

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 4 April 2014



Measuring the cultural cost of war: a unique conversation with EU Ambassadors

On Thursday 10 April at 6pm, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House will host the Canberra International Music Festival preview event, *Living democracy: the cultural cost of war*.

“This unique event will bring music and diplomacy together in the historic King’s Hall” said the Director of the museum, Ms Daryl Karp “Delivering an unexpected perspective on the impact of war.”

In a coup for the Festival and the museum, the Festival’s Artistic Director Mr Chris Latham and ABC Radio 666 presenter Ms Alex Sloan will join with four Ambassadors from the European Union—their Excellency’s Sem Fabrizi (EU), Jean-Luc Bodson (Belgium), Stephane Romatet (France) and Dr Christoph Mueller (Germany)—to explore the cultural cost of war in the lead up to the centenary of the commencement of World War One and the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of World War Two.

From their various national perspectives, the conversation will be in response to the first Australian performances of World War One cello works and songs, including the rarely performed piece ‘Morire’ by Giacomo Puccini. Performers include David Pereira (cello), Louise Page (soprano), Phillipa Candy and Elaine Loebenstein (piano).

“The years immediately before World War One witnessed the dawn of a new age, producing men and women of remarkable talent” said Mr Latham “The music to be presented in this event, and the Festival generally, will demonstrate the catastrophic waste of war and its unacceptability in a civilised world.”

“We want to build a vibrant community actively involved in democracy, and continue to surprise and engage diverse audiences.” said Ms Karp. Old Parliament House, home to the Museum of Australian Democracy, brings the journey of Australian democracy to life—presenting its past, present and possible futures. Open daily 9am–5pm, the museum offers a range inspiring exhibitions, events and public programs. For more information and bookings, visit the website <http://moadoph.gov.au/>

Ends

**For further information or to arrange an interview or photo opportunity, please contact:
Please enquire within for complementary journalist tickets to the event**

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