

MEDIA RELEASE
Friday 4 November

**THE KING WHO LOVED MUSIC: AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA
PERFORMS BAROQUE CLASSICS AT THE NGA**

As part of the opening celebrations of the *Versailles: Treasures from the Palace* exhibition, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra (ABO) will perform an exclusive baroque concert at the NGA on Sunday 11 December at 5pm. The free concert will be broadcast live by ABC Classic FM on radio, online and the ABC Radio app.

The event is the first of a series of collaborations between the NGA and the ABO for the French blockbuster exhibition, including: a lecture by Artistic Director Paul Dyer accompanied by the Orchestra Ensemble on Saturday 4 February; and a further exploration of Louis XIV's love of music with a performance on Saturday 11 February.

In this special collaboration with the National Gallery, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra will pay tribute to French Baroque music from the court of Louis XIV and XV at the Palace of Versailles. Pieces by composers from the era—Lully, Rameau, Couperin, Charpentier and Marais, as well as Mondonville, Leclair, Quentin le Jeune and Muffat—will rouse the magical sounds of Versailles. The music of this opulent period influenced all the courts of Europe, and remains significant today.

The *Versailles: Treasures from the Palace* exhibition brings to life the extraordinary history of the world's most opulent palace under the reigns of King Louis XIV, XV and XVI. Featuring more than 130 paintings, tapestries, sculptures, objects and furniture, this monumental exhibition evokes the sights and sounds of the French seat of power during the 17th – 18th Centuries. This is the first time these treasures will be shown as a group outside France.

In 1682 Louis XIV moved the court to the sumptuous Palace of Versailles. Known as the Sun King for his significant contribution to architecture, painting, interiors, furniture and garden design, as well as music, opera and ballet, Louis XIV promoted meticulously arranged music performances for his court throughout his 72-year reign. Music played a crucial role in Louis XIV's royal life and he spared no expense to mount extraordinary productions and commission the best composers to define a French culture as Europe's dominant taste.

The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra is a multi-ARIA Award-winning leading voice in the national cultural landscape. Since 1989 they have performed more than 1,000 concerts across the country, spreading their passion for the baroque era.

Sunday 11 December, 5pm

Gandel Hall

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra public concert

Presented by ABC Classic FM

Listen to the broadcast on radio, online or via the ABC Radio app.

The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra pays tribute to the magic and allure of French baroque music from the court of Louis XIV, broadcast live on ABC Classic FM.

Free, bookings essential

www.nga.gov.au

Saturday 4 February, 2017 2pm

Fairfax Theatre

On Gesture

A lecture on behaviour, style and music at the court of Versailles by the Artistic Director of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Paul Dyer, accompanied by the musicians of the Orchestra Ensemble. The lecture will take the audience on a journey of music at Versailles, with historical references to the instruments played and the politics of music and etiquette of the court, drawing on composers Lully, Rameau, Mondonville and Leclair.

\$45, \$40 concession, \$35 NGA members

www.nga.gov.au

Saturday 11 February, 2017 2pm

Fairfax Theatre

The king's passions: The music and art of Versailles

The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra Ensemble performs music by Mondonville, Leclair, Quentin le Jeune and Muffat accompanied by imagery of the art and architecture of Versailles.

\$65, \$60 concession, \$55 NGA members, \$30 under 30

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