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### 2019 at a Glance

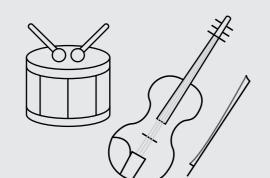


**64%** of revenue

self-generated



\$19.5 Million



234
performances

in Australia

 $\sim$ 

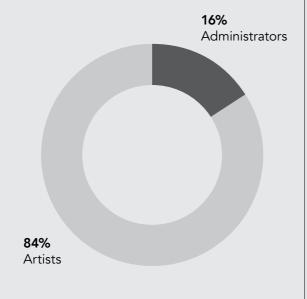
635

new individual donors

310,000 Concertgoers

759 Jobs

provided by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra





30%

of Australian works performed were written by female composers





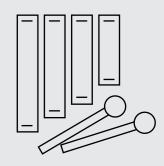


# 33,000 Students and Teachers

engaged in Sydney Symphony Orchestra education programs

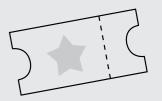
### 146 Schools

participated in Sydney Symphony Orchestra education programs



### 19,700 Students

attended Sydney Symphony Orchestra concerts



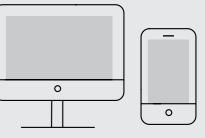


# 80 Countries

where Sydney Symphony Orchestra livestreams were viewed

### 3,100 Hours

of livestream concerts watched worldwide



# Top 10 Livestream Countries

Australia United Kingdom France Japan

Italy

United States Germany New Zealand Canada Spain radio broadcasts

### 20.1 Million Social Media Reach

increased by 28% from 2018

LinkedIn

36,000

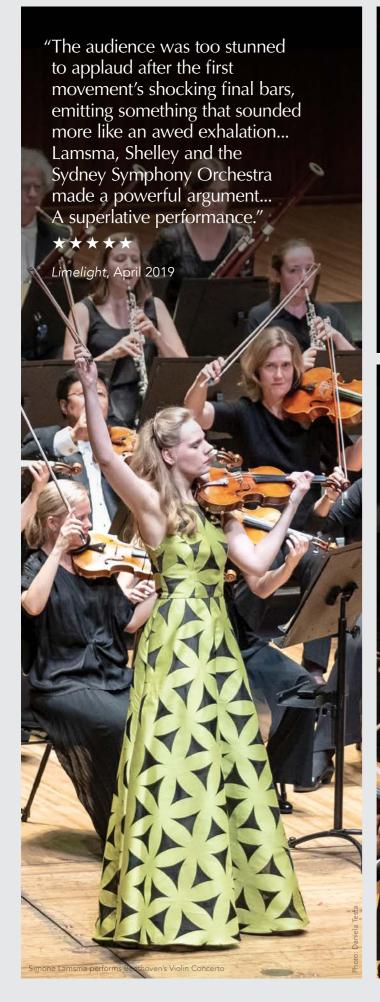
Facebook 13 Million

YouTube 1.5 Million

**Twitter** 425,000

Instagram
3.2 Million

Website 2 Million









"It is a challenging task to integrate jazz, swing and blues idioms into classical music forms. Wynton Marsalis is one of the few to succeed. He has a sure grasp of larger-scale structures and knows how to use the resources of a symphony orchestra with ingenuity and imagination... the contributions of the jazz group and Orchestra were seamlessly integrated and equally inventive."

The Australian, February 2019



### Chair's Report

Terrey Arcus AM

During 2019, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra closed out one important artistic era and looked ahead to an exciting future.

> After six years as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, we farewelled David Robertson at the same time as our performance venue, the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, closed for two years of acoustic renovations. We salute the NSW Government for its substantial investment in renewing the Sydney Opera House for its 50th anniversary in 2023 and look forward to returning to an acoustically superior Concert Hall in 2022.

David led artistic programs with distinction throughout his farewell season, including the Australian premiere of Wynton Marsalis' The Jungle – Symphony No. 4 with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, performances of Mozart with piano superstar Lang Lang, and spectacular opera-in-concert performances of Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes. David's tenure has been marked by his adventurous programming and we thank him for expanding our musical horizons while fashioning himself into a quintessential Sydneysider along the way.

2019 also saw our much-loved Conductor Laureate, Vladimir Ashkenazy, step back from public appearances. He celebrated his 50th anniversary with our Orchestra with unforgettable performances of Elgar, Prokofiev and Holst before retiring from performance at the age of 82. We are indebted to him for five decades of superlative music-making in Australia and wish him the very best in his retirement.

2019 brought the exciting appointment of Simone Young as our next Chief Conductor after a two-year international search. We are excited by her artistic vision and desire to showcase "the best of Australia and the best of the world" during her tenure, which begins in 2022. We are confident that Simone and our dynamic CEO, Emma Dunch, will realise their ambitions for our Orchestra with great success in the years to come.



We finalised our dislocation plans for the duration of the Sydney Opera House Trust's two-year Renewal Project for the Concert Hall. In partnership with the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Cllr. Clover Moore, we finalised a landmark agreement with the City of Sydney to return to our historic home at Sydney Town Hall for the 2020 and 2021 seasons. We are indebted to the Lord Mayor for her leadership in ensuring our access to the acoustically superb Town Hall, which was our major home from 1932 up to the opening of the Sydney Opera House. As we presented special concerts there in August, we were delighted that many patrons shared their fond memories of attending concerts there in earlier decades.

We continued to work with the NSW Government and Sydney Opera House Trust to address the implications of the Renewal Project through to our return to the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall in 2022. In October 2018, the NSW Government gave the Orchestra an assurance that it would provide financial support during the period of the Renewal Project, subject to the establishment of a Work Group whose purpose was to identify options for the NSW Government and the Company to address the financial implications arising for the Orchestra from the undertaking of the project.

This work was concluded in 2019 and the NSW Government confirmed a funding commitment to be provided over the two years of our dislocation (2020 and 2021). We are grateful for this commitment and continue to work through the arrangements with the Government.

We have now also had to face the outbreak of COVID-19. With performances cancelled or deferred, the Board is very grateful that the staff and the orchestra have agreed to reduced hours and salaries through the end of 2021, and that many generous patrons have donated their tickets back to us. The Australian Government's JobKeeper program has also underpinned our ongoing financial viability.

I am indebted to our Board of Directors whose members provide invaluable perspectives and informed business counsel on the complexities we face. The Board strives to manage and preserve the artistic, cultural and financial sustainability of our superb Orchestra in these challenging times. During 2019, we welcomed Geoff Ainsworth and Geoff Wilson to the Board and farewelled David Livingstone, who served with distinction during his nine-year term. Our shared efforts throughout the year included successfully completing a comprehensive Governance review by our Tripartite funders in preparation for dislocation.

With many of our preparatory investments behind us in 2018, our financial operating results for 2019 improved significantly, delivering a 1% shortfall on operating revenues of \$42 million. Notable was the increase of philanthropic support by 28% including generous new support from trusts and foundations. We are focused on managing risk prudently as we navigate the difficult waters of being absent from our performance venue for the next two years.

Our efforts this year and every year are made possible through the enduring assistance provided under our Tripartite Agreement with the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts and the New South Wales Government through Create NSW. On behalf of the Board and the entire company, I thank our government funders for sustaining their ongoing investment, particularly during these challenging times.

We also salute our long-time Principal Partner, Emirates, whose bedrock support is crucial, our Premier Partner, Credit Suisse, whose Credit Suisse Music Education Program is changing young lives through music, Abercrombie & Kent as supporters of our flagship Abercrombie & Kent Masters Series, and the many corporate sponsors, trusts and foundations, philanthropists, subscribers and patrons whose financial support underpins our sustainability.

The transformation required of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra over the next two years will not be possible without your continued commitment to ensuring that the Orchestra remains strong and vibrant.

We are especially grateful to hundreds of donors who increased their giving in 2019 and to the many ticket holders who chose to become donors for the first time. These generous gestures represent a vote of confidence in the Sydney Symphony's vibrant future. Thank you for being with us on this journey, and we look forward to welcoming you to Sydney Town Hall in 2020.

Pris

Terrey Arcus AM Chair

### 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

















**David Livingstone** Retired May 2019

AJ Meagher

Karen Moses

Dr. John Vallance

Geoff Wilson

### CEO's Report

Emma Dunch

The announcement of Simone Young, who becomes our Chief Conductor on our return to the Sydney Opera House in 2022, marks a watershed moment for Australia.

Sydney born and bred, Simone Young has lived overseas for most of her career, where she is in great demand across the concert halls and opera stages of Europe and North America. She is an extraordinary conductor and a great Australian whose international reputation as one of the finest conductors working anywhere in the world today is hard-earned and richly deserved.

Simone made her Sydney Symphony debut in 1996 and, during the intervening 23 years, she has developed superior artistic rapport and great interpersonal chemistry with the musicians of the Sydney Symphony many of whom she has known for decades. To watch Simone and the Orchestra in rehearsal is to witness artists completely united in their vision to serve the composer and deliver performances at the highest levels of international excellence. Simone and the Orchestra's capstone 2019 performances of Mahler's Das klagende Lied to close the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall season livestreamed to the world – were spine-tingling and unforgettable; an indication of the artistic excitement to come!

2019 was also the year that we announced one of the largest commissioning projects in Australian music history: 50 Fanfares. This massive effort to commission 50 new works from emerging and established Australian composers for the reopening of the Concert Hall in 2022 will refresh and reinvigorate the Australian orchestral repertoire for the next decade. Funded entirely through philanthropic giving, we are indebted to the visionary donors underwriting the new works, as well as the more than 100 members of the national nominations panel who provided their recommendations for commissions.



During 2019, we worked hard offstage to finalise our plans for use of the Sydney Town Hall while the Concert Hall is being renovated. The expenses associated with displacement from the Concert Hall for two years are significant and we have remained in discussions with the NSW Government and Sydney Opera House Trust to ensure that we can afford this dislocation and return once the project is complete.

Looking ahead, we proceed with the optimism that our venue dislocation also presents us with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reimagine ourselves. This does not signify any diminution in our artistic excellence, which is at its strongest level in many years and represents a high bar that we only intend to surpass.

I salute our Sydney Symphony Orchestra musicians and staff who are partners in this work, along with our Board of Directors, the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, the NSW Government through Create NSW, our corporate partners, philanthropic supporters and our audiences.

Thank you very much for your continued support, and we warmly invite you to join us on the journey ahead – a journey that is also an opportunity for continuous innovation.

Above all, let the music continue.

Elunalinol

Emma Dunch CEO









The Sydney Symphony Orchestra's 2019 Season was marked by both fond farewells and new beginnings.

We celebrated the contributions of our outgoing Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, David Robertson, finalised our plans to relocate to Sydney Town Hall while the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall is renovated, welcomed highly-sought international musicians to Principal Chairs, and announced Simone Young as our new Chief Conductor.

The season opened in February, with concerts featuring Principal Oboe Diana Doherty performing Australian composer Nigel Westlake's oboe concerto, Spirit of the Wild, alongside Percy Grainger's The Warriors and Richard Strauss' Thus Spake Zarathustra. Also in February, we presented Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for performances of Marsalis' own work The Jungle. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra also performed a standalone evening of the music of Count Basie and Duke Ellington – rapturously received by a sold-out hall.

In July, David Robertson conducted concert performances of Britten's opera, *Peter Grimes*. An outstanding Australian cast was led by Stuart Skelton, who gave a definitive rendition of the title role. Other notable cast members included Elizabeth Campbell, Deborah Humble, Jud Arthur, and American bassbaritone Alan Held. International superstar Lang Lang joined us for performances of Mozart's Piano Concerto No.24, and another world-renowned favourite soloist, Susan Graham, sang Canteloube's *Songs of the Auvergne*, also conducted by David Robertson.

The Orchestra performed its two-week Keys to the City festival, a venue-activating project for our audience to experience the superb acoustics of the Sydney Town Hall. Pianist Kirill Gerstein made his Sydney Symphony debut performing concertos by Grieg, Ravel, and Gershwin.

In his farewell concerts in November, David Robertson conducted a stunning performance of Messiaen's *Turangalîla-Symphonie*, followed by an American program featuring works by Aaron Copland, Christopher Rouse and John Adams. Conductor Laureate Vladimir Ashkenazy gave what would be his final concerts on the Sydney Symphony's podium, with electrifying performances of Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Medtner and Holst. Mr Ashkenazy, one of our best-loved and most distinguished collaborators, subsequently announced his departure from the world stage in January 2020. We wish him and Mrs Ashkenazy a long and enjoyable retirement.

Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles continued his acclaimed multi-year artistic cycle, *Music of Inspiration*, with programs of Bruckner, Fauré, Strauss and Messiaen. His performances were enriched by the voices of international soprano Erin Wall, Australian baritone Samuel Dundas, and the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs.

The Sydney Symphony's extraordinary musicians featured strongly across the season, with solo performances by Concertmaster Andrew Haveron, Principal Bassoon Todd Gibson-Cornish, and concertante performances by David Papp, Francesco Celata, Fiona McNamara and Euan Harvey. In the Utzon Room of the Sydney Opera House, our musicians gave chamber music recitals throughout the year. The cello section featured in the Orchestra's Tea & Symphony series, giving a bravura performance of repertoire for cello ensemble. And we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of our Associate Principal Trumpet Paul Goodchild's appointment to the Orchestra with concerts for which he was the featured soloist.

As well, we concluded international audition processes and appointed Joshua Batty (UK) as Principal Flute and Alexander Morris (AUS) as Principal Bass Clarinet. We farewelled Louise Johnson as Principal Harp after a 50-year career and Stan Kornel as Second Violin after a 35-year career.

Outstanding international artist debuts in the season included conductors Elim Chan, Jaime Martín, Alexander Shelley, Andrey Boreyko and Xian Zhang; pianists Alexei Volodin and Alessio Bax; and violinists Simone Lamsma and Nemanja Radulovic.

The Sydney Symphony was proud to showcase important Australian keyboard artists in our International Pianists in Recital series: Geoffrey Lancaster, who gave a captivating Mozart recital on fortepianos, and contemporary music specialist Lisa Moore.

Australian music by living composers featured in the season included pieces by Nigel Westlake, Joseph Tawadros, Ella Macens, Peggy Polias, Josephine Macken, James Ledger and Richard Mills.

We continued our effort to supplement our existing collection of fine antique stringed instruments for use by our musicians. We collaborated with philanthropists to secure a 1730 Grancino violin and a 1790 Amati viola to enhance our upper string sound.

We toured regionally with the outstanding Slava Grigoryan as featured soloist, and took numerous additional concerts to regional NSW.

The very young Australian virtuoso violinist, Christian Li, made his Sydney Symphony debut in November. We were delighted to showcase his talents playing Vivaldi in our Family Concert series. The roster of Australian artists featured in our season was extensive and reflected the breadth of Australian artistry currently available. In addition to projects already mentioned, the Orchestra worked with conductors Benjamin Northey and Jessica Cottis, beloved sopranos Emma Matthews and Penelope Mills, tenor Steve Davislim, bass-baritone Andrew Collis, and organists David Drury and Joseph Nolan.

In the Sydney Symphony's Kaleidoscope series, a focus on world music traditions brought three interesting projects to the stage. Conductor Elim Chan and Peking opera soprano Meng Meng performed a program to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Oud virtuoso Joseph Tawadros performed his own concerto and other repertoire. Both projects were livestreamed globallyto international audiences. And our virtuoso concertmaster Andrew Haveron performed Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* with a tango twist, alongside Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons* of *Buenos Aires*.

Sydney Symphony Orchestra Presents continued to develop new audiences, presenting the following Films In Concert Casino Royale, Skyfall, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix™, Breakfast at Tiffany's, Star Wars: Return of the Jedi, and Star Wars: The Force Awakens screened live in concert with full symphony orchestra to delighted audiences. These concerts, together with fun foyer activations and ample fan participation, have become a mainstay of the Orchestra's activity.

At the top of the year, our free annual Parramatta Park concert, Sydney Symphony Under the Stars, played to an audience of 15,000 people, picnicking in the summer twilight and taking in a program of popular orchestral classics. 2019 also saw the Sydney Symphony give the gala opening performances at the city's first new performing arts facility in many years, the Sydney Coliseum Theatre, West HQ. Our brass section provided fanfares for the launch of the venue and we rounded out our year by performing in Christmas concerts with singer David Campbell. The Sydney Symphony is proud to be an anchor tenant of this exciting new venue, presenting a wide range of concert projects there in 2020 and beyond.

This season also was a harbinger of the orchestra's bright future. Simone Young returned to Sydney to conduct the Orchestra in two artistic highlight programs of rarely performed works: Liszt's Dante Symphony, and Mahler's Das klagende Lied, livestreamed globally. Both programs saw the Orchestra reach new levels of insight and potency. A strong advocate for these unusual works, Simone inspired audiences to discover them in our Meet the Music series alongside repertoire by Australian composer James Ledger, and in our Masters series, for which the Mahler work was the culminating moment.

Having closed the season with our final subscription concerts in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, Simone was announced as the Orchestra's next Chief Conductor, her tenure to begin in 2022.







### The Orchestra

### PATRON



Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC Governor of NSW









Leonid Volovelsky



Principal

### CONDUCTORS



**David Robertson** The Lowy Chair of Chief Conductor



Andrew Haveron Supported by Vicki Olsson

Fiona Ziegler



FIRST VIOLINS



Kirsten Williams Associate Concertmaster Emeritus Associate Concertmaster



Lerida Delbridge Assistant Concertmaster



**Christopher Pidcock** 





David Campbell

Joshua Batty

COR ANGLAIS

Alexandre Oguey

Principal

Principal

**FLUTES** 

and Artistic Director



**Donald Runnicles** Principal **Guest Conductor** 



Vladimir Ashkenazy Conductor Laureate

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SECOND VIOLINS

Kirsty Hilton

















Emma Hayes





Emma Jezek



Maja Verunica





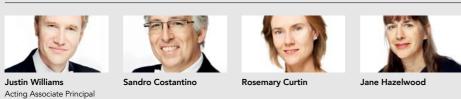
Principal





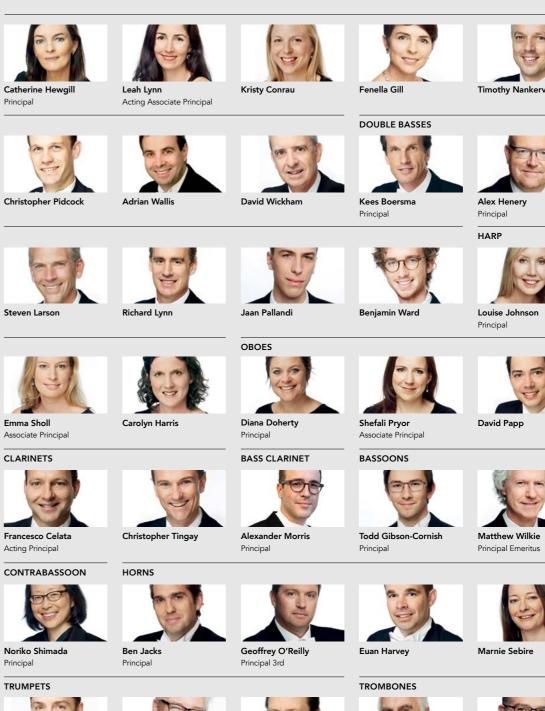


Associate Principal



Principal

Roger Benedict





Paul Goodchild Associate Principal



Mark Robinson Acting Principal



PERCUSSION

Rebecca Lagos

Principal





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David Elton

BASS TROMBONE

Christopher Harris

Principal

TUBA

Steve Rossé

Principal

Principal

# Farewelling David Robertson

"Robertson has invigorated Sydney's musical life with expert performances of new works, fresh perspectives on old ones and engaging musical enthusiasm. It has been a hugely positive period for our Orchestra and has laid propitious foundations for future growth."

The Sydney Morning Herald, December 2019

2019 saw the culmination of David Robertson's six-year tenure as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director. He opened the season with gala performances featuring Principal Oboe Diana Doherty playing Westlake's Spirit of the Wild alongside Grainger's The Warriors and Richard Strauss' Thus Spake Zarathustra. A return appearance by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra saw David conduct the Australian premiere of Wynton Marsalis' new work The Jungle -Symphony No.4. He conducted the Australian premiere of Steve Reich's Music for Ensemble and Orchestra, a Sydney Symphony co-commission conceived to highlight the artistic strengthsof the ensemble.

Later in the year, David collaborated with superstar pianist Lang Lang, performing Mozart, Schubert and Berio. Frequent collaborator Susan Graham travelled to Sydney specially to sing Canteloube's Songs of the Auvergne as part of his farewell season, a program which also included Chabrier's España and Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony.

Throughout the season, David shone the spotlight on members of the Orchestra as soloists and concertante performers. In addition to Diana Doherty's performance at the 2019 season opening gala, he conducted the Australian premiere of Christopher Rouse's Bassoon Concerto, featuring Principal Bassoon Todd Gibson-Cornish as soloist. Works which gave virtuosic opportunities to the Orchestra as a whole included Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, Varèse's Amériques, and Janáček's Taras Bulba.

Our opera-in-concert performances of Britten's Peter Grimes proved an artistic highlight of the year. This project starred Stuart Skelton – a world-renowned interpreter of the title role – and an acclaimed cast of Australian and international singers.

In his final tour period, David conducted programs of Messiaen's mighty *Turangalîla-Symphonie* and John Adams' equally epic *Harmonielehre* – two showcase works which illustrated the excellent standard of the Orchestra.

David's tenure as artistic leader of the Sydney Symphony will be remembered for his adventurous programming choices. These provided opportunities for contemporary music, both Australian and international, in our mainstage subscription series, and in new locations such as Carriageworks at Redfern. The Orchestra made a major tour to Europe as well as a regular touring presence in China. His performances of opera-in-concert (The Flying Dutchman, Elektra, Porgy and Bess as well as Peter Grimes) were acclaimed for their musical excellence, and for their innovative presentations, working with local arts companies and international visual artists a programming approach symbolic of the Orchestra's international and domestic focus.



# Welcome, Simone Young

23 years after her Sydney Symphony Orchestra debut, internationally renowned Australian conductor Simone Young was announced as the Orchestra's Chief Conductor from 2022.

> Simone Young was in Australia to conduct performances in her current, multi-year artistic cycle with the Orchestra, Visions of Vienna – which included a global livestream of Mahler's Das klagende Lied, the Orchestra's final performance in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall before its closure for a two-year acoustic renovation.

Based in Europe, Simone is one of the world's leading interpreters of symphonic and operatic repertoire, collaborating frequently with the Wiener Staatsoper, the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin, the Bavarian State Opera, Munich, and the Zurich Opera, and orchestras including the Vienna Philharmonic, L'Orchestre de Paris, Oslo Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

She is currently Principal Guest Conductor of the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, Switzerland and from 2005-2015, was General Manager and Artistic Director of the Hamburg State Opera and Music Director of the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra.

Simone was born and raised in Sydney and has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with the musicians of the Sydney Symphony across the decades. They voted unanimously to appoint her and are excited at the prospect of her arrival, which coincides with the Orchestra's return to its Sydney Opera House Concert Hall home after renovations. Simone is enthusiastic about the potential of the renewed venue: "This is an orchestra of international class,"she told The Australian upon her appointment. "For it to get an acoustic home that is also one of the best in the world is incredibly exciting."

As Chief Conductor, Simone will travel to Australia a number of times every year to conduct festivals to open and close each subscription season, along with a mid-year festival to announce the following year's programming. She will also continue her busy international quest conducting career with orchestras and in opera houses across Europe and the United States.

Simone is the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's 13th Chief Conductor, succeeding David Robertson and Vladimir Ashkenazy, and the third Australian to hold the title, following Stuart Challender (1987-91) and Sir Charles Mackerras (1982-85).

"I am thrilled to take up this role with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. As an orchestra, it is amongst the world's finest. Since my first appearances with the Sydney Symphony 23 years ago, I have witnessed its extraordinary artistic growth. It's a virtuosic ensemble and it is an orchestra of which every Australian can be proud."



# 50 Fanfares

A landmark commissioning project: 50 new Australian compositions by 2022.



"No dead white men: Sydney Symphony backs new breed of composer."

Australian Financial Review, February 2020

Sydney Symphony Orchestra 2019 Impact Report

Years of planning came to fruition as we announced 50 Fanfares, a major project which will see the Sydney Symphony Orchestra commission and present the world premieres of new music by 50 Australian composers.

> The project has been carefully designed to represent a broad range of Australian voices and styles. The 50 composers were selected after a year-long vetting process based on recommendations from a national nominations panel of over 100 musicians, composers, artists, educators and cultural industry leaders across Australia.

The 50 Fanfares project marks a large-scale institutional commitment to Australia's composers and is designed to serve the wider orchestral sector at home and abroad.

Commissions vary from short fanfares and chamber works to longer compositions for full symphony orchestra. One of the key goals of the project is to make contemporary Australian music as widely available as possible, both here and overseas. Aside from music designed for professional orchestras, we have deliberately structured commissions so that many of the works will be suitable for performance by community ensembles, such as youth orchestras, amateur orchestras, school orchestras, brass bands or university ensembles. We are determined that 50 Fanfares will enrich the Australian repertoire and that the works we commission will receive many subsequent performances by other ensembles around the world.

50 Fanfares commissions will be progressively performed over 2020, 2021, and 2022, and reach a broad audience by being included in mainstage concerts, regional tours and in school education programs.

The project will culminate in 2022 when we return to our home at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. We also plan to record and release all 50 commissions and partner with an international music publisher to publish the orchestral scores for international performances.

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"Australia's composers and musicians play an essential role in giving our nation a musical voice and affirming Australia's creative position in the world. Each of the 50 composers – emerging, established and from across many musical styles and art forms – is proof of the exceptional talent that we have in this country. Collectively, these composers are important voices shaping our musical life, now and in the future."

Emma Dunch, CEO

### **GENDER 50%** Male 50% Female AGE 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 **CULTURAL DIVERSITY** First Nations, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Australian / Non-CALD

### **50 FANFARES COMPOSERS**

























































Cathy Milliken (SA)





















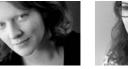


Carl Vine (NSW)









Natalie Williams (SA)



Elizabeth Younan (NSW)



Miriama Young (VIC)



Bree van Reyk (NSW)

## 2019 Fellowship Program

In 2019, we invited 12 of the brightest emerging talents from Australia and New Zealand to spend the year in our internationally acclaimed orchestral performance training program, directed by Sydney Symphony Principal Viola, Roger Benedict.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra's Fellowship program will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2021. Program alumni hold leadership positions across all of the Australian and New Zealand orchestras, as well as overseas, where alumni perform in the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Camerata Salzburg, Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, and Southbank Sinfonia, among others. Twelve program alumni have gone on to win auditions and join the Sydney Symphony in permanent roles.

The 2019 Fellows gained invaluable professional opportunities, including working with Chief Conductor and Artistic Director David Robertson; they received professional mentoring and lessons from Sydney Symphony musicians and participated in masterclasses with renowned violinists Vadim Gluzman and Grammy Award winner James Ehnes.

The Fellows built their experience as chamber musicians by preparing and performing concerts for the general public. They also developed community engagement and presenting skills, joining the Sydney Symphony's regional NSW tours to Port Macquarie, Taree and Newcastle.

During 2019, several present and past Fellows capitalised on their Fellowship training to win permanent orchestral positions. Justin Sun (2015-16) was appointed Principal Bassoon for Aarhus Symfoniorkester in Denmark, John Keene (2015–16) was appointed Associate Principal Double Bass for Western Australia Symphony Orchestra, Owen Morris (2015) was appointed Principal Trumpet for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and is now on trial for Principal Trumpet for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Jenna Smith (2017–18) is currently on trial for Associate Principal Trumpet at West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Joshua Oates (2016–17) is currently on trial for Principal Oboe at the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Congratulations to all!

"The Sydney Symphony
Orchestra offers Fellows
a year of enormous growth.
I'm leaving the Fellowship
incredibly excited about the
future, with all the knowledge
I've gained, and a newfound
trust in myself developed
from all I've experienced."

Jessica Oddie, 2019 Violin Fellow



Sydney Symphony Orchestra 2019 Impact Report

# Building Audiences for Orchestral Music

We expanded our global livestreams in 2019 and added live watching parties in the UK and USA. Audiences in 80 countries tuned in for powerful performances from Australia's flagship symphony orchestra, proving that great music performed with international excellence is a universal language.



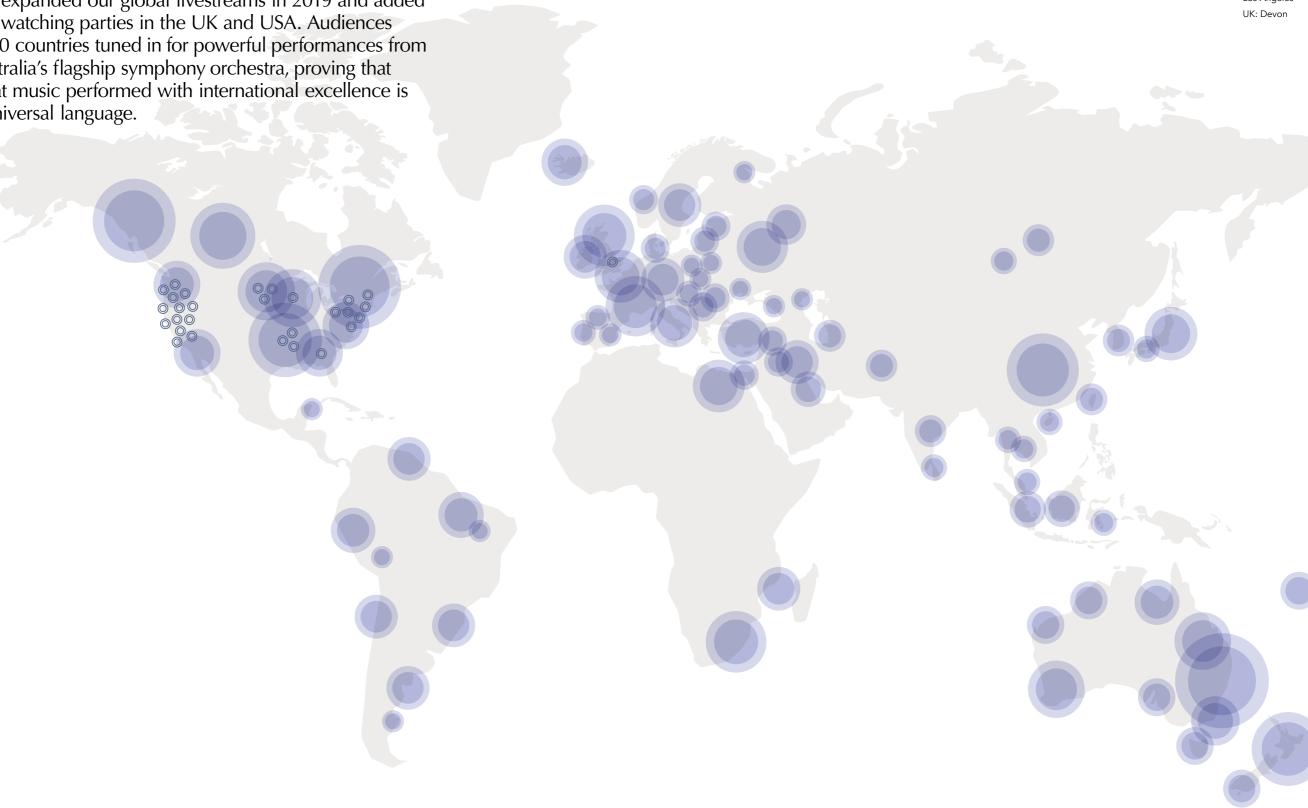
#### LIVE WATCHING PARTIES

USA: Bloomington, Burlington, Fullerton, Hartford, Long Beach, Macon, Mashantucket, Milwaukee, Montclair, Nashville, Rochester, Salem, San Jose, Los Angeles



#### LIVESTREAMING COUNTRIES

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijian Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Columbia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, . Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mayotte, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherland, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Réunion, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Vietnan





### LUNAR NEW YEAR



We opened our season with a spectacular Lunar New Year Concert as part of the City of Sydney's Lunar New Year Festival. Traditional lion dancers and percussionists enlivened the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall foyers before stars of Peking Opera conducted by Elim Chan delivered a stunning performance for a capacity crowd.

### FAMILY CONCERTS



We offered twice as many family concerts and fundraised in order to offer all tickets for \$25. Foyer activities included "instrument petting zoos" where children and their parents could meet the musicians and learn about their instruments. Programs included Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition with mime artist Andy Dexterity, and Vivaldi's Four Seasons featuring 11-year-old violin virtuoso Christian Li.

#### MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES



Our presentations of iconic films with live orchestral accompaniment consistently draw new and excited audiences to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. And dressing up is definitely part of the fun! A flock of Audrey Hepburn lookalikes descended upon the Sydney Opera House for our presentations of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, with its memorable music by Henry Mancini, while *Star Wars* stormtroopers posed for selfiesand helped space fans get into the intergalactic mood for John Williams' iconic movie music.

### SPECIAL EVENTS



David Robertson's farewell season as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director provided many opportunities to gather friends and fans to salute his many contributions. Our 2019 Season Opening Gala in March attracted capacity crowds, while David's final farewell in November was a star-studded affair as Sydney's cultural leaders turned out to say a fond farewell.

### LANG LANG IN CONCERT



International piano superstar
Lang Lang made his long-awaited
return to Australia for two tremendous
performances that attracted families
and young fans. Performing Mozart's
Piano Concerto in C minor, K 491,
he inspired the young piano students
in attendance and graciously
mingled afterwards at meet-theartist events. Many ticket holders
were attending a Sydney Symphony
performance for the first –
but certainly not the last – time.

### LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS



Fans of London's famous BBC Proms turned out in force again this year to enjoy the best of British classical music which included works by Handel and Elgar. Audience singalongs were ably supported by the "kings and queens" of the suitably costumed Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. Each concert ended with a spectacular confetti and streamer explosion, accompanied by a frenzy of Australian and British flag waving!

# Serving Our State

In 2019 the Sydney Symphony Orchestra reached more towns in NSW than ever before, touring live performances and expanding its livestreams in partnership with the State Library of NSW.

LIVE PERFORMANCES

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

Canterbury-Bankstown Central Coast Cessnock

0

**PARTNERS** 

Albury

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In 2019 we performed live for more than 310,000 NSW citizens of all ages by visiting 18 locations across NSW, and we expanded our partnership with the State Library of NSW to facilitate regular livestreams into 22 branch libraries.

The year began in January with our annual *Sydney Symphony Under the Stars* free concert at Parramatta Park, enabled more than 15,000 people, including many multi-generational family groups, to enjoy masterworks from the orchestral repertoire along with a grand fireworks finale.

"That's what it's all about for us, connecting with people and giving people the chance to hear the Orchestra without having to come to the Concert Hall at the Opera House."

Benjamin Northey, Conductor, Sydney Symphony Under the Stars The Daily Telegraph, January 2019

We expanded our tours of regional NSW in 2019 to take in 18 different locations. The expanded program received support from the NSW Government in order to offer new and additional opportunities in service to communities located outside metropolitan Sydney. Touring activities included free and paid public performances and schools presentations in local concert halls, conservatoriums of music and outdoor venues. The Sydney Symphony began its regional programs in 1938 and 2019 marked the program's 81st continuous year.

"The Regional NSW Tour is underpinned by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's commitment to accessibility and removing barriers to enjoying live symphonic music."

Manning River Times, May 2019

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Fellowship Program also toured to
regional NSW throughout the year,
performing in Parramatta, Springwood,
Gosford and Wyong and working
one-on-one with young local musicians
in Goulburn, Parramatta, Gosford and the
South Coast Correctional Centre in Nowra.

Our new partnership with the State Library of New South Wales expanded in 2019, this time to encourage local community music organisations in 22 towns to host "Symphony Among the Shelves" music events promoting local musicians before each livestream from the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

"It's an opportunity that rarely comes around: the chance to see the entire Sydney Symphony Orchestra... Music lovers all across the Mid-Coast region have clamoured to buy tickets to this marvellous evening, not just because of the superb talent of all involved, but also because of the wonderful program of music scheduled for the night."

Wingham Chronicle, May 2019

MEET THE MUSIC



The Sydney Symphony Orchestra's Meet the Music series offers a selection of mainstage concerts designed to support the studies of secondary music students in alignment with music syllabus topics. Meet the Music is an opportunity for students and teachers to experience the orchestra, the fundamentals of symphonic music, Australian music and the music that has shaped Australian compositions.

Meet the Music in 2019 included eight performances which reached a total of 6,900 students and teachers. Our Professional Learning Seminars and teaching resource kits, developed by specialist music educators, ensured the students were able to integrate the live Concert Hall experience into classroom activities.

In a memorable series of performances we celebrated our Associate Principal Trumpet, Paul Goodchild's, 40-year tenure with the Orchestra. The concerts for which he was featured soloist included works by Hummel, Sibelius and a recent work by Australian composer, Ella Macens: The Space Between Stars. Students also experienced the Australian premiere of Wynton Marsalis' The Jungle -Symphony No.4. Marsalis performed as part of the Orchestra inspiring Meet the Music students before they joined the musicians of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for a performance workshop.

SCHOOL CONCERTS



The Sydney Symphony was thrilled to welcome 10,950 K–10 students who participated in one of eighteen interactive school concerts held at the Seymour Centre (Chippendale) and Riverside Theatre (Parramatta).

Through the generosity of Credit Suisse via the Credit Suisse Music Education Program and the Anthony & Sharon Lee Foundation's 'Young and Free' program, more than 3,000 students and teachers from low ICSEA score schools were able to attend these concerts. For many it was their first experience of live orchestral music.

At the final schools concert for the year, Lemony Snicket and Nathaniel Stookey's musical whodunit *The Composer is Dead* was a great success. Excerpts from Bizet's opera *Carmen* were met with much excitement as students recognised the *Toreador Song*, and the concert finished on a high note with K–2 students, led by conductor Brett Kelly, conducting and clapping along to the Farandole from Bizet's *L'Arlésienne*.

PLAYERLINK



Now a quarter of a century old, Playerlink gathers the state's most talented secondary student musicians for an intensive and immersive music workshop led by Sydney Symphony musicians.

In 2019, Playerlink was held in Campbelltown and hosted in partnerships with St Patrick's College for Girls. Fifty-one students from across NSW participated in a busy week of musical mentoring, sectional and full orchestral rehearsals as well as small ensemble performances. All activities were led by Sydney Symphony musicians, including individual tutoring, and small ensemble performances.

As is tradition, this year's Playerlink program concluded with a standing-room-only performance for family and friends given by the young participants performing side-by-side with their Sydney Symphony mentors.

**MUSIC 4 HEALTH** 



It is often in times of hardship that we turn to music as a source of comfort. In partnership with Starlight Foundation, musicians from the Sydney Symphony performed six times throughout the year at the Sydney Children's Hospitals in Randwick and Westmead, bringing music to some of the most vulnerable and isolated young people in our communities. With percussion instruments, children played to classics like Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf and sang modern hits like Let it Go from Frozen.

Broadcast to all televisions in each hospital room, each Sydney Symphony visit gave patients and their families an opportunity to enjoy an engaging musical performance which their situation wouldn't otherwise permit.

Along with these visits we once again worked with the Autism Advisory and Support Service and Liverpool Catholic Club for an eleventh year. Together we were able to present a concert for 280 children with autism and their families.

We were also delighted to host 100 people with intellectual disabilities from Sunnyfield Disability Services and their families for an amazing concert of popular classics. CREDIT SUISSE MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM



2019 was the second year of a pilot program that we created in partnership with Credit Suisse to provide world-class music education for primary school students in disadvantaged areas, selecting six schools across NSW and Victoria to participate in the intensive three-year program.

Sydney Symphony and Credit Suisse are committed to supporting music-learning in the classroom. Over three years, a new intake of Year 3 students will join the program while earlier cohorts continue on their musical journey. By 2020, the program will have had a direct impact on more than 1,000 students across the six schools.

This year, 704 students drawn from across Sydney schools visited the Credit Suisse Sydney offices and toured the Sydney Opera House where they experienced the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in rehearsal. It was a rare opportunity and insight into the corporate and arts world.

Forty-three teachers were also engaged at each school, joining our immersive teacher training programs TunED-Up and ToppED-Up, providing them with new skills to teach music in the classroom.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The impact that teachers can have by engaging students and igniting their musical interests is something that we at the Sydney Symphony believe in strongly.

In order for music to be accessed and appreciated within all communities, it is essential to us that we support teachers throughout the country as they bring music into their classrooms and schools.

Each performance in our Meet the Music, Schools Concerts and Regional Tour series has a specifically designed teaching resource kits to provide insight into the concert repertoire, with pedagogical approaches relevant to the concerts and educational stages.

In addition to the resource kits we offer a series of 10 NESA-accredited Professional Development Workshops throughout the year. More than 110 teachers at all levels of experience have the opportunity to learn and engage with leading music educators and professional musicians.

## Acknowledging Your Support

Thank you! The Sydney Symphony Orchestra gratefully acknowledges those whose generosity enables us to share the power and joy of live orchestral music even further.

### VISIONARIES AND MAESTRO'S CIRCLE

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra is indebted to our Visionaries and Maestro's Circle members. Through the leadership support of these generous philanthropists, we are able to reach new heights of extraordinary artistic excellence.

Projects supported included breathtaking operas in concert, guest artists of international renown, and creative orchestral projects spanning the breadth of everything from CD recordings to multimedia collaborations.

We salute Peter Weiss AO (President Emeritus, Maestro's Circle), who founded the Maestro's Circle in 2007, and thank Roslyn Packer AC for her leadership as President of the Maestro's Circle since 2018.

Thank you all for your generosity, philanthropy and passion for music and the Sydney Symphony.

#### CHAIR PATRONS

One of the most rewarding ways to support the Orchestra is to give an annual gift towards the chair of one of our musicians. In some cases, families have combined gifts to make donations in memory of a loved one. Other people have reached out to support one of the familiar faces they see on stage each week, or to learn more about an instrument that they love. But all of our Chair Patrons agree being part of this special group of people deepens your relationship to the Orchestra and provides fascinating insight to music-making. In 2019, there were 26 musicians whose chairs were supported by philanthropic gifts.

"Since becoming Scott
Kinmont's chair patron,
I have become an honorary
member of the trombone
section. I love it! I've
learned so much about
music, rare and unusual
instruments, pieces that are
seldom played and many
other interesting things.
I have enjoyed getting
to know so many of the
musicians, who have
made me feel part of the
Sydney Symphony family!"

Audrey Blunden, Chair patron since 2015.

### ANNUAL DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

We acknowledge those passionate music lovers who donate to our work every year. These individuals and families provide invaluable support to our education and training programs, and the Orchestra more broadly. Their continued generosity is part of the lifeblood of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and we thank them enormously for their advocacy and support. Across 2019, many donors were motivated to increase their giving and we welcomed new members to our ever growing family.

"The Sydney Symphony
Orchestra is a huge part
of my life – I couldn't do
without it. It puts a smile
on my face and is vital to
the cultural life of everyone,
especially the young
musicians of the future.
Supporting the Sydney
Symphony financially
is the least I can do to
ensure this fine institution
continues to thrive
and enrich our world."

Stephen J Bell

#### VANGUARD

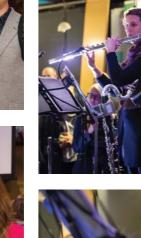
Now in its seventh year, Sydney Symphony Vanguard is an initiative designed to change the way Sydney audiences experience classical music. In 2019, the Vanguard program continued to take orchestral music out of the concert hall and into exciting new locations around the city.

In May, Vanguard members enjoyed a concert of works by J.S. Bach and Australian composer Stephen Lalor at Studios 301 at Alexandria. July saw members visit Crystal Bar at GPO Grand, where they were treated to unique instrumental combinations, including a performance by Nick Byrne on ophicleide, and in August, our musicians took over Work-Shop in Redfern for an industrial experience of orchestral music curated by Christopher Pidcock.

Members also enjoyed some behind-the-scenes experiences at the Sydney Opera House, attending open rehearsals for Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and Fauré's Requiem under the direction of our Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles. Once again, Vanguard events proved an excellent opportunity for members to network and mingle with our musicians.

The chair of Acting Assistant Principal Cello, Leah Lynn is supported by Sydney Symphony Orchestra Vanguard (lead support from Taine Moufarrige and Seamus R Quick).











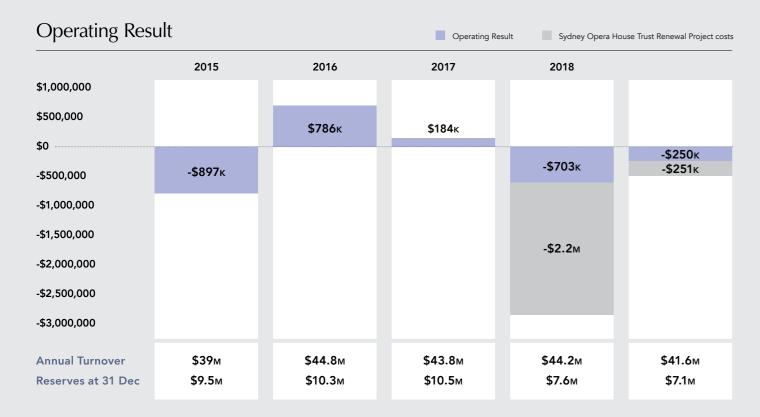








### **Business Performance**



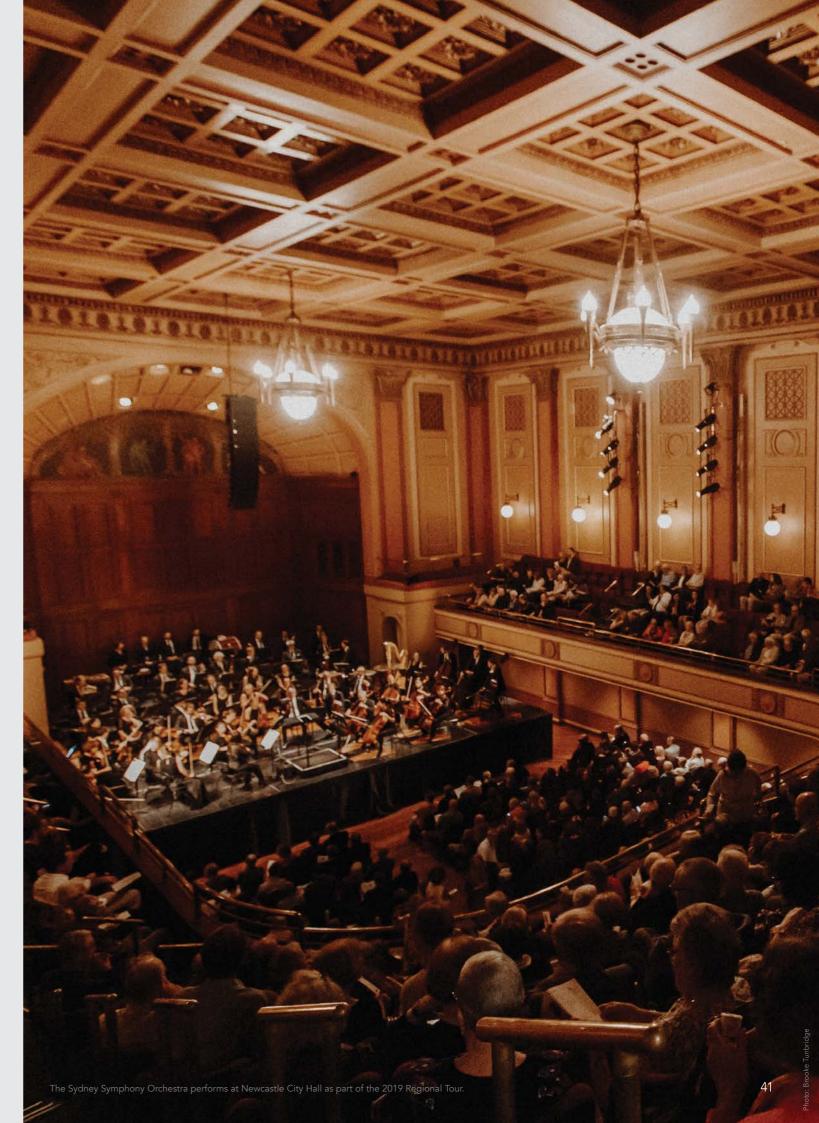
### Total Revenue: 64% Self-Generated



### Total Expenditure: 78% Concert Related Expenses

<b>78%</b> Concert Related Expenses			22% Administration
54%	17%	6%	
Artistic	Venue & Production	Marketing	

Tickete	d Concert Attendances	s in Sydney and	NSW	
	294,000			
2018	285,000			30%
2017	277,000			Growth
2016	258,000			2015 – 2019
2015	227,000			
40				



Sydney Symphony Orchestra 2019 Impact Report

### 2019 Annual **Fund Donors**

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the music lovers who support us. Your generous philanthropy is instrumental to our continued artistic excellence. In addition to those listed below, we also acknowledge those supporters in 2019 who wished to remain anonymous.

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List acknowledges gifts received between 1 January and 31 December 2019.

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The Sydney Symphony Orchestra is grateful to the many generous subscribers, patrons and music lovers who choose to include a gift to the Sydney Symphony in their estate plans, ensuring a legacy of artistic excellence for generations to come. The Bequest Society honours the legacy of our former Artistic Director and Chief Conductor Stuart Challender, who died prematurely in 1991, aged 44.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of members of our Bequest Society, who joined us for a range of special events throughout 2019, including an annual luncheon with Sydney Symphony musicians in the Utzon Room of Sydney Opera House.

For a confidential conversation about including the Sydney Symphony in your estate plans, please call Philanthropy on 02 8215 4674.



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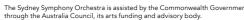
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