

## DAVID THOMAS, CLARINET



Born in Melbourne, David Thomas was educated at the University of Melbourne and the Vienna Conservatorium. He has held the position of Principal Clarinet with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra since 2000, and was previously Associate Principal Clarinet with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. He teaches clarinet at the University of Melbourne and the Australian National Academy of Music, where he is Coordinator of Woodwind.

As soloist David has performed with orchestras around Australia and with conductors including Markus Stenz, Oleg Caetani, Brett Kelly and Nicholas Milton, in concertos by Mozart, Copland, Francaix, Rossini, Debussy and Brett Dean amongst others.

As a chamber musician David has collaborated with the Australian, Flinders and Goldner String Quartets, and pianists Michael Kieran Harvey and Elyane Laussade, and has regularly performed in the MSO Chamber Players series.

In recent years, David has become more and more involved in commissioning and performing contemporary mainstream works for the clarinet. He has given first performances of works by Australian composers such as Ross Edwards (Clarinet Concerto, dedicated to David), Richard Mills (*Diary of Transformations* for clarinet and string quartet), Philip Czaplowski (Clarinet Concerto) as well as the concerto by Nicholas Routley on today's programme.

As a student, David regularly performed as a member of the Stonnington Symphony, gaining particularly valuable experience in large-scale repertoire such as Strauss's *Alpine Symphony* and Respighi's *Pines of Rome*. He is very glad to continue the relationship.