



## MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>  
For immediate release

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### SING YOUR OWN SENSATION FOR DARWIN FESTIVAL 2004

Darwin Festival is excited to announce the first release of this year's Darwin Festival program line-up - **OzOpera's Sing Your Own Opera**.

**OzOpera's** Artistic Director Richard Gill will conduct the largest operatic participation event in the Northern Territory's history on Saturday August 28 when he leads *Sing Your Own Opera* at the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

Richard is one of Australia's most prominent music personalities and a passionate advocate for community participation in music-making at all levels. His first *Sing Your Own Opera* in Melbourne last year, as part of the Melbourne International Festival, was an unqualified triumph, but the Darwin event will be much bigger, with up to 1000 Territorians expected to transform themselves into an instant opera chorus on **28 August 2004 from 3.30pm**.

Darwin's *Sing Your Own Opera* presents you with a unique opportunity to master the music from Mozart's *The Magic Flute* under Richard's direction. You and several hundred of your soon-to-be closest friends will rehearse and then perform with our own Darwin Symphony Orchestra and soloists from **OzOpera**. You will have the Darwin Entertainment Centre literally vibrating with excitement.

"The great thing about Sing Your Own Opera is that you need virtually no qualifications to take part," says Richard. "You need to be warm and vertical, arrive on the day, sit down and sing."

"I would urge people not to get hung up about how "good" their singing is. After our inaugural event in Melbourne last year I felt that the atmosphere, love for the music, and huge enthusiasm for the human voice could never be captured on a CD."

Darwin Festival Artistic Director, Malcolm Blaylock said, "Sing Your Own Opera is a Darwin Festival event that everybody can get involved in. I would encourage anybody who loves to sing, whether at home, in the car or on the stage, to get together with their friends and come and be part of this lively and energetic performance."

Darwin Chorale President, Jenny Scott, said the Darwin Chorale fully supports Sing Your Own Opera.

"Anybody who passes up the opportunity to work with Richard Gill is passing up the opportunity of a lifetime."

This production has been assisted with funding from the Opera Conference, the national partnership of professional opera companies. The Opera Conference acknowledges financial support provided by the Commonwealth through the Major Performing Arts Board of the Australia Council for Arts.

The best thing about Sing Your Own Opera is that the tickets are only \$32 – to be part of the performance and the audience. Tickets will be on sale soon. For more information and bookings, please call the Darwin Festival Office on 08 8981 0083.

The Darwin Festival is from the 12<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August.

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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**Northern Territory Government**  
Department of Community Development, Sport & Cultural Affairs



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