

THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WELCOMES 10 BRIGHT YOUNG MUSICIANS TO ITS 2023 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



10 leading young artists join the Sydney Symphony’s internationally-recognised Fellowship program in 2023
Photo credit: Daniel Boud

Tuesday 14 March, 2023 – Sydney, AUSTRALIA – The Sydney Symphony Orchestra is today excited to announce the 10 leading young musicians who will be joining its [Sydney Symphony Fellowship](#) program in 2023.

All under the age of 25, the 2023 Fellows will join the Sydney Symphony for 12 months and receive musical and professional mentoring alongside the Orchestra. They will gain the skills and knowledge to pursue a professional career in music through masterclasses with the Sydney Symphony’s network of globally renowned artists, and build performance experience in chamber and orchestral performances, including mainstage concerts at the iconic Sydney Opera House Concert Hall and regional programs. Each Fellow will also work directly with an Orchestra musician, receiving one-on-one guidance and advice specific to the instrument and section in which they perform.

Stuart Johnson, violist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, is one of the 10 dedicated mentors who will guide the Fellows over the coming year. An alumnus of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellowship program, Johnson said “The Sydney Symphony Fellowship program has been an integral part of the Orchestra since its inception in 2001. It has been the training ground

for many professional musicians to hone and refine their craft and today, the orchestra features many graduates of the program as permanent members, including myself. Over its 22 year lifetime, the program has continued to evolve to meet the needs of emerging artists. I am excited to be part of the mentoring group this year which will guide the Fellows through the program.”

Selected through an intensive audition process across Australia and New Zealand, the 10 Fellows who will be joining the Fellowship program this year are:

[Dominic Azzi](#), violin (24)

[Noah Rudd](#), oboe (25)

[Marcus Michelsen](#), violin (20)

[Jes Broeren](#), clarinet (23)

[Aidan Filshie](#), viola (23)

[Jamie Dodd](#), bassoon (21)

[Ariel Volovelsky](#), cello (23)

[Sophie Spencer](#), trumpet (24)

[Lily Bryant](#), flute (24)

[William Kinmont](#), trombone (23)

2023 Violin Fellow Marcus Michelsen is looking forward to working closely with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra: “I’m so thrilled to be taking part in the 2023 Fellowship program – I’m pinching myself at every rehearsal knowing I’m making music with the world-renowned Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Having heard the Sydney Symphony perform every year since I was five-years-old, it’s a true dream to be able to perform alongside and be mentored by the musicians.”

2023 Trumpet Fellow Sophie Spencer said “I am thrilled to be joining the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as part of its 2023 Fellowship program. Growing up watching the Sydney Symphony perform, I always dreamed of being able to share the stage with such exceptional musicians, and I am so excited that this opportunity will allow me to do just that – made even more special to now be able to perform alongside the Orchestra in the renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. This is a fantastic opportunity to absorb as much knowledge and experience as possible on my journey towards a professional orchestral position.”

The annual Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellowship program has provided the foundation for young artists to develop the required skills, knowledge, and experience for a professional career in music. An independent [2016 study by BYG Group](#) found “that the Sydney Symphony Fellowship has a significant, unique impact for program participants” and that the Orchestra is addressing an unmet need in preparing emerging artists for a professional career in music. Since the program’s beginnings in 2001, 12 Fellowship alumni have been appointed permanent positions with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and more than 80 percent of Fellowship alumni are now working as professional musicians in orchestras and ensembles around the globe.

Auditions for the **2024 Fellowship** program are **now open** – details on how to apply can be [found here](#).

More about the Sydney Symphony’s Fellowship program can be [found here](#) – high-res images are [available here](#).

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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ABOUT [SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA](#)

PATRON Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley ac kc

Founded in 1932 by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has evolved into one of the world’s finest orchestras as Sydney has become one of the world’s great cities. Resident at the iconic Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra also performs in venues throughout Sydney and regional New South Wales, and international tours to Europe, Asia and the USA have earned the Orchestra worldwide recognition for artistic excellence.

The Orchestra’s first chief conductor was Sir Eugene Goossens, appointed in 1947; he was followed by Nicolai Malko, Dean Dixon, Moshe Atzmon, Willem van Otterloo, Louis Frémaux, Sir Charles Mackerras, Zdeněk Mácal, Stuart Challender, Edo de Waart and Gianluigi Gelmetti. Vladimir Ashkenazy was Principal Conductor from 2009 to 2013, followed by David Robertson as Chief Conductor from 2014 to 2019. Australia-born Simone Young commenced her role as Chief Conductor in 2022, a year in which the Orchestra made its return to a renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s concerts encompass masterpieces from the classical repertoire, music by some of the finest living composers, and collaborations with guest artists from all genres, reflecting the Orchestra’s versatility and diverse appeal. Its award-winning education program is central to its commitment to the future of live symphonic music, and the Orchestra promotes the work of Australian composers through performances, recordings and its commissioning program.