



International artist new Artistic Director of Four Winds Festival

The award-winning Australian conductor, writer, former Head of Music of the Aldeburgh Festival and Artistic Director of Wigmore Hall, PAUL KILDEA, is to become the new Artistic Director of the Four Winds Festival in Bermagui, NSW.

Based in Berlin, Paul Kildea has worked throughout Australia and Europe. He was Head of Music of the Aldeburgh Festival (1999–2002), co-founded by Benjamin Britten in 1948, which led to his appointment as Artistic Director of London's Wigmore Hall. From 2004 to 2007 he curated the Perth International Arts Festival's chamber music program. His guest conducting appearances include Ensemble 2e2m in Paris, the West Australian and Sydney symphony orchestras, the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He has enjoyed a close relationship with Opera Australia since finishing his tenure as a Young Artist in 1997; in 2012 he will conduct *The Magic Flute* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The conductor Simone Young says of her former assistant: "Paul combines one of the best musical minds around with great instincts, exquisite musicality and a passion for making a work live and breathe."

Paul is an internationally recognized expert on Benjamin Britten; Penguin will publish his major biography of the British composer in 2013, his centenary year.

Paul says of the appointment: "Festivals grow to fill their shoes, and after twenty-one years Four Winds has found itself with a brand new pair, which I get to slip on for a few years. Succeeding the brilliant Genevieve Lacey is a singular honour and I plan to continue her work in ensuring that Four Winds remains ahead of the concert curve. I am convinced that the way we experience music today is more vital than the way we hear it: at Four Winds I want to lead a festival that both looks to the concert experience of the future and engages our many different audiences with conviction and trust, ensuring that they, proudly, are part of this new experience and remain fiercely loyal towards the Festival, its environs and reputation. The new Sound Shell and Pavilion open a world of possibilities for the region in terms of education and the Festival's relationship with its community and the wider world. Four Wind's philosophy, its setting, its track record and its potential convince me that it is in Bermagui and Barragga Bay that all the loose threads of today's concert experience will be stitched into something rather beautiful."

Chair of the Four Winds Festival, Sheena Boughen, said the Board is thrilled. "Paul Kildea is an exceptional creator and musician, and will guide us artistically through this exciting period for Four Winds, with our new Sound Shell and precinct that will open a world of possibilities and creative partnerships. Paul has been visiting the area since the 1970s and is committed to the role that culture and community plays in building a strong future for our region and for the nation."

Paul Kildea will take up the appointment in May 2012.

Easter Festival : April 6 – 8 2012

Media

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