**Alexander Briger AO in Conversation: The Australian World Orchestra & Mahler in 2025**

Alexander Briger returns to Australia to lead the Australian World Orchestra’s monumental 2025 season, programming Mahler’s 4th and 5th Symphonies back-to-back, a southern hemisphere first. Rehearsals commence on August 31, as 94 of Australia’s finest musicians — 54 returning from international careers — gather for this landmark event.

**About the Australian World Orchestra**  
  
*“One of the great orchestras in the world”* **Sir Simon Rattle**  
*“One of the top 10 orchestras on earth”* **Zubin Mehta AC**

The Australian World Orchestra (AWO) brings together Australia’s finest classical musicians, many of whom hold leading positions in the world’s top orchestras, to perform in landmark concerts on home soil. Co-founded in 2010 by conductor Alexander Briger AO and Gabrielle Thompson, the AWO is a bold celebration of Australian musical talent and artistic excellence.

Renowned for its electrifying performances and collaborative spirit, the AWO has attracted some of the world’s most esteemed conductors, including Zubin Mehta AC, Sir Simon Rattle, and Riccardo Muti. With a flexible ensemble and an ambitious artistic vision, the AWO continues to be one of the most dynamic and prestigious orchestras in the country.  
  
**Alexander Briger AO**  
  
 Australian conductor Alexander Briger is internationally recognised for his dynamic musicianship and artistic versatility. Described by Zubin Mehta and Riccardo Muti as a “wonderful conductor and musician,” he has led many of the world’s leading orchestras and opera companies, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Glyndebourne Festival, and Opera Australia.

Equally at home in the opera house and concert hall, Alexander has conducted productions for the English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Komische Oper Berlin, Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, Teatro dell’Opera di Roma, and the Canadian Opera Company, among others. He is acclaimed for his interpretations of Janáček, Britten, Mozart, Brahms, and John Adams, and has worked with directors including Peter Sellars, Baz Luhrmann, and Neil Armfield.

A passionate advocate for contemporary music, he has premiered works by composers including Arvo Pärt, Brett Dean, and Elena Kats-Chernin. In 2010, he co-founded the Australian World Orchestra and continues to serve as its Artistic Director and Chief Conductor. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2016 for his distinguished service to the arts