



Media Release

Darwin City Council

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Beagle Bells - Darwin

MEDIA RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE HMS BEAGLE SHIP BELL CHIME IN CIVIC PARK

Darwin City Council launches a major new work of Public Art, "The HMS Beagle Ship Bell Chime" by Dr Anton Hasell, on Monday 29 June 2009.

Artist Anton Hasell, from Mia Mia, Victoria, has built strong links with Darwin over the past 2 years, since his "Chime Conservatory" sound sculpture was chosen for installation at Council's Chinatown Carpark in 2008.

His new artwork is a publicly accessible musical instrument on a much larger scale.

The Bell Chime in Civic Park incorporates 11 bells, including 5 Chinese and 5 European bells, cast in bronze, and a replica "HMS Beagle" ship's bell cast in brass.

The largest bell weighs around half a ton.

The bells are wired to the Council Civic Centre and may be played electronically, using Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) technology.

The launch on 29 June 2009 is the prelude to the first public performance featuring the Bell Chime, in a major new performance work, "**Origins**", produced by Corrugated Iron Youth Arts in collaboration with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra, Darwin Theatre Company, Darwin Chorale and Charles Darwin University.

Origins is a free public performance event incorporating music, dance and film projection, and may be experienced **1 night only on Territory Day, Wednesday 1 July 2009**.

Origins begins at 7.30 pm in Civic Park, Darwin.

As a soundtrack to the event, the Darwin Symphony Orchestra will perform the world premiere of "Age of Wonders", a four movement orchestral suite by Michael Stimpson (UK), inspired by the life and work of Charles Darwin.

Origins also features video projection, theatre, dance and music performances by Darwin Theatre Company, Darwin Chorale, and over 120 young performers through Corrugated Iron Youth Arts.

The night will unfold like a visit to the zoo, with guests presented with a "map" to the performance and able to roam around the park.

Launch of The HMS Beagle Ship Bell Chime

Date: Monday 29 June 2009

Time: 10 am – 11 am

Venue: Civic Park, Harry Chan Ave, Darwin

Origins – a free public performance event

Date: Wednesday 1 July 2009

Time: 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

Venue: Civic Park, Harry Chan Ave, Darwin

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