

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **West Australian Symphony Orchestra Chief Executive Craig Whitehead Announces Departure**

After nearly 10 years as Chief Executive of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Craig Whitehead has today announced his departure from the organisation to return home to Brisbane to become Chief Executive of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

“This has been an extraordinarily difficult decision for me to make, as my time at WASO has been the most enjoyable and fulfilling time of my career. It has been a great privilege to lead WASO and to be inspired every day by the artistry of the world-class WASO musicians, and the exceptional dedication of the staff and Board who make up this wonderful company. I am immensely proud of all that we have achieved together and I believe that the future is very bright under the leadership of Richard Goyder and the WASO Board.”

WASO Chairman Richard Goyder said Craig Whitehead had made an outstanding contribution to the orchestra.

“During Craig’s time as executive leader of WASO he has overseen the appointment of a new Principal Conductor and guided the organisation through a particularly challenging operating environment.

“The Orchestra he leaves is much admired both for its artistic excellence and its commitment to delivering music broadly in the Western Australian community.

“Craig is a highly respected arts administrator who has established strong links with government and the corporate sector as well as building significant connections with private philanthropists. He has also developed very positive and common-purpose relationships with the heart and soul of the organisation, the Orchestra’s outstanding musicians.

“We understand the reasons for Craig’s decision to return to Queensland and on behalf of the Board and all other members of the organisation I wish him, Gabby and their boys every success and happiness.”

The Board of WASO will conduct a search in Australia and internationally for a new chief executive for WASO.

Craig Whitehead will depart WASO at the end of November.

**#Ends#**

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