



MEDIA RELEASE

20 March 2009

A night of shining stars at Old Government House

Two of Sydney's leading Baroque performers to play intimate night at Old Government House. Belinda Montgomery and Tommie Andersson will present an evening of **Heavenly Music** in the candlelit splendour of the National Trust's Old Government House Drawing Room.

More often found on the stages of the City Recital Hall and the Sydney Opera House, Montgomery and Andersson will perform the music of Purcell, Dowland, Monteverdi, Mozart and Schubert to an intimate group for two nights only in April.

Heavenly Music is a National Trust Heritage Week event, 'Our Place in Space' celebrating the International Year of Astronomy. And the concert is part of the *In Recital* series of concerts programmed to evoke the entertainments and soirees of the colonial governors.

David Hoffman, Manager of Old Government House said:

"These concerts are typical of an age gone by and it is lovely to revisit the intimate, cosy nights of music recital in the historic setting of Old Government House Drawing Room.

"I'm delighted that we've enticed such high calibre musicians to perform for us as part of our Heritage Week celebrations."

Date: Fri 17 and Sat 18 April 2009

Event Time: 8pm

Location: Old Government House, Parramatta

Cost: \$60 per evening (National Trust Members \$58), Includes drink and light refreshments

Tickets limited to 30 places per evening.

Bookings: (02) 9635 8149 at Old Government House or oghouse@bigpond.com.

For further information and images please contact David Hoffman at the above contact details.

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Notes to Editor:

1. Tommie Andersson is recognised as Australia's leading lute, baroque guitar and theorbo player and Belinda Montgomery is a featured singer with Cantillation, Pinchgut Opera and the Australian Brandenburg Choir.



Biographies

Soprano **Belinda Montgomery** graduated in 1997 from Sydney University with a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Voice. She later studied with Emma Kirkby and Evelyn Tubb in England and has since established a freelance career in Sydney, where she is particularly active as an early music specialist.

Solo engagements have included Bach Cantatas (The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra), Handel's Dixit Dominus (Sydney Philharmonia Motet Choir), Bach's Mass in B Minor, Handel's Israel in Egypt, Faure's Requiem, Mozart's Requiem and Solemn Vespers (Sydney Chamber Choir) and Steve Reich's Drumming (Synergy Percussion). In 2003 she gave the world premiere performance of Andrew Ford's award-winning song cycle, Learning to Howl.

As both a soloist and chorus member she has performed and recorded extensively with Cantillation, Australia's leading professional chorus. Belinda sang the role of Iris in Pinchgut Opera's inaugural production, Handel's Semele, in 2002 and has appeared as soloist and chorister in all subsequent productions.

She has sung with the chorus of Opera Australia in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte and also performed the role of first women in OzOpera's Eternity Man, by Jonathan Mills, in the 2005 Sydney Festival.

Tommie Andersson, born in Sweden and based here since 1984 is regarded as Australia's leading specialist in lutes and early guitars.

He completed his studies at the State Conservatorium of Music in Göteborg (Gothenburg), Sweden, with a Masters Degree in Performance, studying under Josef Holecek. He was then awarded a Swiss Government Scholarship for further studies at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, where his teachers included Eugen M. Dombois and Hopkinson Smith.

He has toured extensively in Sweden and has given performances and master classes in Scandinavia, Western Europe, Malaysia and Japan including tours of South America and Asia.

Tommie Andersson is highly sought after both as a soloist and as a continuo player and performs regularly with Opera Australia, Sydney Philharmonia, the Song Company, Pinchgut Opera, the Orchestra of the Antipodes and the Australian Chamber Orchestra amongst others.

He is a founding member and principal player of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Soloists and co-directs the harp consort Ludovico's Band. As a recitalist he has performed in all the major Australian capital cities and festivals and he gives regular concerts and live broadcasts for the A.B.C.

Tommie Andersson appears on more than 30 discs including a solo CD of Baroque lute and guitar music released on the Swedish label Musica Rediviva. He lectures in Lute at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and is frequently approached by Universities and Conservatoriums around the country to teach and perform.