

## **Christmas cheer for all to hear Community spirit ignites new Christmas event in Perth**



West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Lotterywest, the City of Perth and Variety, the children's charity join forces to keep the spirit of Christmas alive to create the Lotterywest Christmas Symphony.

Following the disappointing news that *Carols by Candlelight* in Perth was no longer proceeding this year, WASO invited Variety WA to play an active role in presenting this new event. With significant support from Lotterywest, the City of Perth, Channel 9, Burswood Park Board and Crown Perth we have injected more of the festive spirit into Symphony in the City, our annual outdoor celebration of classical music, to kick off summer with this new program.

Hosted by Channel 9's Louise Momber and Michael Thomson, Christmas Symphony will feature a complete program of classical music hits and everyone's favourite Christmas carols. Families can sing-along to *Jingle Bells* and *Silent Night* while also enjoying the sparkling Overture to Bernstein's *Candide*, Jupiter from Holst's *The Planets* and Tchaikovsky's ever-popular *1812 Overture*, featuring a spectacular fireworks-filled finale.

This magical evening will feature more than 150 performers on stage including West Australian Symphony Orchestra, WASO Chorus, Variety Choir and special guests including the one and only, Santa. More than 70 volunteers will help deliver the event.

"The can-do community spirit of Western Australia is alive and well. We are absolutely delighted with the response to our invitation to help. This new event will be a spectacular display of WA talent and an enjoyable evening for all. We're immensely grateful for the additional support of our partners to make it possible. We hope to see great crowds join in the festive spirit this December."

Craig Whitehead, WASO Chief Executive Officer

Variety WA Chief Executive Officer Tony Hume is thrilled that all stakeholders were able to come together at short notice to create this fantastic new event. "This allows Variety, the children's charity to focus on our core business of helping children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs through providing scholarships, wheelchair accessible vehicles, adjustable beds and sensory play equipment to children."

Chair Commissioner Eric Lumsden said the City of Perth is proud to be able to support such an iconic event on the Christmas calendar. "To bring together WASO and *Carols by Candlelight* is a fantastic achievement and a spectacle not to be missed," Commissioner Lumsden said. "We know the connection the community has with *Carols by Candlelight* and the City is delighted it will be incorporated into WASO's outdoor music performance."

Families can enjoy a picnic and pre-show entertainment in Langley Park from 5pm. The full program for the evening will be announced on Wednesday 5 December.

West Australian Symphony Orchestra presents Lotterywest Christmas Symphony, a City of Perth Celebration with Variety, the children's charity will light up the night at Langley Park on Saturday 15 December from 5pm.

More info: <https://www.waso.com.au/concerts-tickets/whats-on/concert/christmas-symphony>

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