to watch the new laser and light spectacular, *Santos City of Lights*.

Brisbane Festival Artistic Director Noel Staunton said the special tickets to these two great concerts should sell out quickly as they were a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"It's a real coup to engage Evgeny Kissin for his first ever Australian concert and the performance by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra of the new work, led by internationally acclaimed American conductor Asher Fisch, will be both emotional and surprising for Brisbane audiences," Mr Staunton said.

Evgeny Kissin became famous as a child prodigy in Soviet Russia when at two years old he began to play by ear and improvise on the piano. At 10 he made his concerto debut and just before his 19th birthday, having toured Europe and Asia, he gave the first piano recital of the New York Carnegie Hall's Centennial season.

Elena Kats-Chernin started playing the piano at age five and having studied in Moscow, Sydney and Hanover, has risen to become one of Australia's most sought-after and prolific composers whose work featured in the opening ceremony of the 2000 Olympic Games.

Kats-Chernin is currently composer in residence at the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, where she has been working on the symphony for Brisbane Festival.

"The composition of the symphony became my response to the flood devastation in January that destroyed so much, yet united people in so many ways," Ms Kats-Chernin said.

"It will tell the stories of these times in four movements, inspired by turbulence and noise, survival and loss, the mud army and resilience, optimism and moving on."

Evgeny Kissin will perform his recital in the afternoon starting at 3pm, after which the cocktail reception will take place. In the evening, The Queensland Symphony Orchestra will perform renowned Israeli composer Avner Dorman's *Variations Without a Theme* and American musical genius John Adams' *Grand Pianola Music*, in the lead up to *Symphonia Eluvium (Symphony of the Floods)*.

(CONTINUED OVERLEAF)

THE WORLD'S BEST IN CLASSICAL MUSIC TEAM UP IN A SPECIAL DAY AT QPAC FOR BRISBANE FESTIVAL (CONTINUED)

EVENT DETAILS

WHEN:	Saturday 11 September 2011 Evgeny Kissin: 3pm Cocktail reception: 5.30pm <i>Symphonia Eluvium</i> : 7.30pm (preceded with Avner Dorman's <i>Variations Without a Theme</i> and John Adams' <i>Grand Pianola Music</i>)	MEDIA CONTACT: Agency North Amy Pietsch Phone: 0468 649 676 Email: apietsch@agencynorth.com.au
WHERE:	QPAC	
TICKETS:	\$375 (includes all fees and charges), limited package tickets available (single tickets also available for Evgeny Kissin and <i>Symphonia Eluvium</i>)	
BOOKINGS:	136 246 or visit www.brisbanefestival.com.au	
EVENT SPONSORS:	Griffith University, Philip Bacon Galleries, Hilton Brisbane, 612 ABC, 4BC	