



📷 Clown Shirin Lim hits a chord with ASO musicians Alex Miller (horn) and Chris Handley (cello) for Cirque de la Symphonie. Picture: Mike Burton

## Reviews

# Cirque de la Symphonie adds circus thrills to Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's music

Rodney Smith, The Advertiser

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TAKE a large helping of Cirque du Soleil, season with the great traditions of Russian circus and ballet, top off with a symphony orchestra in a theatre, not a tent, and you have it. Cirque de la Symphonie brings many of the thrills and

colours of the circus up close and personal alongside light classical symphonic music, raising audience adrenaline levels substantially judging by the appreciative oohs and clapping from a delighted full house of noticeably young and old.

But, and it's a big but, this is also where art and entertainment meet amicably, visually exemplified as the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the circus stars shared its vast stage, uniquely melding sound and image. From the stunning balance and iron control of strongmen Jaroslaw Marciniak and Dariusz Wronski during Sibelius's *Finlandia* to the elegance and poise of aerialists Alexander Streltsov and Christine Van Loo during Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake Act 1 Waltz* the deeply satisfying respect shown for musical shape, rhythm and mood was evident from every twist, turn, lift and fall of Cirque's members.

The eight performers including Olympic athletes, gymnasts and all-round amazing physical specimens gave audience members a wholly new view of classical evergreens, with the only disappointment Johann Strauss *Thunder and Lightning Polka* played by orchestra alone. By that point we'd become accustomed to the extra dimension Cirque gives and wanted more than just Strauss's big bass drum for our delectation!

**Cirque de la Symphonie**

**Festival Theatre**

**July 29 & 30**