

## AMAZING SARAH-GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND AT AICM

The Australian International Conservatorium of Music (AICM) currently based in Harris Park, with a new campus opening in Rozelle/Balmain in mid 2008, is delighted to have recruited Sarah - Grace Williams to the teaching staff in 2008.



### **Sarah-Grace Williams**

Sarah-Grace Williams has gained a reputation as one of the leading Australian conductors of her generation, appearing regularly with orchestras, choirs and musical theatre companies across the country. In February 2006, Sarah-Grace was appointed Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the *Strathfield Symphony Orchestra* (SSO). She also holds the positions of Associate Conductor with *The Occasional Performing Sinfonia* (TOPS), Annual Guest Conductor with the *Penrith Symphony Orchestra* (PSO) and Musical Director of the AIM Showcase Vocal Ensemble '*Proclaim*'. In addition to her concert appearances with SSO, PSO and TOPS in 2007, Sarah-Grace also conducted concerts with both the *Auckland Philharmonic* and the *Queensland Orchestra* and was the Musical Director for the Australian Institute of Music's production of '*TOMMY*' by the Who. She will return to conduct the *Queensland Orchestra* in 2008 and will present her first concert series with the *Sydney Opera House Baby Proms* as Musical Director/Conductor in February.

An accomplished clarinetist and pianist, Sarah-Grace completed her Music degree at the *University of Western Sydney* in 1996, graduating with distinction in performance and composition. She received a scholarship for academic excellence and went on to achieve First Class Honours in Conducting before

continuing conducting studies overseas with Maestro Alexander Polishchuk (*St Petersburg Conservatoire, Russia*) and Maestro Jorma Panula (*Amsterdam, Holland*). Sarah-Grace has also studied conducting under Christopher Seaman, Daniel Porcelijn, Marco Zucarrini, Janos Furst and Johannes Fritzsich.

*The Symphony Australia Conductor's Program* is considered as the foremost development avenue for Australian conductors. Sarah-Grace is proud to have been selected as a key participant in this premier conducting program for the past four years during which she has conducted *The Queensland Orchestra*, *The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra*, *The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra* and *The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra* in both rehearsals and concert. In 2005, Sarah-Grace was selected as one of only five conductors to conduct *The Auckland Philharmonia* in conjunction with their Graduate Conductor's Program. Sarah-Grace lectures in Conducting, Musical Theatre, Performance Studies, History and Aural at the *Australian Institute of Music* (tertiary) and works as a Musical Director and Vocal Specialist for the *Catholic Schools Performing Arts* (CaSPA). She has composed, arranged and recorded music for films, theatre productions, symphonic ensembles and chamber groups and remains a highly sought after Vocal Coach and performer/teacher. Sarah-Grace continues to work as a freelance Clarinetist and Pianist.

“We are truly delighted to have Sarah-Grace at AICM in 2008 and look forward to her involvement for many years to come. Sarah-Grace provides a genuine opportunity for students to access quality staff who are not only very good at what they teach but are also living examples of industry commitment and interface’ says AICM Principal, Dr Greg Whateley.

**In 2008 Sarah-Grace will be teaching Musicianship, Choir and Voice at AICM.**