

Melbourne Observer Magazine

Melbourne concert in 2008



● The portable concert set coming to Melbourne

■ A full-size copy of the **Imperial Schönbrunn Palace** will be erected at **Telstra Dome** in **Melbourne** for **André Rieu's** concert late next year.

The World Stadium Tour **A Romantic Viennese Night** is against the background of the world's largest transportable concert set.

The tour stars **André Rieu** and his **Johann Strauss Orchestra** and Choir, many well-known soloists, the **Platinum Tenors**, the **Vienna State Opera Ballet**, 80 Vienna debutantes, the golden coach with the **Empress Sisi** and **Emperor Franz-Joseph**, the **Vienna Figure Skating Association**, famous figure-skating champions in pairs skating, traditional Viennese horse-drawn carriages with horses and footmen, chandeliers, fabulous costumes, gorgeous music, magical waltzes and more.

Fact file on André Rieu concerts

- It takes 80 containers to transport everything
- There are 100 stage builders, 250 staff, and a total of 250 performers
- Stage dimensions: width 125 metres, depth 30 metres, height 34 metres
- 600m² of ice to skate on
- Hundreds of kilometres of cables, 450 tonnes of steel
- 36 horses
- A palace façade of 4000 m²
- 600 tonnes of ballast materials
- A golden ballroom measuring 21 x 15 metres, complete with chandeliers
- 2 giant transport lifts integrated into the structure and wardrobe rooms built into the décor
- 150m² LED television monitors, 800 light bulbs, 12 tonnes of sound equipment
- It takes two 160-tonne cranes to set everything up

It's big business being a Rieu fan

■ Being **André Rieu** is big business. Apart from the multi-million dollar enterprise of staging huge concerts in the likes of **Melbourne's Telstra Dome**, there is a large 'back office' to sell a wide range of CDs and DVDs.

"But wait there's more" ... at the **www.andrerieu.com** website, fans can order books, photo books and posters at the 'Boutique'.

Garments include T-shirts, scarves, even a 14-carat signature brooch for 50 Euros.

There are limited edition signed photographs, figurines and a hologram in a crystal key-ring.

Other items for sale include a model of the double decker bus used to transport **Rieu** and his '**JSO**' around the **United States of America** on their recent tour.

Items are mailed to **Australia** after credit card payment.



● André Rieu concert scarf



● André Rieu T-shirt



'My life is simply music, music is what we are always doing, and it never gets boring!'

■ **André Rieu** says his life revolves around music - but humour is an important ingredient.

"For at least the last 20 years, my personal life has been so bound up with my work that the story of my personal life would sound pretty much the same as the story of my career - especially as my wife **Marjorie** has been so closely involved from the start.

"My life is simply music, music is what we are always doing, and it never gets boring!"

"Even as a child, I was fascinated by the world of music. My father was a conductor, and I remember the huge orchestra and the wonderful sound it made, all those bows moving together - I thought it was fantastic.

"But even then I can remember being surprised at the sombre atmosphere during the concerts. Everybody looked so serious, you weren't supposed to cough or laugh, even though the music seemed to me to radiate so much joy!"

"You know that solemn atmosphere you find in the concert hall with classical music, and how it intimidates most people and keeps them away?"

"With us, it is simply not there. My orchestra consists of young, enthusiastic musicians, who put their heart and soul into the music every evening when they play in our concerts.

"At one of our concerts you'll see me and the orchestra, and the audience too, all having a lot of fun together.

"Swaying with the music, humming along, clapping, jumping up and down - it all happens! Every evening is a wonderful experience, and in my view there couldn't be a greater pleasure for a musician.

"When I was studying the violin at the music academy, somebody asked me to play in a salon orchestra.

"It was there that I played the waltz **Gold und Silber** by **Frantz Léhár** for the first time.

"What a revelation it was! I was immediately spellbound by that beat which, years later, has almost become the rhythm of my life: three-four time, the rhythm of the waltz.

"But with my own orchestra, I play a lot more than waltzes these days.

"My dream is to make the whole of classical music accessible for everyone.

"To achieve that, I've had my own recording studio built, and we're working hard to make new recordings of the classical repertoire.

"I hope I may be given many more years to make people happy with my music!"



● André Rieu conducts the Johann Strauss Orchestra

Wide catalogue of CDs, DVDs

■ **André Rieu** has compiled a large catalogue of CDs and DVDs, which can be obtained from all good music stores.

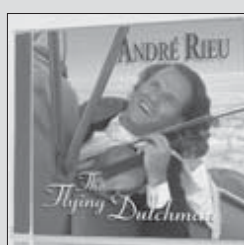
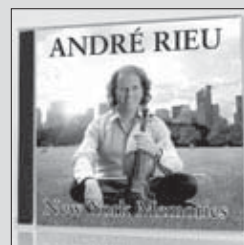
Discurio, at 113 Hardware St, Melbourne, is very helpful, and has a good quantity of stock of **André Rieu** CDs and DVDs.

If you are unable to get their store, you can place an order by phone, paying by credit card, and they promptly mail the items to your address.

You can browse their stock at **www.discurio.com.au**

André Rieu's 'discography' includes:

- **In Wonderland**, 2007
 - **New York Memories**, 2006
 - **Christmas Around The World**, 2005
 - **Songs From My Heart**, 2005
 - **The Flying Dutchman**, 2004
 - **André Rieu At The Movies**, 2004
 - **Romantic Paradise**, 2003
 - **Live In Dublin**, 2003
 - **Heartstrings**, 2002
 - **Dreaming**, 2001
 - **La vie est belle**, 2000
 - **100 Years of Strauss**, 1999
 - **Fiesta**, 1999
 - **Romantic Moments**, 1998
 - **The Christmas I Love**, 1997
 - **In Concert**, 1996
 - **The Vienna I Love**, 1995
 - **From Holland With Love**, 1994
- His 'filmography' includes:
- **André Rieu On His Way To New York**, 2007
 - **Romance**, 2007
 - **DVD New York Memories**, 2006
 - **André Rieu at Schonburnn**, 2006
 - **Christmas Around The World**, 2006
 - **Welcome to My World**, 2006
 - **Lovesongs**, 2005
 - **New Year's Eve In Vienna**, 2005
 - **Songs From My Heart**, 2005
 - **Christmas With André Rieu**, 2004
 - **New Year's Eve Punch**, 2004
 - **The Flying Dutchman**, 2004
 - **Gala Concert**, 2003
 - **Live in Dublin**, 2003
 - **Romantic Paradise**, 2003



● Some of the cast members of the Johann Strauss Orchestra