

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra celebrates diversity in 2024



Musicians of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (left to right): Noriko Shimada, Principal Contrabassoon; Alexandra Mitchell, First Violin; Callum Hogan, Oboe; Jaan Pallandi, Double Bass; Claire Herrick, First Violin. Photographer: Nick Bowers

KEY 2024 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

- Chief Conductor Simone Young opens the 2024 Season with an **Australian premiere of Cécile Pepin’s violin concerto *Le Sommeil a pris ton empreinte*** and continues with the rediscovery of Mahler symphonies
- **Chief Conductor Simone Young leads eight programs** of classical music’s greatest works in collaboration with the world’s most sought after artists
- **Six special events** feature in 2024
- Chief Conductor Simone Young leads **two special events**, including the **first-ever Sydney performance of Arnold Schoenberg’s massive *Gurrelieder***. Wagner’s ***Die Walküre*** closes the year – the second instalment in the Sydney Symphony’s multi-year presentation of Wagner’s epic *Ring* cycle
- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra celebrates **Anton Bruckner’s 200th birthday anniversary**
- **Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles conducts four programs of enormous works** including Beethoven’s Third Symphony, Mahler’s Fourth Symphony, the first Sydney Symphony performance of Duruflé’s Requiem and Tavener’s rarely performed composition *The Protecting Veil*
- **Bell Shakespeare’s founding Artistic Director John Bell** collaborates with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for a special program exploring Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* through music and spoken word
- More than **95 Australian artists** feature in the 2024 Season
- **39 international artists** join the Orchestra in 2024, including:
 - World-renowned pianist **Nobuyuki Tsujii**
 - Harp extraordinaire **Xavier de Maistre**
 - Critically acclaimed cellist **Alban Gerhardt**
 - Violin virtuoso **Augustin Hadelich**, and more
- **Five artists will make their Australian debut, including:**
 - Award-winning pianist **Víkingur Ólafsson**
 - 25-year-old British saxophonist **Jess Gillam**
 - Soprano **Ying Fang** fresh from her debut at the celebrated Wiener Staatsoper
 - Acclaimed German-Italian soprano **Anja Kampe**
 - Internationally-renowned Serbian bass singer **Sava Vemić**
- **23 artists and ensembles** to collaborate with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for the very first time
- **Seven Australian composers** feature in the 2024 Season, including **three world premieres** of Australian works as part of the Sydney Symphony’s multi-year *50 Fanfares* commissioning project
- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra will give the **first Australian performances of six works**
- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra announces **three unmissable performances of live film-to-concert** performances of classic films

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL:

Wednesday 30 August, 2023 – 12.01am (AEST)

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra today reveals its 2024 Season, featuring an all-star line up of classical music’s leading artists, world premieres, Australian artistry, and unique collaborations

Wednesday 30 August, 2023 – Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Since the start of Simone Young’s tenure as Chief Conductor in 2022, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s artistic program has continued to reach new heights. Together with the Orchestra’s celebrated return to the renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, the Sydney Symphony has drawn artistic collaborators from across the globe.

In 2024, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will feature 39 of the world’s sought-after artists and more than 95 of Australia’s leading performers.

Simone Young will lead eight major programs, including the Australian premiere of French composer Camille Pépin’s violin concerto *Le sommeil a pris ton empreinte*, the first-ever Sydney performance of Arnold Schoenberg’s formidable work *Gurrelieder*, and much more. In November, Simone Young conducts *Die Walküre*, the second instalment in Wagner’s epic musical drama as part of the Sydney Symphony’s multi-year Ring cycle.

Principal Guest Conductor Sir Donald Runnicles returns to the Sydney Symphony with four programs, showcasing his strong association with the works of the masters, including Wagner, Mendelssohn, and Mahler, and the delicate Impressionistic compositions of Debussy and Ravel.

Across six special events, Sydney Symphony Orchestra audiences will hear major contemporary new works, including *Wata* by Australian composer Paul Grabowsky, which brings First Nations songmen, improvising soloists from the Australian Art Orchestra, and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra together for one night only (**24 July**), and *Eumeralla, a War Requiem for Peace* by Yorta Yorta soprano and composer Deborah Cheetham Fraillon (**11 September**). Chief Conductor Simone Young and Principal Guest Conductor Sir Donald Runnicles will also lead special events.

Three iconic films will be part of the Sydney Symphony’s breathtaking live-to-film experience. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra will perform the soundtrack for *Singin’ In the Rain* (**12-13 April**), *How to Train Your Dragon* (**24 August**), and *Home Alone* (**6-8 December**) as the entire films are presented on a movie screen at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

More about the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s 2024 Season can be found below.

Chief Conductor Simone Young leads eight major programs in 2024

Now in her third year as Chief Conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, internationally-acclaimed conductor Simone Young will lead eight programs exploring major works and feature collaborations with the world’s most sought-after artists.

As Australia’s most famous classical musician, Simone Young re-opened the renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall in July 2022 in a concert that also marked the start of a new artistic era for the Sydney Symphony. Since the historic and widely-acclaimed event, classical music’s leading artists have been drawn to the Concert Hall stage to collaborate with the Australian-born conductor and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Audiences will have the opportunity to experience their virtuosity in the extraordinary acoustic of the renewed Concert Hall.

Simone Young and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will open the 2024 Season with an Australian premiere of young French composer Cécile Pepin’s *Le Sommeil a pris ton empreinte*. The violin concerto will be performed with Pepin’s compatriot Renaud Capuçon, described by UK’s Classic FM as “one of today’s best violinists”. Capuçon and Simone Young, together with the Orchestre National de France gave the world premiere of *Le Sommeil a pris ton empreinte* in Paris in April 2022. Across **28 February-2 March**, Australian audiences will hear this work in its first post-premiere performance, as these classical music greats reunite on the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall stage. The 2024 Season opening concert will also feature Mahler’s Fifth Symphony – a continuation of Simone Young’s tradition of opening every Sydney Symphony season with the mesmerising symphonies of the musical giant.

Simone Young and the Sydney Symphony will continue to explore the works of the classical masters, with a program featuring Beethoven and Schumann (**8-9 March**). The Second Symphony of both composers will be performed, juxtaposing Beethoven’s compositional genius, and Schumann’s later development of the symphonic tradition first defined by Beethoven. The program will open with Australian composer Peggy Glanville-Hicks’ 1953 work *Three Gymnopédies*.

In a once-in-a-generation event, Chief Conductor Simone Young will lead Arnold Schoenberg’s *Gurrelieder* (**15-16 March**). Composed over 11 years and first premiering in Vienna in 1913, the work has rarely been performed in Australia. In this monumental first-ever Sydney performance, six soloists, musicians of the Australian National Academy of Music, the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra choruses will join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, with Simone Young conducting orchestral and choral forces of almost 350 musicians.

For **Simone Young conducts Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony (27-28 July)**, Spanish pianist Javier Perianes returns to perform Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No.1. His first collaboration with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2022 drew critical acclaim, and in 2024, the international artist continues his five-year collaboration with the Sydney Symphony and Chief Conductor Simone Young, performing one of Beethoven’s piano concertos each year. Following his Sydney Symphony performances in 2022, the *Sydney Morning Herald* wrote “the sound he drew from the piano had a wonderfully firm resonance, perfectly rounded... he made the piano sing and glitter with alert, polished brilliance”. The program will open with the world-premiere of *String Talk*, written by First Nations composer Christopher Sainsbury and also features Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony, with its famous opening theme.

In August, Chief Conductor Simone Young and the Sydney Symphony will be joined by two of Germany’s leading musicians. For **Simone Young conducts Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony (2-3 August)**, cellist Alban Gerhardt will perform Prokofiev’s *Sinfonia Concertante*. The acclaimed cellist last performed with the

“SYDNEY” “SYMPHONY” “ORCHESTRA”

Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2018, and this will be the first time Australian audiences will hear the award-winning artist in the extraordinary acoustics of the renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. The following week (**7-10 August**), Italian-German violinist Augustin Hadelich returns to Sydney to perform Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto. Following a five-star performance (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 2022), the violin virtuoso joins the Sydney Symphony Orchestra once again, and with this visit, collaborates with Chief Conductor Simone Young for the very first time.

On **8-9 November**, Sydney Symphony Orchestra Principal Flute Joshua Batty will step into the spotlight to perform CPE Bach’s Flute Concerto in G. Conducted by Chief Conductor Simone Young and backed by his fellow Sydney Symphony Orchestra musicians, Batty will showcase the virtuosity for which he is renowned. Having performed extensively with ensembles across the UK, Europe, USA, Asia and Australia, Australian audiences will now experience his artistry as a soloist, performing the beautiful and technically demanding flute concerto. The concert also includes performances of Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No.3.

On **15-17 November**, Chief Conductor Simone Young will lead *Die Walküre* – the second instalment in Wagner’s epic four part opera known as the *Ring* cycle. In the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s multi-year opera-in-concert presentation, audiences will hear the world’s greatest opera singers, drawn from across the globe to collaborate with Chief Conductor Simone Young and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra to tell the tale of Norse Gods, mythical creatures, a stolen ring, and forces in pursuit of power. Leading a star-studded cast for the Sydney Symphony’s opera-in-concert production of *Die Walküre* will be Italian soprano **Anja Kampe** who will make her Australian debut, baritone **Tommi Hakala** who performed as Wotan in the Finnish National Opera’s 2019 production of the *Ring* cycle to great acclaim and will reprise the role in his upcoming performance with the Sydney Symphony, Grammy-nominated heldentenor **Stuart Skelton** who will perform as Siegmund, and internationally-renowned mezzo-soprano **Michaela Schuster** who will sing the part of Fricka, among other leading names of the opera stage.

Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles leads four programs of sublime works in 2024

Principal Guest Conductor Sir Donald Runnicles returns to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra with four programs of major works in 2024.

Renowned for his performances of large scale works, audiences will also have the opportunity to experience the Scottish conductor's expertise of delicate Impressionist composers in **Beethoven's Third Symphony (20-23 March)**, opening with Debussy's *Four Preludes* (arranged by Colin Matthews). For the same program, Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson will join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in his Australian debut, performing Piano Concerto in G by Debussy's contemporary, Ravel. This performance will also feature Beethoven's majestic Symphony No.3, the *Eroica*.

On **27-28 March**, Donald Runnicles will lead the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in a rare performance of John Tavener's *The Protecting Veil*. Drawing inspiration from the Orthodox Church, the work is a delicate balance of intense beauty and delicate chords. First premiering in 1989, the work received a standing ovation (*Gramophone*) and cemented Tavener's status as one of the most inspired geniuses of the late 20th century. In this performance with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Donald Runnicles, famous for his ability to draw out exquisite beauty, will give his interpretation of the work. English cellist Matthew Barley, described by *Gramophone* as the "cellist with the Midas touch" will join the Orchestra to perform *The Protecting Veil*. **Donald Runnicles conducts *The Protecting Veil* (27-28 March)** will also feature Wagner's *Parisfal: Act 3: Good Friday Spell* and Mendelssohn's Reformation symphony, completing a concert of music for contemplation and uplift.

Known worldwide for his interpretations of massive works, audience's will experience Sir Donald Runnicles' unmatched style as he conducts Duruflé's Requiem (**20-21 September**), leading a massive musical force featuring mezzo soprano Anna Dowsley, baritone David Greco, the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. This performance of Duruflé's exquisite and poignant requiem will be a first for the Sydney Symphony.

Runnicles will also conduct a program featuring selected songs by Richard Strauss and Mahler's Fourth Symphony (**25-28 September**). Chinese soprano Ying Fang will collaborate with the Orchestra and Donald Runnicles, to perform the song embedded in the final movement of Mahler's Fourth Symphony. A principal soprano with New York's Met Opera, Ying Fang debuted in 2023 with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra with Sir Donald Runnicles, who is also Principal Guest Conductor with the ensemble. In a review of a recent recital, the *New York Times* wrote it is "rare to hear a young singer with such a uniformly beautiful sound and such solid technique."

Six special events feature in the 2024 Season

In 2024, audiences can hear six landmark events with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, with works led by the world’s greatest conductors working in collaboration with internationally-renowned artists, seminal Australian works, and one unmissable event in which jazz and classical music fuse.

On **15 May**, led by Australian conductor Roger Benedict, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and acclaimed pianist Simon Tedeschi will collaborate for **When Arnold Met George**. In this special program featuring a newly created film with excerpts from iconic works by jazz composer George Gershwin and 20th century composer Arnold Schoenberg performed live, audiences can traverse the worlds of jazz and classical music. Known for works such as *Rhapsody in Blue*, *Porgy & Bess*, and a host of famous songs, Gershwin is regarded as one of jazz’s most prolific composers. Similarly, Austrian composer Arnold Schoenberg is credited as a leader of the expressionist movement in German poetry and art, and a leader of the Second Viennese School. He created new methods of musical composition, exploring new tonal rhythms, among other techniques in his work. Having moved to Los Angeles in 1936, Gershwin invited Schoenberg to a game of tennis, having taken interest in Schoenberg’s work after hearing about new European art movements. That game of tennis was the catalyst for a friendship over which the two composers bonded and influenced each other’s musical styles. In **When Arnold Met George** the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Roger Benedict and Simon Tedeschi will explore the works of both musical geniuses.

In **Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra**, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will perform Australian composer Paul Grabowsky’s prolific work *Wata* – bringing together First Nations songmen, improvisers from the Australian Art Orchestra, and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. *Wata* draws inspiration from Indigenous ceremonial song practice of the Ngukurr region of the Northern Territory, and used for smoking or purification ceremonies within the manikay (public song) tradition. Following a death, family of the deceased gather to sing the wata (wind) songs that blow the mokuuy (spirit) of the deceased back to their n̄araka-w̄an̄a (bone-country). *Wata* transcends the differences of clans and practices, connecting families from many regions in order to bring clouds from out at sea to fall as rain inland. Pianist, composer, arranger and conductor Paul Grabowsky first travelled to Ngukurr in 2005 and was inspired to collaborate with manikay singers. Recognising the ability for manikay to bring together different voices and offer new ways to connect with one another, Grabowsky was invited by W̄agilak elder Sambo Barabara to collaborate and offer the opportunity to connect as equals through music. On **24 July**, audiences will experience the event at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, with vocalist Daniel Ngukurr Boy Wilfred, yidaki performer David Yipininy Wilfred, Paul Grabowsky, the Australian Art Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as they gather for a night of discovery, collaboration, and storytelling. *Wata* encapsulates the Yolŋu ‘two-ways’ approach to culture, the idea of expanding through new relationships and the sharing of different stories and people in new ways.

On **11 September**, the Sydney Symphony will perform *Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace* created by Deborah Cheetham Fraillon, Yorta Yorta woman, soprano, composer, and educator. In a monumental spectacle, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will be joined by Deborah Cheetham Fraillon, Australian mezzo-soprano Linda Barcan, bass baritone Jud Arthur, members of the Dhunghala Children’s Choir, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, and students of the Conservatorium High School, all led by guest conductor Benjamin Northey. Sung entirely in the dialect of the Gunditjmarra people, *Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace* brings into focus the Eumeralla Resistance War (1840-1863), fought on battlegrounds southwest of Melbourne and tells the story of those who joined the fight. Cheetham Fraillon’s work raises questions about Australia’s shared history, and offers a pathway for understanding, acknowledgement, and closure.

Also featuring as part of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s 2024 special events are **Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder (15 and 16 March)**, **Donald Runnicles conducts The Protecting Veil (27 and 28 March)**, and **Simone Young conducts Die Walküre (15 and 17 November)**.

Award-winning actor John Bell joins the Sydney Symphony Orchestra to explore Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*

Founding Artistic Director of Australian theatre company Bell Shakespeare and an expert on the bard, John Bell will collaborate with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in ***A Musical Tempest with John Bell (2-3 May)*** – a new program exploring Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* through music and spoken word.

Written in the 1600s, this enduring play has inspired countless other works, including musical interpretations. Led by guest conductor Umberto Clerici, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will perform selections of works by Purcell, Sibelius, and Tchaikovsky, all inspired by *The Tempest*. Founder of Australia’s Bell Shakespeare Company in 1990, John Bell is regarded as the nation’s leading Shakespeare expert and has become synonymous with productions of Shakespeare’s works in Australia. His role as Richard III won him a Helpmann Award for Best Actor in 2022. For this latest appearance, the award-winning actor will deliver excerpts from *The Tempest* alongside musical interpretations of the stage play.

The world’s most sought-after artists join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2024

Over 95 Australian and 39 international artists will collaborate with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2024.

Drawn from across the globe, audiences will experience the virtuosity of a roster of acclaimed artists at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, with **five making their Australian debut**.

Icelandic pianist **Víkingur Ólafsson** will make his Australian debut, performing Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G alongside the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles (**20-23 March**). The 39-year-old artist’s recordings with prestigious classical music label *Deutsche Grammophon* has garnered over 600 million streams to date, and he has performed in major concert halls across the globe, including London’s Southbank Centre, New York’s Carnegie Hall, Wiener Konzerthaus, Philharmonie de Paris, Tokyo’s Suntory Hall, Harpa Concert Hall, Walt Disney Hall, Tonhalle Zürich, Philharmonie Berlin, and the Alte Oper Frankfurt, among others. A multiple award-winning artist, Ólafsson holds the title of Gramophone’s Artist of the Year (2019), BBC Music Magazine Awards’ Album of the Year (2019), and has inspired rave reviews, including the *Chicago Classical Review* noting “Impressive as his recordings are, one was unprepared for the virtuosity, exuberance and insight of Ólafsson’s playing in the flesh. His technique is remarkable with unruffled control at high speeds, which – along with his graded dynamics and 21st-century perspective – consistently illuminated repertoire often casually tossed off in the opening minutes of recital programs...” (2023).

Also making her debut is British saxophonist **Jess Gillam** – one of the UK’s most exciting rising young artists. Joining the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and guest conductor Umberto Clerici, the 25-year-old musician will give the Australian premiere of Michael Nyman’s *Where the Bee Dances* (**18-19 July**). The first saxophonist to reach the finals in televised national music competition the *BBC Young Musician*, and the youngest soloist to perform at the UK’s annual *Last Night of the Proms* festival, Gillam has performed with orchestras across Europe and the US, including the NDR Hannover, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Symphony Orchestra, and others. Her phenomenal musicianship has secured her an Artist in Residence title at the UK’s Wigmore Hall. She is the first ever saxophonist to be signed exclusively to music label Decca Classics, with both her albums reaching No.1 in the UK Classical Music charts. Among her many accolades, Gillam was the 2018 winner of the *Classic BRIT Award*, and has been awarded a Member of the British Empire in the 2021 Queen’s Birthday Honours list for her services to music. In her upcoming Australian debut with the Sydney Symphony, audiences will experience Gillam’s brilliantly engaging and charismatic style, which led the UK’s *Telegraph* to write “her playing was nimble and spiky, fizzing with jazz and funk influences ... she had the Royal Albert Hall in the palm of her hand.”

In 2024, audiences will also have the chance to hear three internationally-renowned singers for the first time in Australia. In **Simone Young conducts Die Walküre (15-17 November)** soprano **Anja Kampe** makes her Australian debut. Hailed as one of today’s most important singers, German soprano Anja Kampe’s performances of opera’s leading roles has won her worldwide acclaim. Making her international breakthrough in 2003 performing as Sieglinde in the Washington National Opera’s production of Wagner’s *Die Walküre*, Kampe’s interpretation was so successful that she has been invited to perform the role in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Munich, Berlin, Barcelona, Paris, London and Bayreuth. She has since performed with all the major opera houses across the globe in title roles, working with the world’s leading orchestras and conductors, including Claudio Abbado, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and the Sydney Symphony’s own Chief Conductor Simone Young and the Orchestra’s Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles. In 2022/2023, Kampe will perform the role of Brünnhilde in the Berlin Staatsoper’s production of Wagner’s *Ring Cycle*. In November 2024, Australian audiences will experience Kampe’s artistry as she reprises her role as Brünnhilde in the Sydney Symphony’s production of *Die Walküre*, under the baton of Chief Conductor Simone Young.

Serbian bass singer **Sava Vemić** makes his Australian debut in **Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder (15-16 March)**. Debuting at New York’s Metropolitan Opera in 2016, Vemić has performed at major opera houses and festivals internationally, including at France’s Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, at the Paris Opera, and in Verona, Italy. A prizewinning artist, the bass singer has won several competitions, including first place at both the International Opera Index Competition in New York (2016) and at the Gerda Lissner Competition (2014). His unmatched vocal abilities has led reviewers to share glowing accounts, including Munich’s *OnlineMerker* to write “The young Serbian bass effortlessly opens the black lowest registers, remains there completely effortlessly and swings through all registers – the world has been waiting for this quality.” (2020). Led by Chief Conductor Simone Young in his first Australian performance, Vemić will perform in the role of Peasant, joining over 350 performers on stage for the Sydney premiere of Arnold Schoenberg’s *Gurrelieder* – a work that demands one of the largest combinations of orchestral and choral forces in classical music.

Chinese soprano **Ying Fang** will make her Australian debut in **Donald Runnicles conducts Mahler’s Fourth Symphony (25-28 September)**. Following her 2022/2023 Season debut at the celebrated Wiener Staatsoper and at the Opéra national de Paris (2021-2022), the rising young star will join Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra to sing *Das himmlische Leben* (The Heavenly Life) in the final movement of Mahler’s Fourth Symphony – a song for solo voice and orchestra, depicting a child’s vision of heaven. Described by the *Financial Times* as having “a voice that can stop time, pure and rich and open and consummately expressive”, Fang will also perform a selection of songs by Richard Strauss.

Included in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s 2024 star-studded international line-up will be violin superstar **Renaud Capuçon** who will open the Sydney Symphony’s 2024 Season with an Australian premiere of Camille Pépin’s violin concerto *Le sommeil a pris ton empreinte (28 February-2 March)*, award-winning harp soloist **Xavier de Maistre (5-6 July)**, Japanese pianist **Nobuyuki Tsujii** – blind from birth and described by *The Observer* as the “definition of virtuosity” (**25-26 October**), Uzbek pianist **Behzod Abduraimov (8-11 May)** whose debut performances with the Sydney Symphony in 2019 earned him a “roaring ovation from the packed hall” and four curtain calls (*The Wentworth Courier*, 2019), and much more.

Australian artists who will join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra include **conductors Umberto Clerici, Daniel Carter**, and **Nigel Westlake**, **pianist Konstantin Shamray**, **mezzo-soprano Deborah Humble**, **violinist Erkki Veltheim**, among others. Over **55 Sydney Symphony Orchestra musicians** will take the spotlight, performing in the long-standing Utzon Room Cocktail Hour series and as soloists throughout the 2024 Season.

Three Australian works receive their world-premieres

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra celebrates Australian music with seven works by the nation’s leading composers programmed in 2024, **three of which will be world-premieres**.

In acknowledgement of the rich diversity of Australian music, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will give the world premieres of Christopher Sainsbury’s *String Talk* (**27-28 July**), Liza Lim’s *Salutations to the Shells* (**2-3 August**), and Elizabeth Younan’s *Nineteen Seventy-Three* (**27-30 November**). The works have been commissioned through the Sydney Symphony’s *50 Fanfares* commissioning project – which will have seen 50 new works by Australian composers given their world premieres over multiple seasons through to 2025.

In 2024, the Sydney Symphony will perform Australian composer Peggy Glanville-Hicks’ *Three Gymnopédies* (**8-9 March**). Born in 1912, Glanville-Hicks began writing music at 15 years old. A prodigious musician, the Melbourne-born composer won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London, a travelling scholarship to study in Vienna and Paris, a Fulbright Research Fellowship and was a recipient of a Rockefeller Grant. Her reputation as a composer spread internationally. In 1938, her Choral Suite was presented in the International Society for Contemporary Music Festival in London – the first time Australia had been represented. Her work continued to be presented at festivals across the world, leading her to take up residency in America and Athens to capitalise on her recognition and continue to bring Australian artistry to the forefront internationally. In addition to her work as a composer, Glanville-Hicks was renowned for her philanthropic ventures, including the creation of the International Music Fund to support musicians following the end of World War II, and organised concerts to introduce audiences to rising young talents and composers. In celebration of the 70th anniversary since its premiere, *Three Gymnopédies* – a work that led to the Australian composer’s international breakthrough – will be performed by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as part of **Simone Young conducts Beethoven (8-9 March)**, led by Chief Conductor Simone Young.

Premiering at the Adelaide Festival in March 2023, audiences can hear the Sydney Symphony Orchestra performing **Ngapa William Cooper** for the first time in 2024. The work is the joint creation of Australian composer Nigel Westlake, singer-songwriter Lior, and Yorta Yorta Dja Dja Wurrung singer, composer, and language activist Dr Lou Bennett, with additional lyrics provided by Sarah Gory. *Ngapa William Cooper* is a song cycle that tells the story of Australian Aborigines’ League activist William Cooper who, in 1938, led the only non-Jewish protest anywhere in the world, condemning the acts of *Kristallnacht* in Nazi Germany. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s performance will be conducted by Nigel Westlake, and will feature vocalists Lior and Lou Bennett and world-renowned, Australian-born pianist Andrea Lam. The one night only special event will take place at the City Recital Hall, Angel Place (**23 May**).

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra will also perform the works of Australian composer Paul Grabowsky’s *Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra* (**24 July**) and Yorta Yorta soprano, educator and composer Deborah Cheetham Fraillon’s *Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace* (**11 September**).

Audiences to experience six Australian premieres with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra

In 2024, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will give audiences the opportunity to experience six works for the very first time in Australia.

On **5-6 July**, Finnish conductor **Dalia Stasevska** will lead the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for the first time in a program inspired by her compatriots. For ***Dalia Stasevska conducts Sibelius’ Fifth Symphony (5-6 July)***, Stasevska will lead the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho’s *Trans*. Written for harp and orchestra, Xavier de Maistre will make his Sydney Symphony debut as soloist. Featuring the harp’s delicate textures with the full power of the orchestra, *Trans* balances musical dialogues between the instrument orchestral sections, allowing audiences to experience the refined beauty of the harp in the new acoustics of the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. The program will also feature works by fellow Finns Einojuhani Rautavaara’s *Cantus Arcticus* – one of the composer’s best known works which incorporates tape recordings of birdsong, and Sibelius’ Fifth Symphony famous for its triumphant “swan theme”, inspired by swans that Sibelius saw flying above him while he worked on the composition in 1915.

American composer Missy Mazzoli’s composition *These Worlds in Us* will also be heard in Australia for the first time, with guest conductor Kevin John Edusei making his Sydney Symphony debut (**18-19 May**). Named 2022 Composer of the Year by Musical America, Missy Mazzoli’s work balances indie-rock sensibilities with American minimalism, European modernism and Western classical traditions. She is the first ever woman to receive a commission from the Metropolitan Opera and has composed for artists and ensembles across the globe. *These Worlds in Us* is inspired by James Tate’s poem *The Lost Pilot*, a meditation on the death of the poet’s father in World War II. Drawing parallels with Mazzoli’s father, the composer’s work reflects the memories and stories that are within all of us. True to Mazzoli’s eclectic compositional style, the work will feature the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and three percussionists performing on melodicas in order to mimic the sound of broken accordions, in the opening and closing passages of this beautiful, elegiac work.

The Sydney Symphony will also give the Australian premieres of Camille Pépin’s *Le sommeil a pris ton empreinte* which will open the 2024 Season (**28 February-2 March**), French composer Guillaume Connesson’s *Flammenschrift* (**10-13 July**), Michael Nyman’s *Where the Bee Dances* (**18-19 July**), and Shostakovich’s Sonata for Violin, Strings and Percussion, Op. 134 arranged by German-Italian violin virtuoso Augustin Hadelich (**15 July**).

Sydney Symphony performs live to three iconic films

In 2024, audiences will experience *Singin' in the Rain*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, and *Home Alone* in a totally new way as the Sydney Symphony Orchestra performs the soundtrack live-to-film at the Sydney Opera House. These follow the popular live to film concerts of past seasons, including the *Harry Potter* series, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and *The Princess Bride*.

Hailed as one of the most iconic films in movie history, 1952 musical romance *Singin' in the Rain* tells the tale of three performers who are coming to terms with the transition from silent films to the “talkies.” Featuring legendary actors Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, and Debbie Reynolds, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will bring the score, which includes memorable songs “Make ‘Em Laugh”, “Good Morning”, and the titular track “Singin’ in the Rain”, to life as it performs the soundtrack live to film. Presented on **12-13 April**, audiences will have the opportunity to experience that “glorious feeling” alongside the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the iconic Sydney Opera House.

Nominated for Best Original Score and Best Animated Feature in the 2011 Academy Awards, *How to Train Your Dragon's* soundtrack is as iconic as its screenplay. A charming adventure feature, *How to Train Your Dragon* tells the tale of young viking Hiccup who defies tradition and befriends a dragon named Toothless. Composer John Powell's soundtrack is equal parts exhilarating and moving and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will bring the magic of this film to life, performing the score as the film is screened in full HD at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall (**24 August**).

In the third live to screen concert, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra brings the Christmas festivities to the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, with beloved comedy classic *Home Alone* (**6-8 December**). Featuring Macaulay Culkin as 8-year-old Kevin McCallister who defends his home from bungling thieves, the 1990 film features a charming, festive score by legendary film composer John Williams. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra will perform the entire Academy Award nominated score live-to-film, including the much loved *Somewhere in My Memory*, which was nominated for Best Original Song for the 1991 Academy Awards.

AT A GLANCE: SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – 2024 SEASON

ARTISTS

| ARTIST | CONCERT | DATES |
|--|---|---------------------|
| 8 AUSTRALIAN CONDUCTORS | | |
| Simone Young AM <i>Chief Conductor – Sydney Symphony Orchestra</i> | Simone Young conducts Mahler’s Fifth Symphony | 28 February–2 March |
| | Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder | 15-16 March |
| | Schumann’s Second Symphony with Simone Young | 8-9 March |
| | Simone Young conducts Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony | 27-28 July |
| | Simone Young conducts Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony | 2-3 August |
| | Augustin Hadelich performs Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto | 7-10 August |
| | Simone Young conducts Mozart’s Jupiter Symphony | 8-9 November |
| | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 16-17 November |
| Roger Benedict | When George Met Arnold | 15 May |
| Nicholas Buc | Singin’ in the Rain | 12-13 April |
| | How to Train Your Dragon in Concert | 24 August |
| Daniel Carter | Karen Gomyo performs Dvořák’s Violin Concerto | 14-15 September |
| Umberto Clerici | A musical tempest with John Bell | 2-3 May |
| | The Sydney Symphony Orchestra with Jess Gillam | 18-19 July |
| | George Gershwin’s An American in Paris | 17-18 October |
| Erin Helyard | The splendour of Baroque | 7 June |
| | Handel’s Water Music | 27 June |
| Benjamin Northey | Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra | 24 July |
| | Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace by Deborah Cheetham Fraillon | 11 September |
| | Home Alone in Concert | 6-8 December |
| Nigel Westlake | Ngapa William Cooper | 23 May |

| ARTIST | CONCERT | DATES |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| 11 INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTORS | | |
| Sir Donald Runnicles <i>Principal Guest Conductor – Sydney Symphony Orchestra</i> | Beethoven’s Third Symphony | 20-23 March |
| | Donald Runnicles conducts The Protecting Veil | 27-28 March |
| | Donald Runnicles conducts the Duruflé Requiem | 20-21 September |
| | Donald Runnicles conducts Mahler’s Fourth Symphony | 25-28 September |
| Giordano Bellincampi <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Alexander Melnikov performs Shostakovich | 22-23 June |
| Anja Bihlmaier <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | The Sydney Symphony Orchestra with the Australian String Quartet | 6-8 June |
| Han-Na Chang <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony | 8-11 May |
| Sir Andrew Davis <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Elgar’s Enigma Variations | 25-26 October |
| Stéphane Denève | Saint-Saëns’ Organ Symphony | 10-13 July |
| Kevin John Edusei <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Joyce Yang performs Grieg’s Piano Concerto | 18-19 May |
| Vasily Petrenko | Vasily Petrenko conducts The Rite of Spring | 27-30 November |
| Dalia Stasevska <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Dalia Stasevska conducts Sibelius’ Fifth Symphony | 5-6 July |
| Eduardo Strausser | Ingrid Fliter performs Chopin | 30 October-2 November |
| Osmo Vänskä | Osmo Vänskä conducts the music of Sibelius | 24-27 April |
| 87 AUSTRALIAN SOLOISTS | | |
| Natalie Aroyan, soprano <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Jud Arthur, baritone | Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace by Deborah Cheetham Fraillon | 11 September |
| Linda Barcan, mezzo soprano <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace by Deborah Cheetham Fraillon | 11 September |
| John Bell, actor | A Musical Tempest with John Bell | 2-3 May |

| ARTIST | CONCERT | DATES |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Dr Lou Bennett, vocalist | Ngapa William Cooper | 23 May |
| Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO | Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace by Deborah Cheetham Fraillon | 11 September |
| Helena Dix, soprano <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Anna Dowsley, mezzo-soprano | Donald Runnicles conducts the Duruflé Requiem | 20-21 September |
| | Transfigured Night | 10 October |
| Aviva Endean, bass clarinet <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra | 24 July |
| Warwick Fyfe, heldenbaritone | Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder | 15-16 March |
| Andrew Goodwin, tenor | Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder | 15-16 March |
| Paul Grabowsky, director/piano <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra | 24 July |
| David Greco, baritone | Donald Runnicles conducts the Duruflé Requiem | 20-21 September |
| Deborah Humble, mezzo-soprano | Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder | 15-16 March |
| | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Liane Keegan, dramatic contralto <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Peter Knight, trumpet and electronics <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra | 24 July |
| Lior, vocalist | Ngapa William Cooper | 23 May |
| Margaret Plummer, mezzo soprano | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Konstantin Shamray, piano | George Gershwin’s An American in Paris | 17-18 October |
| Sian Sharp, mezzo soprano | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Stuart Skelton, heldentenor | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |

| ARTIST | CONCERT | DATES |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Helen Svoboda, double bass <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra | 24 July |
| Simon Tedeschi, piano | When Arnold Met George | 15 May |
| Erkki Veltheim, violin | Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra | 24 July |
| Daniel Ngukurr Boy Wilfred <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra | 24 July |
| David Yipiny Wilfred <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra | 24 July |
| Australian String Quartet | The Sydney Symphony Orchestra with the Australian String Quartet | 6-8 June |
| Dhungala Children's Choir | Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace by Deborah Cheetham Fraillon | 11 September |
| Musicians of the Australian National Academy of Music | Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder | 15-16 March |
| Sydney Philharmonia Choirs | Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder | 15-16 March |
| | Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace by Deborah Cheetham Fraillon | 11 September |
| | Donald Runnicles conducts the Duruflé Requiem | 20-21 September |
| | Home Alone in Concert | 6-8 December |
| David Elton, trumpet | Alexander Melnikov performs Shostakovich | 22-23 June |
| Joshua Batty, flute | Simone Young conducts Mozart's Jupiter Symphony | 8-9 November |
| More than 55 musicians will perform as chamber musicians | Utzon Room Cocktail Hour series | Throughout 2024 |
| 28 INTERNATIONAL SOLOISTS | | |
| Behzod Abduraimov, piano | Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony | 8-11 May |
| Matthew Barley, cello <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Donald Runnicles conducts The Protecting Veil | 27-28 March |
| Renaud Capuçon, violin | Simone Young conducts Mahler's Fifth Symphony | 28 February-2 March |

| ARTIST | CONCERT | DATES |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| Kristin Darragh, mezzo soprano <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Ying Fang, soprano <i>Australian debut</i> | Donald Runnicles conducts Mahler’s Fourth Symphony | 25-28 September |
| Ingrid Fliter, piano | Ingrid Fliter performs Chopin | 30 October-2 November |
| Alban Gerhardt, cello | Simone Young conducts Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony | 2-3 August |
| Jess Gillam, saxophone <i>Australian debut</i> | The Sydney Symphony Orchestra with Jess Gillam | 18-19 July |
| Karen Gomyo, violin | Karen Gomyo performs Dvořák’s Violin Concerto | 14-15 September |
| Augustin Hadelich, violin | Augustin Hadelich performs Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto | 7-10 August |
| | Augustin Hadelich and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra | 15 August |
| Tommi Hakala, baritone | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Helena Juntunen, soprano | Osmo Vänskä conducts the music of Sibelius | 24-27 April |
| Anja Kampe, soprano <i>Australian debut</i> | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Olivier Latry, organ <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Saint-Saëns’ Organ Symphony | 10-13 July |
| Xavier de Maistre, harp <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Dalia Stasevska conducts Sibelius’ Fifth Symphony | 5-6 July |
| Alexander Melnikov, piano <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Alexander Melnikov performs Shostakovich | 22-23 June |
| | Alexander Melnikov in Recital | 24 June |
| Ricarda Merbeth, soprano | Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder | 15-16 March |
| Vida Miknevičiūtė, soprano <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Johannes Moser, cello | Vasily Petrenko conducts The Rite of Spring | 27-30 November |

| ARTIST | CONCERT | DATES |
|--|---|----------------|
| Víkingur Ólafsson, piano <i>Australian debut</i> | Víkingur Ólafsson performs Bach Goldberg Variations | 18 March |
| | Beethoven's Third Symphony | 20-23 March |
| Simon O'Neill, tenor | Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder | 15-16 March |
| Javier Perianes, piano | Simone Young conducts Beethoven's Fifth Symphony | 27-28 July |
| Madeleine Pierard, soprano | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Peter Rose, bass <i>Sydney Symphony debut</i> | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Michaela Schuster, mezzo-soprano | Simone Young conducts Die Walküre | 15-17 November |
| Nobuyuki Tsujii, piano | Elgar's Enigma Variations | 25-26 October |
| | Nobuyuki Tsujii in Recital | 28 October |
| Sava Vemić, bass <i>Australian debut</i> | Simone Young conducts Gurrelieder | 15-16 March |
| Joyce Yang, piano | Joyce Yang performs Grieg's Piano Concerto | 18-19 May |
| | Joyce Yang in Recital | 20 May |

PREMIERES

| COMPOSER | WORK | DATES |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 3 WORLD PREMIERES | | |
| Liza Lim <i>50 Fanfares commission</i> | Salutation to the Shells | 27-30 November |
| Christopher Sainsbury <i>50 Fanfares commission</i> | String Talk | 27-28 July |
| Elizabeth Younan <i>50 Fanfares commission</i> | Nineteen Seventy-Three | 27-30 November |
| 6 AUSTRALIAN PREMIERES | | |
| Guillaume Conesson | Flammenschrift | 10-13 July |
| Missy Mazzoli | These Worlds in Us | 18-19 May |
| Michael Nyman | Where the Bee Dances | |
| Camille Pépin | Le Sommeil a pris ton empreinte: Concerto for Violin & Orchestra | 28 February-2 March |
| Kaija Saariaho | Trans for Harp and Orchestra | 5-6 July |
| Shostakovich (arr. Hadelich) | Sonata for Violin, strings and percussion | 15 August |
| 16 SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PREMIERES | | |
| CPE Bach | Flute Concerto in G | 8-9 November |
| Deborah Cheetham Frailon AO | Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace | 11 September |
| Claude Debussy | La Damoiselle élue | 20-21 September |
| Claude Debussy (arr. Colin Matthews) | Four Preludes | 20-23 March |
| Paul Grabowsky | Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra | 24 July |
| David Lang | Before Sorrow | 15 August |
| David Lang | After Sorrow | 15 August |
| Ottorino Respighi | Il Tramonto | 10 October |
| Joseph Bologne de Saint Georges | Violin Concerto Op.5, No.2 | 15 August |

| COMPOSER | WORK | DATES |
|--|---|----------------|
| Arnold Schoenberg | Gurrelieder | 15-16 March |
| Jean Sibelius | Three Songs | 24-27 April |
| Jean Sibelius | The Bard | 24-27 April |
| Henry Purcell | Selections from The Tempest | 2-3 May |
| Jean Sibelius | Selections from The Tempest: Suites 1 & 2 | 2-3 May |
| John Tavener | The Protecting Veil | 27-28 March |
| Nigel Westlake, Lior, Dr Lou Bennett, Sarah Gory | Ngapa William Cooper | 23 May |
| 7 AUSTRALIAN WORKS | | |
| Deborah Cheetham Frailon AO | Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace | 11 September |
| Peggy Glanville-Hicks | Three Gymnopédies | 8-9 March |
| Paul Grabowsky | Wata: a gathering for songmen, improvising soloists and orchestra | 24 July |
| Liza Lim | Salutation to the Shells | 27-30 November |
| Nigel Westlake, Lior, Dr Lou Bennett, Sarah Gory | Ngapa William Cooper | 23 May |
| Christopher Sainsbury | String Talk | 27-28 July |
| Elizabeth Younan | Nineteen Seventy-Three | 27-30 November |

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.

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