



## Media Release

14 July 2014

### Spring Concert brings celebrated singer Peter Cousens to the Northern Beaches

The Rotary Club of Pittwater is proud to be bringing the internationally-acclaimed Australian vocalist Peter Cousens to the peninsula, performing with the Northern Beaches Orchestra (NBO) in the *Northern Beaches Spring Concert*.

This year's event, on Wednesday 17 September, is the fifth annual concert presented by Pittwater Rotary in partnership with United Cinemas and will again be held in the Grand Theatre at United Cinemas, 4 Vuko Place, Warriewood.

Peter Cousens and the NBO have created an exciting musical program called *Love Changes Everything*, an evening of beautiful hits from musical theatre. The program includes familiar songs from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Carousel*, *West Side Story*, *The Boy from Oz* and many other hit shows.

Mr Cousens, a former resident of Terrey Hills who spent his youth surfing at Whale Beach, is delighted to be singing with the Northern Beaches Orchestra. "There are great local talents that are wonderfully expressed in community initiatives like the NBO," he said.

The multi-talented Mr Cousens is the only Australian to play the Phantom in *The Phantom of the Opera* in London's West End. And whilst he may be best known as the leading man of musical theatre, he recently embarked on his debut directorial role for a Hollywood motion picture, *Freedom* ([www.themoviefreedom.com](http://www.themoviefreedom.com)). *Freedom* stars Oscar-winning actor Cuba Gooding Jnr in a hauntingly beautiful and inspirational depiction of hope and faith as a family struggles to escape a life of southern slavery.

"We are excited to showcase the amazing local talents of the Northern Beaches Orchestra again this year," said Pittwater Rotary President Roger Digby. "And we are especially pleased to be able to bring a star of such international prominence as Peter Cousens to sing in the Northern Beaches."

Concert proceeds will go to the Palliative Care Centre at Mona Vale Hospital and other local projects of Pittwater Rotary.

The event has attracted an impressive group of sponsors, including Pittwater RSL Club, Lifestyle Financial Services, Johnson Brothers Mitre 10, the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Style Communications and the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club.

Ticket prices are: regular seats \$45 (concession \$40), and deluxe seats \$55. Tickets are on sale at [www.rotarypittwater.com](http://www.rotarypittwater.com) and at the Warriewood Cinema box office (9913 2800 or in person).

Pittwater Rotary is expecting a sell-out concert again this year, so everyone is encouraged to buy tickets early. For more information call Pittwater Rotary on 8005 0711.

It's a great opportunity to enjoy a memorable evening of fine music featuring talented local musicians and an Australian superstar, while helping to support the work of Rotary in the Northern Beaches.

### **About Peter Cousens**

Peter Cousens ([petercousens.com](http://petercousens.com)) is an actor, singer, producer, director, teacher and film director. In addition to playing the Phantom of the Opera, he has starred alongside Russell Crowe in *Blood Brothers*, the late Richard Harris in *Camelot* and has played major roles in musicals throughout Australia, New Zealand and England.

His other musical theatre roles include Tony in *West Side Story*; Chris in *Miss Saigon*; Nanki Poo in *The Mikado*; Motel in *Fiddler on the Roof*; Marius in *Les Misérables*; and Ravenal in Hal Prince's *Show Boat*.

Peter tours extensively around Australia with his own one man show, *A Life on Earth*, and works regularly in concert, performing in Australia's major performing arts venues and with symphony orchestras. He has recorded five albums.

### **About the Northern Beaches Orchestra**

The Northern Beaches Youth Orchestra was formed in 2008 to give young local musicians a chance to excel and to enhance our community cultural life. In 2011 the group spun off the Northern Beaches Orchestra, an auditioned orchestra which now features members of all ages. ([nbo.org.au](http://nbo.org.au)).

Founded with support from local councils, the orchestra is now fully self-funded, through corporate and community sponsorship, ticket sales and paid performances. The future success of the orchestra rests on the generosity of the community, its businesses and its individuals.

For further media information, please contact:

Doug Elliott  
Rotary Club of Pittwater  
M: 0434 577 707  
E: [webadmin@rotarypittwater.com](mailto:webadmin@rotarypittwater.com)