

EARS WIDE OPEN

Image by Sam Chirnside



2012 SEASON

Wednesday 6 June at 6.30pm
Melbourne Town Hall

Introducing

Beethoven's Symphony No. 5

Presented and conducted by
Richard Gill

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Dear Listener (for that is what you truly are),

Welcome to our fourth year of **Ears Wide Open**.

The abstract nature of music allows our minds and hearts to respond to music in any way we choose. Musical responses, like thoughts, are free.

However, the more we know about the way music works the better the chance we have to increase and intensify our range of responses. In short, music means what you want it to mean.

No one can force you to think about music in a certain way, but you can know an enormous amount about music. This will subsequently have a huge impact on your musical thoughts.

Music has its own way of behaving. I believe it is organised sound passing through time.

It behaves in such a way that it has the special capacity to evoke, suggest, provoke, imply, tantalise and cajole our ears. As it passes through our wide open ears it acts upon our souls, our hearts our minds and our spirits in unique and special ways. In fact it is so special that only you know how it sounds *to you*; it is nearly impossible to describe that sound.

In Ears Wide Open we want you approach music with an open ear, an open heart and an open mind. In this way you can engage fully with the works we will explore without fear or favour, learn things about the music and about yourself, and above all your capacity to change.

Great music reveals itself in an inordinate number of ways. I feel privileged to be in the circumstance of conducting Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 and at the same time humbled by the sheer magnitude of the invention and the power of the musical thought the work reveals. I do need to keep my ears wide open. Will you?



RICHARD GILL

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