

THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY DRAWS LUMINARIES
FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE FOR A FIRST FULL SEASON
AT THE RENEWED CONCERT HALL



Musicians of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (left to right): Alexander Norton, First Violin; Kees Boersma, Principal Double Bass; Claire Herrick, First Violin; Alexandra Mitchell, First Violin; Harry Bennetts, Associate Concertmaster; Rosemary Curtin, Viola. **Credit:** Pierre Toussaint

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY’S 2023 SEASON:

- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra announces its **first full season at the renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall**, where the Orchestra has been resident since its original opening in 1973
- **Chief Conductor Simone Young** leads **eight major programs** in 2023
- The Sydney Symphony’s **opera-in-concert project** led by Chief Conductor Simone Young continues with Wagner’s **Das Rheingold** – the first of four operas which make up his epic *Ring Cycle*. The *Ring Cycle* will be performed over multiple seasons with Simone Young at the helm
- **Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles** returns to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra with **five programs**, featuring world-leading artists
- **Australian violinist Ray Chen** returns in July 2023 in collaboration with **former Sydney Symphony Chief Conductor David Robertson**
- **23 acclaimed-international artists** join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in the renewed Concert Hall, offering audiences the opportunity to experience their performances in the phenomenal new acoustics
- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra reunites with the celebrated **Jazz at Lincoln Centre Orchestra** for two special gala events (**31 August-1 September**)
- **A roster of award-winning artists** join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2023, among them superstar violinists **Anne-Sophie Mutter, Nicola Benedetti, Ray Chen** and acclaimed cellist **Steven Isserlis**
- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra hosts **Play with Ray**, a **worldwide competition in search of three violinists to perform with violin virtuoso Ray Chen** and the Orchestra
- Acclaimed pianist **Javier Perianes** returns to continue his collaboration with the Sydney Symphony, performing another of Beethoven’s Piano concertos
- **61 Australian artists and composers also** feature in the Sydney Symphony’s 2023 Season
 - Mihhail Gerts makes his Australian debut alongside the Sydney Symphony Orchestra
 - The **Sydney Symphony welcomes 42 luminaries of the international and Australian stage**, including eight artists in their first-ever appearances with the Sydney Symphony
- The Sydney Symphony will give the **world-premiere of nine works**, seven of which have been commissioned as part of the Sydney Symphony’s *50 Fanfares* commissioning project
- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s **Symphony Hour series returns** in 2023 after a two-year absence – all tickets are \$49.00

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra announces its 2023 Season

Wednesday 21 September, 2022 – Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Following its critically-acclaimed return to the renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall in July 2022, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has announced its 2023 Season featuring an all-star line-up of luminaries from across the globe sharing the stage in the iconic venue with its new, world-class acoustic.

The Sydney Symphony will collaborate with **42 international and Australian artists** and **perform nine world-premieres** in its first full Season in the renewed Concert Hall. In her second year as **Chief Conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Simone Young** will lead **eight programs** throughout the year, bringing to the Orchestra her phenomenal conducting prowess for which she is internationally recognised.

Award-winning violinists **Anne-Sophie Mutter, Nicola Benedetti** and **world-renowned cellist Steven Isserlis**, are among those returning to Australia, allowing audiences moments to rediscover these artists’ unparalleled musicianship in a new acoustic environment.

The 2023 Season will also feature **seven special events**, including an open competition where three non-professional violinists can **win the chance to perform alongside the Sydney Symphony and violinist Ray Chen**; the return of the critically-acclaimed **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** for an unmissable collaboration with the Orchestra; and **Das Rheingold as an Opera in Concert** under the direction of Simone Young in which the Sydney Symphony will welcome a cast which includes stars of the Bayreuth Festival – “home” of this epic work. *Das Rheingold* is the first of four operas which make up Wagner’s epic *Ring Cycle*. The *Ring Cycle* will be performed over multiple seasons with Simone Young at the helm.

The Sydney Symphony will also welcome back **Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles** for five programs featuring some of classical music’s biggest names.

More details about the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s 2023 Season can be **found below**.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Simone Young opens the Sydney Symphony’s 2023 Season with Mahler’s First Symphony, the first of eight major programs throughout the year

Building on the success of her debut concerts as **Chief Conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra** in 2022, **Simone Young** will continue to bring audiences on a symphonic journey of major works as part of the Orchestra’s 2023 Season.

In **eight programs** across the year, Simone Young will bring her dazzling interpretations to major works requiring large scale symphonic forces, and providing audiences with the opportunity to hear some of the world’s foremost artists.

Opening the 2023 Season at the Sydney Opera House, Simone Young will lead the Orchestra for Mahler’s epic First Symphony (**8-11 February**) – also known as the *Titan*. Although now considered one of the great symphonic works, the symphony received mixed reviews when it premiered in 1889, leading the composer to rewrite sections and remove an entire movement. For this special performance, Simone Young and the Sydney Symphony will open the concert with the redacted *Blumine* movement, giving audiences the rare opportunity to hear this little known composition of Mahler. Principal Trumpet David Elton, acclaimed for his brilliant sound and skill, will perform the *Blumine* trumpet solo. Mildura-born and internationally-renowned soprano **Siobhann Stagg** will make her Sydney Symphony debut in Debussy’s *Ariettes oubliées*, specially arranged by Australian composer Brett Dean.

The following week, French classical pianist **Cédric Tiberghien** reunites with Simone Young to perform **Ravel’s Concerto for the Left Hand (16-18 February)**. Composed entirely for the left hand alone, audiences will experience the musicality for which Tiberghien is internationally renowned as he performs Ravel’s technically dazzling masterpiece. An exceptional musical storyteller, Simone Young will lead the Sydney Symphony in Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade* – a symphonic retelling of *1001 Arabian Nights* in the same concert.

Reuniting with long-time collaborator UK cellist **Steven Isserlis**, Simone Young and the Sydney Symphony will perform William Walton’s lyric Cello Concerto. Audiences will experience the chemistry of Young and Isserlis as they bring this rarely performed work to life in **Simone Young and Seven Isserlis (30 June-1 July)**.

From **7-9 July**, Simone Young will lead the Sydney Symphony as it performs selections of Tchaikovsky’s ballet music, including instantly recognisable music from *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*. Audiences will be immersed in the rich soundscape of Tchaikovsky’s works in this sumptuous symphonic presentation of his ballet music.

In **Simone Young conducts Beethoven’s Pastoral Symphony (2-5 August)**, Simone Young and the Sydney Symphony will welcome back Spanish pianist Javier Perianes for the second year of his Beethoven cycle with the Orchestra, in which he will perform all five piano concertos across multiple seasons. In 2023, Perianes will perform Beethoven’s Fourth Piano Concerto. Renowned for his ability to make “the piano sing and glitter with alert, polished brilliance,” (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 2022), audiences will hear Perianes draw out the nuances of Beethoven’s work. Known for her affinity

with Beethoven’s works, Simone Young will further celebrate Beethoven’s genius with a performance of his sixth symphony, the idyllic *Pastoral* symphony.

On **11-12 August**, the Sydney Symphony’s Principal Oboe **Diana Doherty** will take centre stage, performing Ross Edwards’ Oboe Concerto *Bird Spirit Dreaming* – a specially curated program celebrating the Australian composer’s 80th birthday. Under the baton of Simone Young, audiences will hear Doherty’s phenomenal playing which has seen her achieve a global career and which led Edwards to write the work for her. As part of the same program, the Sydney Symphony and Simone Young will further mark Ross Edwards’ birthday by presenting a new commission from him for the occasion.

Completing her second year as Chief Conductor of the Sydney Symphony in style, Simone Young will lead **two special events** in November. From **9-11 November**, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will be joined by four-time Grammy Award-winning violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter. Mutter will give the Australian premiere of a violin concerto by the legendary film composer John Williams, which was written specifically for Anne-Sophie to display her virtuosic talent. The same program will also see the Sydney Symphony perform selections from celebrated cinematic scores including Bernard Hermann’s *Vertigo* created for Alfred Hitchcock’s 1958 film of the same name; Nino Rota’s music for 1963’s *The Leopard* directed by Luchino Visconti; and more works by Williams including *Hedwig’s Theme* from the Harry Potter film series, and music from the 1973 classic *The Long Goodbye* directed by Robert Altman.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Simone Young will present the first instalment of Wagner’s epic *Ring* cycle on **16-18 November** continuing the Orchestra’s “Opera in Concert” which marks the end of each season. Winning the 2022 *Limelight* ‘Opera Recording of the Year’ for her performance of Hans Werner Henze’s *Das Verratene Meer* with the Wiener Staatsoper, Simone Young is celebrated as a leading opera interpreter. Audiences will experience the artistry for which she is renowned worldwide as she brings to life Wagner’s *Das Rheingold* – the first in the four part operatic drama *The Ring of the Nibelung* which tells the tale of Norse Gods and a stolen ring. The *Ring* Cycle will be performed over multiple seasons with Simone Young at the helm.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra welcomes Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles, returning in 2023

Principal Guest Conductor Sir Donald Runnicles returns in 2023 for **five programs**, collaborating with leading artists from around the globe.

A highly sought-after artist, Donald Runnicles holds positions with several of the world’s leading musical institutions. The Scottish conductor currently serves as General Music Director of the Deutsche Oper Berlin – the largest musical organisation in Berlin – and Music Director of the Grand Teton Music Festival (Jackson, Wyoming), as well as the Principal Guest Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. He is also Conductor Emeritus of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

In his first program for the 2023 Season, Donald Runnicles and the Sydney Symphony will be joined by Australian pianist **Andrea Lam** for Schumann’s sublime Piano Concerto (**14-16 April**) – a work that requires the most sensitive of performers to bring its expressive melodies to life. Debuting with the Sydney Symphony at only 13 years of age, Lam has continued to win international acclaim performing with orchestras across Asia and the United States. Her performances have earned her critical praise, including being recognised a “real talent” by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Known for his interpretations of Romantic music, Donald Runnicles will lead the Sydney Symphony in a program of passionate and intense works from **19-22 April**. Making his Sydney Symphony debut, award-winning cellist **Nicolas Alstaedt** will join Runnicles and the Orchestra to perform Edward Elgar’s powerful Cello Concerto. Described by the *New York Times* as “audacious” in his playing, audiences will experience the German cellist’s phenomenal musical technique as he performs one of the most challenging works in the cello repertoire.

In October, Donald Runnicles and the Orchestra will collaborate with another of the world’s most sought-after cellists **Li-Wei Qin (Li-wei Qin performs Haydn’s Cello Concerto No.1 – 26-28 October)**. A former Young Australian of the Year, the Australian-Chinese musician has performed with leading ensembles across Europe, the USA, and Asia. Audiences will experience Qin’s artistry as he performs Haydn’s spirited Cello Concerto and the skill which has won him numerous accolades, including an ARIA nomination in 2010.

From **1-4 November**, Donald Runnicles and the Sydney Symphony will share the stage with pianist **Khatia Buniatishvili**. Making her debut with the Orchestra with Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No.1, with its dramatic opening and exquisite melodies, the French-Georgian pianist will showcase the inimitable skill for which Buniatishvili is renowned. Debuting at Carnegie Hall, New York in 2008, the 35-year-old’s career has since seen her headline in major venues across the globe. Her exquisite and exuberant performance style led luxury jeweller and watchmakers *Cartier* to seek her out as one of their cultural ambassadors.

Across all the programs, audiences will also experience Donald Runnicles lead the Sydney Symphony in works by numerous composers but especially Debussy, Mozart, Shostakovich, Brahms, and others, showcasing his affinity with these composers.

Audiences to experience seven special events in 2023 with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Across the year, audiences will experience **seven special events** with the Sydney Symphony as the Orchestra collaborates across musical genres, celebrates the the 80th birthday of Australian composer Ross Edwards, and reunites with two of classical music’s leading violinists Anne-Sophie Mutter and Ray Chen.

In a unique collaboration between Marliya of Gondwana Choirs and Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill of Australian jazz/funk band The Cat Empire, the Sydney Symphony will combine forces with a choir of Indigenous female singers from Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait. Exploring issues of our time through songwriting and movement, for one night only, ***Spinifex Gum and the Sydney Symphony (21 June)*** will bring together choral music, contemporary song, dance, and the full symphonic sound of the Sydney Symphony.

In another “one night only” event, the Sydney Symphony will present ***Play with Ray (25 July)*** – an international skills-based competition in which violinists at all levels are invited to audition to perform with Ray Chen and the Sydney Symphony. Three winners will be selected, each performing one of the movements of Bach’s Double Concerto alongside Ray Chen and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. In addition to the performance, the winners will participate in masterclasses with the world-renowned violinist and explore Sydney with Ray as tour guide. Competition details will be announced at a later date.

In honour of one of Australia’s foremost composers, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, led by Chief Conductor Simone Young, will celebrate the 80th birthday of Ross Edwards (***Diana Doherty performs Ross Edwards – 11 and 12 August***). Diana Doherty, the Sydney Symphony’s Principal Oboe and regular collaborator with Edwards, will step into the soloist spotlight to perform Edwards’ Oboe Concerto *Bird Spirit Dreaming* – a work created especially for her skilful playing. Edwards is famous for drawing inspiration from the Australian landscape and *Bird Spirit Dreaming* will provide an opportunity for audiences to experience Doherty’s evocative playing. A new work commissioned for Ross Edwards will also receive its world-premiere at these performances.

The Sydney Symphony and acclaimed jazz ensemble the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JALCO) will reunite for two nights (***31 August and 1 September***). Conducted by Benjamin Northey, jazz and symphonic music will combine for *All Rise* – a composition by living legend Wynton Marsalis and leader of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Last visiting the Sydney Symphony in 2019, JALCO’s performance was described by *Limelight* as “a special concert, and not the kind of program we hear often. If you get the opportunity to go, grab it!”. Now, Marsalis’ legendary composition *All Rise* will traverse New Orleans jazz, gospel, spirituals, African chant, symphonic modernism, ragtime, blues, folk song and Latin dances across its 12 movements, with the full Sydney Symphony and JALCO fusing the lines between jazz and symphonic music. On ***2 and 3 September***, JALCO will take the stage to perform a selection of jazz classics.

Superstar violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter** returns to the Sydney Symphony to give the Australian premiere of John Williams’ Violin Concerto No. 2, under the baton of Chief Conductor Simone Young (***9-11 November***). The work was dedicated to Anne-Sophie Mutter and written especially for her, reflecting their decades-long friendship and history of collaboration. When premiered in 2021, with Anne-Sophie conducted by John Williams, the work was hailed by music authority *Gramophone* magazine as “sublimely poignant... Williams’ crowning achievement to date.”

Best known for his iconic cinematic scores, John Williams has written for films including the *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter* series, *Jaws*, *Schindler's List* and much more. The November concerts will also celebrate film music by other composers, including Bernard Herrmann's music for the 1958 Alfred Hitchcock film *Vertigo*, Nino Rota's music from the 1963 film *The Leopard*, and more works by John Williams including *Hedwig's Theme* from the Harry Potter film series, and Robert Altman's 1973 classic *The Long Goodbye*.

Last appearing with the Sydney Symphony in 2018, Anne-Sophie Mutter will reunite with the Orchestra for the first time in the renewed Concert Hall. Audiences will hear the artistry which has cemented her status as one of the biggest names in classical music and has won her numerous accolades since her debut at the Lucerne Festival at 13 years of age, including four Grammy Awards.

For the Sydney Symphony's final performance of the 2023 Season, Chief Conductor Simone Young will present the first instalment of Wagner's epic *Ring Cycle*, *Das Rheingold* (**16 and 18 November**). Performed as an opera in concert, the performance will feature an all-star cast including mezzo-soprano Michaela Schuster, Australian soprano Eleanor Lyons, and tenor Steve Davislim – three singers who last collaborated with the Sydney Symphony and Simone Young for the Orchestra's final performance in the Concert Hall in 2019 before it underwent renewal. They will be joined by bass-baritone and Wagner-expert Wolfgang Koch as *Wotan*, Israeli-born contralto Noa Beinart, bass-baritone Falk Struckmann who holds the honorary title of *Kammersänger* of the prestigious Vienna State Opera, and Australian tenor Andrew Goodwin.

ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra collaborates with classical music’s biggest names

Across the year, classical music’s biggest names from across the globe will join the Sydney Symphony, offering audiences the opportunity to rediscover their artistry in the new acoustics of the renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

Renowned pianist **Sir Stephen Hough** will perform Rachmaninov’s first and second piano concertos in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall in back-to-back weeks from **11-20 May**. On 15 May, the acclaimed British pianist will give a recital of works by Chopin, Debussy, Liszt and others, showcasing the artistry which led to him being the first classical performer to be awarded a MacArthur Fellowship – commonly known as the “Genius Grant” – and sustain a career that has created a catalogue of over 60 albums which have won numerous international prizes, including the coveted *Diapason d’Or*.

From **7-10 June**, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra welcomes back **Masaaki Suzuki**, a conductor renowned for his affinity with large scale, emotionally moving works. Last performing with the Sydney Symphony in 2018, Suzuki returns in 2023 to lead an all-Mozart program, in which the highlight will be the composer’s C Minor Mass. The Sydney Symphony will be joined by the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, sopranos Sarah McIver, Rachelle Durkin, tenor Nicholas Jones, and baritone David Greco. A formidable work, Suzuki will marshal the competing forces on stage and showcase his renown as a master of choral works.

British violinist **Nicola Benedetti** will give the Australian premiere of Wynton Marsalis’ Violin Concerto. Written specifically for her by the legendary composer, trumpet player, and jazz great, the Grammy Award-winning violinist will perform the concerto, fused with jazz and blues influences. Awarded the BBC Young Musician of the Year at age 16, the 35 year-old musician continues to collaborate with leading ensembles internationally. In 2020, her recording of Wynton Marsalis’ Violin Concerto won her a Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo. In 2022, she was appointed Director Designate of the Edinburgh International Festival, becoming both the first Scottish and first female Festival Director since the Festival began in 1947.

The Sydney Symphony’s star-studded line-up also includes **British cellist Steven Isserlis, violinists Anne-Sophie Mutter, Arabella Steinbacher, and Ray Chen, pianists Javier Perianes and Khatia Buniatishvili** in her Sydney Symphony debut, and more.

Internationally-renowned violinist Ray Chen returns to perform Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto and collaborate on international *Play with Ray* competition

Acclaimed Australian violinist **Ray Chen** will join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (**12-15 July**) for a performance of Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto. Former Chief Conductor **David Robertson** will return to conduct the Sydney Symphony for these performances.

Renowned for his virtuosic playing, Chen was described as “cool, charming and charismatic” (*Limelight*) after his performances with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2022. First gaining international recognition with his first prize win at the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin (2008) and Queen Elisabeth (2009) Competitions in his late teens, the 33-year-old artist has been hailed as one of the finest musicians of his generation. His collaborations with major ensembles have taken him across Asia, Europe, the United States, and Australia. He was listed on Forbes Magazine’s “30 under 30 most influential Asians” and has been credited as a pioneer of using social media to break down barriers and engage audiences of all generations. With more than 640,000 followers combined across social media platforms, Chen has challenged classical music stereotypes through humorous videos and candid content.

In 2023, Chen and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will collaborate on ***Play with Ray*** – an international competition which will select three violinists who will perform a movement each of Bach’s Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor accompanied by Ray Chen and the Sydney Symphony (**25 July**).

First presented in 2019 with the LA Philharmonic, that competition saw finalists join Chen for a performance at the Hollywood Bowl. In 2023, the collaboration with the Sydney Symphony represents the second time that the worldwide competition will have been held. The winners will perform in the iconic Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. Violinists of all skill levels will be encouraged to apply. The performance will also include additional works curated by Ray Chen.

Further details on how to apply for *Play with Ray* will be announced at a later date.

Nine artists debut with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra

In his Australian debut, Estonian conductor **Mihhail Gerts** will lead the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for ***Pictures at an Exhibition (8-11 March)***. Currently the artistic director of the TubIN Festival (Estonia), Gerts has performed with orchestras across the globe including the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, BBC Symphony, and NHK Tokyo. In 2014 he was a finalist at the London Symphony Orchestra’s prestigious conducting competition.

In the same concert, pianist **Marie-Ange Nguci** will make her Sydney Symphony concerto debut performing Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No.2 – a work considered to be the composer’s most popular piano concerto. The renowned 24-year-old French-Albanian pianist has been described as “Much more than a promising talent: an accomplished artist” (*Classica magazine*). Accepted into the Paris Conservatoire at age 13, Nguci has enjoyed a rapidly ascending career, performing with the Orchestre de Paris, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, and BBC Symphony Orchestra at Barbican Hall. On 6 March, Nguci will give an intimate recital at the City Recital Hall of works by Rachmaninov, Scriabin, Prokofiev, and Kapustin, demonstrating her extensive musical range.

In a Sydney Symphony first, Grammy Award-winning conductor **Karen Kamensek** will join the Orchestra for the first time (***Nicola Benedetti performs Marsalis – 6-9 September***). A champion of 20th and 21st century composers, the American conductor will draw out the nuances of Wynton Marsalis’ Violin Concerto, with Nicola Benedetti as soloist.

Conductor **Andrea Molino** will join the Sydney Symphony for the first time for ***Rhapsody in Blue (17-19 March)***. With Australian pianist Simon Tedeschi, the Sydney Symphony, led by the Turin-born conductor, will perform Gershwin’s popular *Rhapsody in Blue* – a work whose rhapsodic melodies captured the frenetic energy of 1920’s New York. In the same program, Molino and the Sydney Symphony will continue to explore works inspired by the city, performing Bernstein’s *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story* – selections from the hit musical – and Ives’ *Central Park in the Dark*. With an extensive background in operatic music and collaborations with London’s Royal Opera House and orchestras across Europe, Molino will bring his unmatched ability to tell stories through music in this jazz-influenced program.

Principal Horn of the acclaimed Berlin Philharmoniker, **Stefan Dohr** will make his Sydney Symphony soloist debut (***18-20 August***), performing Richard Strauss’ Horn Concerto No.2 – a challenging piece attempted by only the most skilled horn players. Audiences will see why Dohr was hailed by the *New York Chronicle* as the “king of his instrument” as he undertakes the virtuosic work. Dohr will also feature in ***Andrew Haveron Directs Britten’s Serenade (24 August)***, performing with the Sydney Symphony’s Concertmaster Andrew Haveron and Australian tenor Andrew Goodwin for an intimate chamber work performance of Britten’s *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings*.

Conductor **Stephen Layton** joins for the first time leading the Sydney Symphony, an all-star cast of singers, and the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs for J.S. Bach’s *Magnificat in D (30 March-1 April)*. Conductor of the Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge, he is recognised as one of the world’s leading choral specialists. His recording of Handel’s *Messiah* was named by *BBC Music Magazine* as the best recording of its kind. Audiences will witness the English conductor as he leads more than 100 musicians and choristers, bringing Bach’s inspiring masterpiece to life at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

Sydney Symphony gives nine world premieres

Across 2023, Sydney audiences will be the first to hear **nine new works** as the Sydney Symphony performs their world premieres.

Celebrated violinist **Arabella Steinbacher**, described as having “finely polished technique and a beautifully varied palette of timbres” (*New York Times*, 2006), returns to give the world premiere of **Georges Lentz’s** work “...to beam in distant heavens...” – *Violin Concerto*. A member of the Sydney Symphony’s very own First Violin section, Lentz is equally skilled as a violinist and as a composer. He has established himself as one of Australia’s foremost composers and his work has been performed across Europe, North America, Asia and Australia. An award-winning artist, his many accolades include having a composition named the top recommended work at the 2002 UNESCO International Rostrum of Composers in Paris. **Umberto Clerici** – former Principal Cello of the Sydney Symphony and now an internationally recognised conductor – will conduct Arabella Steinbacher and the Orchestra, as they present the premiere of Lentz’s work (**Arabella Steinbacher performs Lentz – 28-29 April**).

The Sydney Symphony’s major commissioning project *50 Fanfares* continues to create new work in 2023, with seven pieces receiving their world premiere. Launched in 2020, the 50 Fanfares project is a multi-year initiative supporting 50 emerging and established Australian composers, drawn from across the country to reflect the diversity of our nation’s musical culture. In 2023, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will give the world premiere of seven 50 Fanfares composers: Miriama Young (**8-11 March**), Paul Bonetti (**17-19 March**), Alex Turley (**19-22 April**), Gordon Hamilton (**17-20 May**), Alice Chance (**12-15 July**), Mary Finsterer (**2-5 August**), and Peggy Polias (**11-12 August**).

In **Diana Doherty Performs Ross Edwards (11-12 August)**, the Sydney Symphony will also give the world-premiere of a new piece by composer Ross Edwards. Commissioned by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Australian composer will write a new work especially on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

In **Australian firsts**, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will perform John Williams’ *Violin Concerto No.2 (9-11 November)* and Wynton Marsalis’ *Violin Concerto (6-9 September)* – both works that have never before been heard live in the country.

Thirty-one Sydney Symphony musicians take the spotlight in 2023

Across six Cocktail Hour performances, audiences can enjoy the inimitable skill of **31 Sydney Symphony** musicians performing chamber music in the intimate surrounds of the Sydney Opera House Utzon Room.

An hour long, each Cocktail Hour chamber performances is an opportunity for audiences to see performers at close range, with the opportunity to observe flawless technique and musical ensembles as they perform a range of rarely performed works.

Symphony Hour returns in 2023 by popular demand

Trialled in 2020 and cut short by the pandemic, the Sydney Symphony’s *Symphony Hour* concerts return in 2023. Each concert is an hour-long, providing audiences with the opportunity to hear classical music’s most beautiful works in bite-sized concerts. Starting at an earlier time at 7.00pm, *Symphony Hour* returns and will take place across four Thursday evenings in the Concert Hall in 2023. Priced at \$49 per ticket, *Symphony Hour* provides first-time goers and music-lovers the opportunity to experience live performances with the Sydney Symphony in an accessible format.

In these concerts, audiences will experience monumental works with some of classical music’s biggest names including **Chief Conductor Simone Young, Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles**, and globally-renowned artists **pianist Stephen Hough** and **cellist Li-Wei Qin**.

AT A GLANCE: SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – 2023 SEASON

ARTISTS

Artist	Concert	Date
4 AUSTRALIAN CONDUCTORS		
Simone Young AM Chief Conductor – Sydney Symphony Orchestra	Simone Young conducts Mahler’s First Symphony	8-11 February
	Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade	16-18 February
	Simone Young and Steven Isserlis	30 June-1 July
	Simone Young conducts Tchaikovsky’s Ballet Music	7-9 July
	Simone Young conducts Beethoven’s Pastoral Symphony	2-5 August
	Diana Doherty performs Ross Edwards	11-12 August
	Anne-Sophie Mutter and the Music of John Williams	9-11 November
	Simone Young conducts Das Rheingold <i>Opera in Concert</i>	16-18 November
Umberto Clerici	Arabella Steinbacher performs Lentz	28-29 April
	Daniel de Borah performs Mozart	19 October
Benjamin Northey	Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra <i>Wynton Marsalis’ epic All Rise</i>	31 August-1 September
Aaron Wyatt	Spinifex Gum and the Sydney Symphony	21 June
11 INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTORS		
Sir Donald Runnicles OBE Principal Guest Conductor	Donald Runnicles conducts Brahms 2	14-16 April
	Elgar’s Cello Concerto	19-22 April
	Li-Wei Qin performs Haydn’s Cello Concerto No.1	26-28 October
	Mozart and Haydn <i>Masters of the Symphony</i>	27 October
	Khatia Buniatishvili performs Tchaikovsky	1-4 November
Mihail Gerts <i>Australian debut</i>	Pictures at an Exhibition	8-11 March
Karen Kamensek <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i>	Nicola Benedetti performs Marsalis	6-9 September
Stephen Layton <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i>	JS Bach’s Magnificat in D	30 March-1 April

Tianyi Lu	Play with Ray	25 July
Andrea Molino <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i>	Rhapsody in Blue	17-19 March
David Robertson	Ray Chen performs Tchaikovsky	12-15 July
Ola Rudner	Dvořák's Symphony No.7	18-20 August
Masaaki Suzuki	Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor	7-10 June
Mark Wigglesworth	Beethoven 7 and Bruch's Violin Concerto	15-16 September
John Wilson	Stephen Hough performs Rachmaninov 2	11-13 May
	Respighi's Roman Trilogy	12 May
	Stephen Hough performs Rachmaninov 1	17-20 May

15 AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS

Ray Chen , violin	Ray Chen performs Tchaikovsky	12-15 July
	Play with Ray	25 July
Daniel de Borah , piano	Daniel de Borah performs Mozart	19 October
Stephanie Dillon , mezzo-soprano	JS Bach's Magnificat in D	30 March-1 April
Rachelle Durkin , soprano	Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor	7-10 June
Andrew Goodwin , tenor	Andrew Haveron directs Britten's Serenade	24 August
	Simone Young conducts Das Rheingold	16-18 November
David Greco , baritone	JS Bach's Magnificat in D	30 March-1 April
	Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor	7-10 June
Nicholas Jones , tenor	Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor	7-10 June
Chloe Lankshear , soprano	JS Bach's Magnificat in D	30 March-1 April
Sara Macliver , soprano	Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor	7-10 June
Amy Moore , soprano	JS Bach's Magnificat in D	30 March-1 April
Li-Wei Qin , cello	Li-Wei Qin performs Haydn's Cello Concerto No.1	26-28 October
Siobhan Stagg , soprano <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i>	Simone Young conducts Mahler's First Symphony	8-11 February
Emily Sun , violin	Beethoven 7 and Bruch's Violin Concerto	15-16 September
Simon Tedeschi , piano	Rhapsody in Blue	17-19 March
Christopher Watson , tenor	JS Bach's Magnificat in D	30 March-1 April

12 INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS

Nicolas Altstaedt , cello <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i>	Elgar’s Cello Concerto	19-22 April
Nicola Benedetti , violin	Nicola Benedetti performs Marsalis	6-9 September
Khatia Buniatishvili , piano <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i>	Khatia Buniatishvili performs Tchaikovsky	1-4 November
Stefan Dohr , horn <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i>	Dvořák’s Symphony No.7	18-20 August
	Andrew Haveron directs Britten’s Serenade	24 August
Stephen Hough , piano	Stephen Hough performs Rachmaninov 2	11-13 May
	Stephen Hough in Recital	15 May
	Stephen Hough performs Rachmaninov 1	17-20 May
Steven Isserlis , cello	Simone Young and Steven Isserlis	30 June-1 July
Anne-Sophie Mutter , violin	Anne-Sophie Mutter and the Music of John Williams	9-11 November
Marie-Ange Nguci , piano <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i>	Marie-Ange Nguci in Recital	6 March
	Pictures at an Exhibition	8-11 March
Javier Perianes , piano	Javier Perianes in Recital	31 July
	Simone Young conducts Beethoven’s Pastoral Symphony	2-5 August
Arabella Steinbacher , violin	Arabella Steinbacher performs Lentz	28-29 April
Cédric Tiberghien , piano	Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade	16-18 February
Lilya Zilberstein , piano	Lilya Zilberstein in Recital	16 October

2 SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SOLOISTS

Andrew Haveron Concertmaster – Sydney Symphony Orchestra	Andrew Haveron directs Britten’s Serenade	24 August
	Schubert’s Octet	15-16 September
Diana Doherty , oboe	Diana Doherty performs Ross Edwards	11-12 August

31 Sydney Symphony Orchestra musicians feature in *Cocktail Hour* performances in 2023

PREMIERES

Composer	Work	Date
9 WORLD PREMIERES		
Georges Lentz	“...to beam in distant heavens...” – Violin Concerto	28-29 April
Ross Edwards	New work	11-12 August
Miriama Young <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Reflections on the Harbour Light	8-11 March
Alex Turley <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Cloudscapes	19-22 April
Gordon Hamilton <i>50 Fanfares</i>	a great Big Blue Thing	17-20 May
Alice Chance <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Through Changing Landscape	12-15 July
Mary Finsterer <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Stabat Mater	2-5 August
Paul Bonetti <i>50 Fanfares</i>	The Bright Day Clarion Calls the Quaking Earth	17-19 March
Peggy Polias <i>50 Fanfares</i>	New work	11-12 August
3 AUSTRALIAN PREMIERES		
John Williams	Violin Concerto No.2	9-11 November
Detlev Glanert	Idyllium	14-16 April
Wynton Marsalis	Violin Concerto	6-9 September
5 SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PREMIERES		
Arvo Pärt	Trisagion	1 April
Ēriks Ešenvalds	Passion and Resurrection	30 March-1 April
Claude Debussy	Ariettes oubliées	8-11 February
Erich Korngold	Symphony in F Sharp	17-20 May
Wynton Marsalis	All Rise	31 August-1 September

WORKS

Composer	Work	Date
10 AUSTRALIAN WORKS		
Brett Dean	Arrangement of Claude Debussy's <i>Ariettes oubliées</i>	8-11 February
Georges Lentz	"...to beam in distant heavens..." – Violin Concerto	28-29 April
Ross Edwards	New work	11-12 August
Miriama Young <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Reflections on the Harbour Light	8-11 March
Alex Turley <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Cloudscapes	19-22 April
Gordon Hamilton <i>50 Fanfares</i>	a great Big Blue Thing	17-20 May
Alice Chance <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Through Changing Landscape	12-15 July
Mary Finsterer <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Stabat Mater	2-5 August
Paul Bonetti <i>50 Fanfares</i>	The Bright Day Clarion Calls the Quaking Earth	17-19 March
Peggy Polias <i>50 Fanfares</i>	New work	11-12 August

COMPOSERS

Composer	Work	Date
5 WOMEN COMPOSERS		
Unsuik Chin	Frontispiece	16-18 February
Miriama Young <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Reflections on the Harbour Light	8-11 March
Alice Chance <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Through Changing Landscapes	12-15 July
Mary Finsterer <i>50 Fanfares</i>	Stabat Mater	2-5 August
Peggy Polias <i>50 Fanfares</i>	New work	11-12 August

About Sydney Symphony Orchestra

PATRON Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC

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 commences her role as Chief Conductor in 2022 as the Orchestra returns to the renewed Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House.

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.

**FOR INTERVIEWS, PHOTOS OR FURTHER INFORMATION,
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