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MEDIA RELEASE

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RSL joins forces with QSO for ANZAC Eve concert

RSL Queensland has joined forces with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra to gift the Brisbane community a free concert on ANZAC Day eve, Saturday 24 April.

To be staged at the Suncorp Piazza in Brisbane's South Bank, the concert will feature Queensland's leading orchestra, several of its finest choirs and distinguished guest artists, with narrations by well-known television news presenter Andrew Lofthouse.

The performance starts at 5.30pm and will run without interval until 7pm. Entry is free.

The Queensland Symphony Orchestra will be supported by The Queensland Choir (directed by Kevin Power), the combined choirs of University of Queensland Chorale and So-la Voce Chamber Choir (directed by Réka Csernyik), Queensland Police Pipes & Drums and the Fanfare Team from Australian Army Band Brisbane.

The **RSL ANZAC Eve Concert with QSO** programme will include readings, music for choir and orchestra by Sibelius, Elgar, Albinoni, Coates and Schultz and new works by Sean O'Boyle and others.

RSL Queensland President Doug Formby said the inaugural event was an opportunity for families to show their respect to ANZACs in a unique way, especially if unable to attend a dawn service the following day.

"As partners with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, RSL Queensland is proud to be gifting this free event to the community of Brisbane as we come together in honour of the fallen and of the men and women who continue to serve," Mr Formby said.

"Through this event, the community can acknowledge not just past sacrifice but the history of music in war and how it has become woven in time to certain events and places."

Queensland Symphony Orchestra Chief Executive Officer Patrick Pickett CSM said it was important to remember what sacrifices took place to protect civilisation, the arts and all that we value.

"This free community concert is a celebration of the freedoms gained through struggle and looks back to the past and forward to a future made possible by valiant sacrifice," Mr Pickett said.

The setting for choir and orchestra of the Slessor poem *Beach Burial* by Andrew Schultz is a poignant reminder of those who lost their lives in battle.

"It continues a tradition set by composers such as Haydn, Beethoven and Britten to commemorate those who have fallen, those who have been victorious and the many millions displaced or suffering loss as a consequence of the ravages of war," Mr Pickett said.

South Bank Corporation Chief Executive Officer Malcolm Snow said the precinct was proud to support this inaugural ANZAC Eve Concert, providing a platform for the community to commemorate men and women who have served at pivotal moments in history and those who are currently serving.

“South Bank is honoured to provide a platform for Brisbane locals and our international visitors to come together and enjoy many of the State’s best musicians in remembrance of the ANZACs,” Mr Snow said.

ANZAC Day is one of Australia’s most important national dates as it commemorates the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

The soldiers from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps quickly became known as ANZACs, and the term is still honoured by many today.

Australian Defence Force personnel will attend the RSL ANZAC Eve Concert with QSO and military hardware will be on display, including two Bush Masters.

It is hoped this collaboration between RSL Queensland and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra will help to engage people of all generations and backgrounds while offering the public a chance to reflect on the past and celebrate the future.

-ENDS-

FOR INTERVIEWS CONTACT:

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