

**2016**  
SEASON



**sydney symphony  
orchestra**

**David Robertson**

The Lowy Chair of  
Chief Conductor and Artistic Director



**SSO BRASS PLAY  
WEST SIDE STORY**

TEA AND SYMPHONY  
**Friday 10 June 11am**



Principal Partner



sydney symphony orchestra

David Robertson Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

## CLASSICAL

**Hollywood Rhapsody**

Including highlights from:

**RAKSIN** Laura • **HERRMANN** Psycho, Citizen Kane**KORNGOLD** The Adventures of Robin Hood**STEINER** Gone With the Wind • **RÓZSA** Ben Hur**John Wilson** conductor

Meet the Music

**Thu 16 Jun 6.30pm**

Kaleidoscope

**Fri 17 Jun 8pm****Sat 18 Jun 8pm**

Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall

**Channel Crossings***Ravel & Vaughan Williams***BAX** Tintagel**RAVEL** Piano Concerto in G**VAUGHAN WILLIAMS** A London Symphony

[Symphony No.2]

**John Wilson** conductor • **Jonathan Biss** piano

Thursday Afternoon Symphony

**Thu 23 Jun 1.30pm**

Emirates Metro Series

**Fri 24 Jun 8pm**

Great Classics

**Sat 25 Jun 2pm**

Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall

**Romantic Fantasies***Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto***SHOSTAKOVICH** Festive Overture**TCHAIKOVSKY** Violin Concerto**BERLIOZ** Symphonie fantastique**Shiyeon Sung** conductor**Vadim Gluzman** violin

APT Master Series

**Wed 29 Jun 8pm****Fri 1 Jul 8pm****Sat 2 Jul 8pm**

▪ A BMW Season Highlight

Mondays @ 7

**Mon 4 Jul 7pm**

Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall

**Pastorale** *Cocktail Hour***STRAVINSKY** Pastorale [1933]**BEETHOVEN** Septet in E flat, Op.20**Musicians of the SS0****SOLD OUT****Sat 2 Jul 6pm**

Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

**Mahler 4***Sounds of Heaven***EDWARDS** Frog and Star Cycle **PREMIERE****MAHLER** Symphony No.4**Lothar Koenigs** conductor**Sylvia Schwartz** soprano [PICTURED]**Amy Dickson** saxophone**Colin Currie** percussion

Thursday Afternoon Symphony

**Thu 7 Jul 1.30pm**

Emirates Metro Series

**Fri 8 Jul 8pm**

Great Classics

**Sat 9 Jul 2pm**

Mondays @ 7

**Mon 11 Jul 7pm**

Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall

**From Paris to Prague***Mozart on the Move***MOZART** Piano Concerto No.9 in E flat, K271

[Jeunehomme]

**MOZART** Symphony No.38 [Prague]**Lars Vogt** piano-director

Mozart in the City

**Thu 14 Jul 7pm**

City Recital Hall

Tea and Symphony

**Fri 15 Jul 11am**

complimentary morning tea from 10am

Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall

## FAMILY



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**Bugs Bunny at the Symphony II**

The world's most 'wascally wabbit' returns to the Concert Hall in this brand new production of Bugs Bunny at the Symphony! Bugs and friends will be visiting our matinee shows!

Conducted by **George Daugherty**Created by **George Daugherty & David Ka Lik Wong****Wed 13 Jul 1pm****Wed 13 Jul 7pm****Thu 14 Jul 1pm**

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orchestra**

**David Robertson**  
Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

FRIDAY 10 JUNE, 11AM

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CONCERT HALL

# SSO BRASS PLAY WEST SIDE STORY

**James Sommerville** *conductor*

**JOHN WILLIAMS (born 1932)**

**Music for Brass**

**MARK-ANTHONY TURNAGE (born 1960)**

**Out of Black Dust**

**GIOVANNI GABRIELI (c.1555–1612)**

arranged by Tim Higgins

**Magnificat in 12 parts, Ch.48**

from *Sacræ symphonie* [1597]

**O Magnum Mysterium, Ch.3 – Motet in 8 parts**

from *Concerti* [1587]

**MORTEN LAURIDSEN (born 1943)**

**O Magnum Mysterium – Sacred motet**

arranged for brass ensemble by the composer

**LEONARD BERNSTEIN (1918–1990)**

**West Side Story**

Suite for brass ensemble arranged by Eric Crees

*Prologue*

*Something's Coming*

*Mambo*

*Maria. Cha Cha –*

*Scherzo*

*America*

*Cool. Fugue*

*Somewhere*

Estimated durations:

5 minutes, 12 minutes, 6 minutes,

4 minutes, 5 minutes, 23 minutes

The concert will conclude at

approximately 12.10pm

COVER: Photo by Christie Brewster



Principal Partner

## ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

### James Somerville *conductor*

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James Somerville was born in Toronto and began his musical studies playing drums and piano. After studies at the University of Toronto with Eugene Rittich, he embarked on a multifaceted career as a horn soloist, orchestral musician and conductor. He has held principal positions with several Canadian orchestras, and was acting principal horn of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, before winning the post of solo horn with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1998.

He also enjoys a solo career that has spanned more than 30 years and brought critically acclaimed appearances with major orchestras throughout North America and Europe. In 1985 he won the CBC Radio Competition for Young Performers; this was followed by first prize wins at Toulon and Munich. He has given the world premieres of *Winter Solstice* by Christos Hatzis and Elliott Carter's Horn Concerto, which was commissioned for him by the BSO. With the BSO he also gave the North American premiere of Ligeti's *Hamburg* Concerto.

His CBC recording of the Mozart Horn Concertos with the CBC Vancouver Orchestra won the Juno Award for Best Classical Recording in Canada, and his CBC recording of the Britten Serenade with tenor Benjamin Butterfield was widely acclaimed. He has also recorded all the standard solo horn repertoire for broadcast on the CBC network and chamber music on a variety of major labels. He serves on the faculty of the New England Conservatory and Boston University.

His lifelong interest in conducting led to studies with the legendary Finnish maestro, Jorma Panula, and he has conducted many first-rank professional orchestras and ensembles throughout North America, Europe and Asia. In 2008 he was named music director of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra in Ontario, a position he held to great critical acclaim until 2015.

## SSO Brass Ensemble

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Formed in 1997, the SSO Brass Ensemble comprises many of Australia's finest brass players, drawn from the brass section of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Varying in size from a quintet to a full brass section of 16, and sometimes joined by their colleagues in the percussion section, the ensemble has a repertoire that ranges from music of the Renaissance to contemporary

composers. They also perform specially commissioned works from Australian composers such as Matthew Hindson, Nigel Westlake and Ross Edwards.

In addition to performances in Sydney, the SSO Brass Ensemble tours regularly throughout New South Wales and beyond, and in most seasons appears in the SSO's subscription series.

### HORNS

Ben Jacks

*Principal*

Geoffrey O'Reilly

*Principal 3rd*

Euan Harvey

Rachel Silver

Jenny McLeod-Sneyd\*

### TRUMPETS

David Elton

*Principal*

Paul Goodchild

*Associate Principal*

Anthony Heinrichs

Matthew Dempsey\*

Daniel Henderson†

Rainer Saville\*

### TROMBONES

Ronald Prussing

*Principal*

Scott Kinmont

*Associate Principal*

Christopher Harris

*Principal Bass Trombone*

Andrew Nissen†

### EUPHONIUM

Scott Kinmont

### TUBA

Steve Rossé

*Principal*

### PERCUSSION

Rebecca Lagos

*Principal*

Timothy Constable

Hugh Tidy\*

\* = Guest Musician

† = SSO Fellow

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for the full roster with biographies and photographs.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

### WILLIAMS

#### Music for Brass

This morning's concert begins with the full ensemble in festive mode, performing a recent creation by film composer John Williams. A sparkling tour de force for a team of virtuosos.

*The composer writes...*

Throughout my musical life, I have been instructed and inspired by the great brass players I've been privileged to work with and to write for. Because of the breadth of their exposure to so many musical genres – classical, jazz, big band ensemble, military and brass band tradition, pop, rock 'n' roll, and on and on – American brass players are the most versatile and finest in the world.

The invitation to write a piece for the National Brass Ensemble gave me an opportunity to salute the members of this preeminent ensemble, and *Music for Brass* is offered as a humble tribute to their wizardry.

The piece attempts to spotlight, separately and together, the diverse groups forming the ensemble – trumpets, horns, trombones and tubas – and I hope in some small way it might capture some of the brilliant spirit of 'my friends pictured within'. [June 2014]

### TURNAGE

#### Out of Black Dust

English composer Mark-Anthony Turnage studied with Oliver Knussen, John Lambert and Gunther Schuller. His first opera, *Greek* (1988) established his international reputation and a number of important orchestral works, including *Three Screaming Popes*, followed. More recently he composed the music for the opera *Anna Nicole*. His concert and theatre works are often forthright and confrontational, mirroring the realities of modern life with exhilarating energy.

Today's piece for brass ensemble (and a lot of cowbells) reflects both his flair for vivid titles, and his complete absorption of jazz and popular elements into a contemporary classical style. The title nods to Led Zeppelin's *Black Dog* and the boisterous music was inspired by Led Zeppelin and, specifically, Turnage's friendship with the band's bassist John Paul Jones (they go to each other's concerts).

Peter Goddard, writing for the *Toronto Star*, describes the music as a fusion of Led Zepplin's 'primal plunge with jazz's sass and wit, while keeping intact the original's hair-raising wailing frenzy' and sums up the cross-pollination as 'the one

time “bad boy” of British classical marching in lockstep with the one time bad boys of British heavy metal’.

## GIOVANNI GABRIELI

### Magnificat, Ch.48

### O Magnum Mysterium, Ch.3

Both of this morning’s pieces by Giovanni Gabrieli would have been composed for the visual and acoustic splendour of the basilica of San Marco in Venice, where Gabrieli was organist and principal composer.

San Marco was famous for the magnificence of its ceremonial music, for which it could provide large assemblies of virtuoso singers and instrumentalists. And composers eagerly exploited its distinctive architecture, which featured two organ galleries facing each other across the nave. The technique of *cori spezzati* (broken, that is to say divided, choirs) had singers or instrumentalists positioned at various points throughout the building, and allowed for varied antiphonal or ‘echo’ effects, with groups of musicians in dialogue.

In these arrangements by Tim Higgins (Principal Trombone of the San Francisco Symphony), *O Magnum Mysterium* adopts two ‘choirs’ of instruments (a higher group with flugelhorn and two horns as well as trombone and a lower one with trombones and tuba), while the *Magnificat* divides its 12 players into three choirs.

## LAURIDSEN

### O Magnum Mysterium

From the 16th century to the 20th... This morning, Gabrieli’s *O Magnum Mysterium* is followed by a contemporary setting of the same text, also adapted for brass ensemble.

In 2006, Morten Lauridsen was named an American Choral Master by the National Endowment for the Arts; the following year he received the National Medal of Arts for his ‘radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power and spiritual depth’. Possibly his best-loved choral work is *O Magnum Mysterium* (O great mystery), a setting of a chant from the Matins of Christmas.

An additional inspiration was Francisco de Zurbarán’s 1633 painting, ‘Still Life with Lemons, Oranges and a Rose’. As Lauridsen writes:

...the objects in this work are symbolic offerings to the Virgin Mary. Her love, purity and chastity are signified by the rose



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**sydney symphony orchestra**

# BUGS BUNNY AT THE SYMPHONY II

*Bugs Bunny at the Symphony* returns to your SSO as part of its 25th anniversary world tour! Don't miss all your favourite cartoons like *What's Opera, Doc?* and *The Rabbit of Seville* on the big screen... plus many new additions... while the orchestra plays live on the stage below!



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\*Selected performances. Prices correct at time of publication and subject to change. Booking fees for \$5-\$8.95 may apply depending on method of booking.



*and the cup of water. The lemons are an Easter fruit that, along with the oranges with blossoms, indicate renewed life. The table is a symbolic altar....The painting projects an aura of mystery, powerful in its unadorned simplicity, its mystical quality creating an atmosphere of deep contemplation.*

Since its premiere in 1994, *O Magnum Mysterium* has been widely performed and recorded. More recently, in 2001, the Bay Brass commissioned and premiered the brass ensemble of this quiet song of profound inner joy celebrating the birth of Christ and the veneration of the Virgin Mary.

**BERNSTEIN**  
**West Side Story: Suite**  
arranged by Eric Crees

In the middle of the 20th century, Leonard Bernstein was wearing at least two hats: that of the classical conductor, the first American to be appointed Principal Conductor of the New York Philharmonic, and that of the hugely popular composer of Broadway musicals.

It was the musical *West Side Story* (1957) that really defined the reputation of Bernstein-as-composer. More than that, it marked the dawn of the international blockbuster musical. But it also challenged the notion of what a Broadway musical should be – few other works of music theatre teeter so precariously between the worlds of Broadway and opera. In the end, this eternally relevant story of Romeo and Juliet, transplanted to New York’s multicultural Hell’s Kitchen in the late 1950s, has made its home in both spheres, and found its place in concert halls too.

This suite for large brass ensemble and percussion by Eric Crees is based directly on numbers from the original Bernstein score (not adapted from the orchestral *Symphonic Dances*), each one chosen for its effectiveness in the medium.

.....

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA © 2016  
ADAPTED IN PART FROM NOTES BY SHIRLEY APTHORP (BERNSTEIN)  
AND COMPOSERS JOHN WILLIAMS AND MORTEN LAURIDSEN.



PHOTO: FRED FEHL (1957)

## MORE MUSIC

### WILLIAMS & GABRIELI

To hear the new John Williams fanfare and this morning's Gabrieli pieces, look for *Gabrieli: National Brass Ensemble*, featuring James Sommerville and his peers in the American brass scene. Leading players from the top orchestras in the United States assembled to perform Tim Higgins' masterly arrangements of Gabrieli and *Music for Brass*, which was composed especially for them. Available on CD and as a download.

OBERLIN MUSIC 1504

### LAURIDSEN

There are nearly 70 current releases featuring Lauridsen's popular *O Magnum Mysterium*, mostly in its original vocal form but also in instrumental arrangements, and the piece is also easy to find on YouTube. For a recording from close to home, look for Cantillation's *Prayer for Peace: Sacred Choral Music in the Modern Age*, which begins with Barber's Agnus Dei (the vocal version of his Adagio for strings) and includes music by Pärt, Tavener, Rachmaninoff and others before concluding with Gorecki's Amen. The Lauridsen is conducted by Brett Weymark, and the same performance can be found on ABC Classics' Christmas compilations: *The First Nowell: A Choral Christmas* and *The Glory of Christmas*.

ABC CLASSICS 476 5054 (Prayer for Peace)

### WEST SIDE STORY

Eric Crees' *West Side Story* suite can be found in a recording by the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble, paired with an arrangement of Kurt Weill's *Little Threepenny Music*.

DECCA 417 3542

For the original Broadway cast recording of the show, look for the 2012 digitally remastered release, which fills out the disc with Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic in the *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*.

SONY 194 841

### JAMES SOMMERVILLE

Hear James Sommerville play horn on the chamber music disc *Carl Reinecke and Friends: Chamber Music of the Romantic Era*. He is joined by clarinetist James Campbell and pianist Rena Sharon in Reinecke's Opus 274 Trio, and music by Mendelssohn and Schumann.

MARQUIS 81309

*In the Twilight* is another chamber disc, with soprano Annette Betanski and again Rena Sharon. They perform gorgeous pieces by Richard Strauss (who truly knew the French horn), Massenet, Schubert, Berlioz and Gounod, as well as some lesser-known composers of the period.

BOSTON RECORDS 1047

## Broadcast Diary

### June



92.9 ABC  
Classic FM

[abc.net.au/classic](http://abc.net.au/classic)

Saturday 11 June, 8pm

**SYMPHONIC INSPIRATION [2014]**

**David Robertson** conductor

**Vadim Repin** violin

Brahms, Lalo, Janáček

Saturday 18 June, 1pm

**LANG LANG PLAYS GRIEG**

Grieg, Tchaikovsky

Sunday 19 June, 5pm

**LANG LANG IN RECITAL**

Tchaikovsky, JS Bach, Chopin

Tuesday 28 June, 1pm

**CHANNEL CROSSINGS**

**John Wilson** conductor

**Jonathan Biss** piano

Bax, Ravel, Vaughan Williams

### SSO Radio

Selected SSO performances, as recorded by the ABC, are available on demand:

[sydneyssymphony.com/SSO\\_radio](http://sydneyssymphony.com/SSO_radio)



### SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HOUR

Tuesday 14 June, 6pm

Musicians and staff of the SSO talk about the life of the orchestra and forthcoming concerts. Hosted by Andrew Bukenya.

[finemusicfm.com](http://finemusicfm.com)

## SSO Live Recordings

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra Live label was founded in 2006 and we've since released more than two dozen recordings featuring the orchestra in live concert performances with our titled conductors and leading guest artists. To buy, visit [sydneyssymphony.com/shop](http://sydneyssymphony.com/shop)



### Strauss & Schubert

Gianluigi Gelmetti conducts Schubert's *Unfinished* and R Strauss's *Four Last Songs* with Ricarda Merbeth. SSO 200803



### Sir Charles Mackerras

A 2CD set featuring Sir Charles's final performances with the orchestra, in October 2007. SSO 200705



### Brett Dean

Two discs featuring the music of Brett Dean, including his award-winning violin concerto, *The Lost Art of Letter Writing*. SSO 200702, SSO 201302



### Ravel

Gelmetti conducts music by one of his favourite composers: Maurice Ravel. Includes *Bolero*. SSO 200801



### Rare Rachmaninoff

Rachmaninoff chamber music with Dene Olding, the Goldner Quartet, soprano Joan Rodgers and Vladimir Ashkenazy at the piano. SSO 200901



### Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*

Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts the complete *Romeo and Juliet* ballet music of Prokofiev – a fiery and impassioned performance. SSO 201205



### Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto

In 2013 this recording with James Ehnes and Ashkenazy was awarded a Juno (the Canadian Grammy). Lyrical miniatures fill out the disc. SSO 201206



### Tchaikovsky Second Piano Concerto

Garrick Ohlsson is the soloist in one of the few recordings of the *original* version of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.2. Ashkenazy conducts. SSO 201301



### Stravinsky's *Firebird*

David Robertson conducts Stravinsky's brilliant and colourful *Firebird* ballet, recorded with the SSO in concert in 2008. SSO 201402

## MAHLER ODYSSEY

The complete Mahler symphonies (including the Barshai completion of No.10) together with some of the song cycles. Recorded in concert with Vladimir Ashkenazy during the 2010 and 2011 seasons.



As a bonus: recordings from our archives of *Rückert-Lieder*, *Kindertotenlieder* and *Das Lied von der Erde*. Available in a handsome boxed set of 12 discs or individually.

**Mahler 1 & Songs of a Wayfarer** SSO 201001

**Mahler 2** SSO 201203

**Mahler 3** SSO 201101

**Mahler 4** SSO 201102

**Mahler 5** SSO 201003

**Mahler 6** SSO 201103

**Mahler 7** SSO 201104

**Mahler 8 (Symphony of a Thousand)** SSO 201002

**Mahler 9** SSO 201201

**Mahler 10 (Barshai completion)** SSO 201202

**Song of the Earth** SSO 201004

From the archives:

**Rückert-Lieder, Kindertotenlieder, Das Lied von der Erde** SSO 201204

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David Robertson

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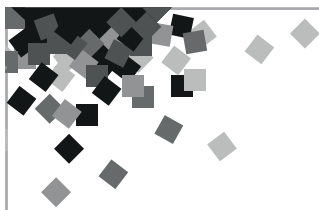


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