

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## MSO STRING PLAYERS RUDOLF OSADNIK AND ANTHONY SMITH RETIRE

With nearly 80 years experience of playing in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra between them, **Principal Second Violin Rudolf Osadnik** and **Double Bassist, Anthony Smith** are set to retire in December after long and distinguished careers with the Orchestra.

Rudolf Osadnik joined the MSO in 1963 and Anthony Smith in 1975.

Commenting today, Rudy said “the whole 47 years playing with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra has been one big highlight.”

During this time, he’s witnessed the transformation of the MSO from a “good Orchestra to a truly world-class Orchestra.”

“For me,” he said, “this has been the most rewarding experience, alongside leading the Secondi.”

As a third generation musician, Rudolf Osadnik first heard an orchestra in Poland when he was six years old. In 1958, his family moved from Poland to Germany and subsequently Rudy won a scholarship to the Köln Hochschule für Musik. He and his family later emigrated to Australia, first staying at the migrant camp in Bonegilla. In 1963 he joined the MSO, and in 1986 he became Section Principal of the Second Violins.

Osadnik’s personal highlights have included the MSO’s Carnegie Hall debut performances during its 1970 USA tour; appearing at the Mariinsky Theatre during the 2003 Russia tour; and performing Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring* in Paris at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées - the same theatre in which the work was first premiered in 1913 to audience riots.

Rudy also enjoyed performing with popular artists such as Elton John, KISS and Meat Loaf.

For Double Bassist, Anthony Smith, there’s been “lots of highs” in a wonderful career with the MSO. “I am still captivated when the MSO plays great works such as Holst *The Planets*, Mahler Symphony No. 2 and Verdi’s *Requiem*,” he said.

Tony’s first foray into music was via an acoustic, electric and then bass guitar, followed swiftly by double bass lessons from the MSO bassist who lived in the same street, Marajan Brysha.

In 1973, he spent eight months in the ABC Training Orchestra before becoming a Rank and File player with Sydney Symphony in 1974 aged 19. Joining originally as a section member, by the end of 1975 he had become the First Associate Double Bassist at the MSO, before rejoining the section in 1992.

Reflecting on his time with the MSO, Tony says that even more than 40 years on, he can “still be surprised”.

“Our recent concerts with baroque specialist Reinhard Goebel is a week that I’ll never forget. It was quite extraordinary and his passion for music was inspiring”, Smith said.

As an amateur songwriter, now with his own home studio, Tony said that he is looking forward to joining an “old fart’s rock n’ roll band for a bit of fun and noise!”

He is also looking forward to attending MSO concerts although Smith said that he will have to refrain from “standing up when the conductor takes the podium”.

Rudolf Osadnik and Anthony Smith’s last concerts as permanent players with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra will be *The Slender Thread* (3, 4, 5 December) at the Arts Centre, Hamer Hall and *Air Supply* (14 and 15 December).

With their shared love of classical music and good ol’ rock n’ roll, it seems a fitting conclusion in celebration of their highly successful professional playing careers.

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