A symphony of poppies commemorates the ANZAC Centenary

13 March 2015

The Darwin Symphony Orchestra will debut their musical tribute to the ANZAC Centenary with a special performance at the Darwin Convention Centre this weekend.

“The Darwin Symphony Orchestra received a $5000 ANZAC Centenary community grant to develop ‘Poppies’ which is a fitting way to remember the sacrifice of our diggers 100 years ago,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The first ANZACs helped forge our national identity and define our country’s character. They left a strong and enduring legacy which will resonate in this stirring performance.”

The commemorative program will feature conductors Stephen Pevely and Captain Darren Cole, soloist Michael Kieran Harvey, and guest artists the Australian Army Band Darwin.

The orchestra will perform three works – Sculthorpe’s Small Town from the Fifth Continent, Albinoni’s Adagio for Organ and Strings, G minor and Piano Concertantrum by local composer Cathy Applegate which is a world premiere.

This special musical event is on Saturday night from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Darwin Convention Centre.

Tickets can be purchased from the Darwin Symphony Orchestra website.

“A total of 20 schools, community groups and local councils across the Territory have shared in almost $100 000 in Government grants to help them commemorate the ANZAC Centenary through projects such as ‘Poppies’,” Mr Giles said.

“I’d urge all Territorians to get involved in these events and use this occasion to pause and reflect on the 102 000 men and women who have given their lives for our nation.

“The Territory Government is a proud supporter of the Darwin Symphony Orchestra and is thrilled to be partnering with them in this event.”

Late last year, the DSO was also awarded a $40 000 Community Benefit Fund major grant to create a free resource for all NT primary schools, libraries and other outlets where music forms a basis of education.
This project included the DSO’s popular performance of ‘Horatio and the Handbag’ in November.

“This tropical twist on Prokofiev’s wintery tale ‘Peter and the Wolf’ was recorded and is being distributed to Territory schools and the Territory Government in proud to have been part of this innovative project that takes music into our classrooms,” Mr Giles said.

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