

# Bach and His Dutch Contemporaries

## AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

### Simon Murphy and New Dutch Academy, Australia/The Netherlands



Photo: Fernando van Teijlingen

*"The hottest property on the European baroque scene is the New Dutch Academy directed by Simon Murphy, a viola-playing wunderkind"* **The Australian**

*"sumptuous ... swinging rhythms ... stylish ornamentation ... inventive extemporisation ... The NDA is a big band playing on period instruments ..."* **BBC Music Magazine**

*"Vibrant, energetic and wonderfully secure playing"* **Gramophone**

*"18th century Rock 'n Roll!"* **Luister**

The Dutch music scene of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries had an energy and effervescence that will never be repeated in music history – but, it turns out, now Sydney music lovers can experience it.

For one special concert, Sydney-born conductor and viola player **Simon Murphy** returns to his homeland together with German star soprano **Gudrun Sidonie Otto**, period instrument ensemble **New Dutch Academy** and a treasure chest of rare riches from the Baroque repertoire: Vivaldi, Handel, Telemann, de Fesch, van Wassenaer and more.

In this concert, Murphy and the NDA utilise a compact Baroque ensemble of the size and type which Bach himself used at the court in Köthen and at his smaller, intimate concerts in Leipzig. With one instrument per part, the richly intricate part writing of Bach and his contemporaries - as well as the vitality and immediacy of their musical language in performance - comes to the fore.

The program features breathtaking Dutch Baroque works by **Hacquant** – a member of the Huygens circle and the composer of the very first opera written in Dutch – as well as by The Hague statesman **Van Wassenaer**, by Handel's Dutch concertmaster **De Fesch**, and by Dutch-based Bach colleague **Schickhardt** from his revolutionary *L'Alphabet de la musique*, a collection of 24 sonatas with one appearing in each of the musical keys. German star Soprano **Gudrun Sidonie Otto** will sing classic **Bach** arias such as "*Bist du bei mir*" and "*Schlummert ein*", and **Handel**'s beautifully rejuvenating spring aria "*Meine Seele hört im Sehen*".

Marking the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dutch explorer Dirk Hartog's expedition to Australia, here's a wonderfully improbable opportunity to experience the cosmopolitan glory days of the Baroque right here in Sydney.

Musical director and Baroque viola **Simon Murphy**

Featuring **Gudrun Sidonie Otto** (Soprano) & **The New Dutch Academy** (Chamber Soloists)

Where City Recital Hall

When 17 January, 2pm

## MEDIA RELEASE

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Duration 110 minutes including interval

Price Premium \$69  
A Reserve \$59 / \$53  
B Reserve \$45 / \$41

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