



For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

Announcing the inaugural Garvan Australian Spectacular

Stars of the Australian stage join forces to celebrate the Anzac spirit and raise vital funds for cancer research

***Saturday 28th April 2012
3.00pm, Sydney Town Hall***

Stars of opera, musical theatre and jazz will join forces at Sydney Town Hall on Saturday 28th April 2012 for the inaugural Garvan Australian Spectacular.

Featuring the Sydney International Orchestra, the Australian Army Band and VOX – the Sydney Philharmonia's Youth Choir, this family concert will include a variety of musical genres along with a tribute to the Anzac spirit and Australian talent. Importantly, it will also help raise vital funds for cancer research at Sydney's Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

The Garvan Australian Spectacular will feature some of Australia's best-known and loved artists, as well as up-and-coming talent who are sure to surprise and delight the audience.

"The Garvan Australian Spectacular is guaranteed to be a uniquely Australian event," said event organiser and musical director Dr Steve Watson. "Bring along your Australian flag for the rousing finale that will leave you with goose bumps, and filled with Australian pride."

Tickets start from \$40 adults, \$25 children and concession holders, \$90 family ticket (2 adults and 2 children aged 12 years and under) (plus booking fees).

**Tickets can be purchased from Ticket Direct Australia (TDA).
Visit www.ticketdirect.com.au or phone 1300 79 85 50 to buy your tickets today.**

The Garvan Australian Spectacular is the brain child of Pauline Cash Cumming, a retired physiotherapist and now children's book author. The loss of two of her five children to cancer was the impetus for her intense interest in cancer research.

“Garvan is a world class institution which aims to improve diagnostic methods, treatment options and ultimately find cures for this disease that affects everyone in the community in one form or another,” said Ms Cash Cumming.

“I have sung in many choirs. Imagine the joy of being part of the Beethoven Choir, to join with 5,000 choristers in Tokyo singing Beethoven’s 9th Symphony! This experience, together with my love of classical music, prompted the idea for the Garvan Australian Spectacular. We are extremely fortunate that two highly respected industry professionals, event producer Ken Laing AM and Dr Steve Watson have come on board to help bring this exciting event to life,” Ms Cash Cumming said.

Ms Cash Cumming is also supporting Garvan by donating proceeds from her children’s books for three to five year olds, *Skinky Poo – The Tale of a Skink* and *How the Gecko Got His Knob Tail* to Garvan’s cancer research program.

Monies raised from ticket sales and donations at the Garvan Australian Spectacular will help fund cancer research carried out by the Garvan Institute of Medical Research. Garvan’s cancer research program focuses on understanding the role of genes and molecular and cellular processes in health and disease, as the basis for developing future cures.

The Garvan Australian Spectacular coincides with the opening of the Kinghorn Cancer Centre, a joint collaboration between Garvan and St Vincent’s Hospital. This state-of-the-art cancer centre will house Garvan’s cancer researchers under one roof, together with clinicians from St Vincent’s. It will focus on personalised medicine – in other words, providing the right cancer treatment for the right person at the right time.

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For further information or interview opportunities, please contact:

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