



**sydney symphony
orchestra**

David Robertson

The Lowy Chair of
Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

2016
SEASON



THE COMPOSER IS DEAD
An SSO Family Concert

F A M I L Y C O N C E R T S

Sunday 22 May 2pm



Principal Partner



sydney symphony orchestra

David Robertson Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

CLASSICAL



Leningrad Symphony

Shostakovich & Tchaikovsky

P STANHOPE Dawn and Darkness –
Cello Concerto **PREMIERE**
TCHAIKOVSKY Rococo Variations
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No.7, Leningrad
Oleg Caetani conductor • **Narek Hakhnazaryan** cello

Meet the Music
Wed 4 May 6.30pm

Emirates Metro Series

Fri 6 May 8pm

Great Classics

Sat 7 May 2pm

Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall



Haydn's Creation

HAYDN Die Schöpfung (The Creation)
Sung in German
Masaaki Suzuki conductor
Lydia Teuscher soprano • **Allan Clayton** tenor
Neal Davies bass-baritone
Sydney Philharmonia Choirs

APT Master Series

Wed 11 May 8pm**Fri 13 May 8pm****Sat 14 May 8pm**

▪ A BMW Season Highlight

Mondays @ 7

Mon 16 May 7pm

Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall



Winds of Change

Cocktail Hour

BACH Trio Sonata in D minor, BWV 1036
STRAVINSKY after Gesualdo, arr. Kinmont:
Tres Sacrae Cantiones [Three Sacred Songs]
STRAVINSKY Wind Octet

Sat 14 May 6pm

Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House



The Composer is Dead

An SSO Family Concert

STOOKEY & SNICKET The Composer is Dead
Toby Thatcher conductor
Frank Woodley narrator and The Inspector

Sun 22 May 2pm

Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall



Rick's Playlist

BEETHOVEN Symphony No.9 [Choral]: Scherzo
MOZART Serenata notturna, K239: March
STRAVINSKY Dances from The Soldier's Tale
ELGAR Enigma Variations: Troyte
JS BACH Matthew Passion:
'Erbarme dich, mein Gott'
WAGNER Parsifal: Good Friday Music
Brett Weymark conductor • **Nicole Youl** mezzo soprano
Musicians of the SSO

Presented by BresicWhitney

Tue 24 May 6.30pm

City Recital Hall



Mozart at Night

MOZART Serenata notturna, K239
SCHOENBERG Transfigured Night
BRITTEN Les Illuminations
Roger Benedict conductor • **Brenton Spiteri** tenor

Thu 2 Jun 7pm

City Recital Hall

SSO PRESENTS



David Bowie – Nothing has Changed

A Tribute

iOTA • **Tim Rogers** • **Steve Kilbey**
Deborah Conway • **Adalita** • **Jack Ladder**
Benjamin Northey conductor

Thu 19 May 8pm**Fri 20 May 8pm****Sat 21 May 2pm****Sat 21 May 8pm**

Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall

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BresicWhitney



Principal Partner

WELCOME

FAMILY CONCERTS

Welcome to our second SSO Family Concert for 2016.

After the sublime grooves of James Morrison and Judy Bailey in March, today we bring you a murder mystery! Lemony Snicket's quirky interrogation of the instruments in the orchestra is sure to entertain you and your family this afternoon. And along the way you may discover some interesting foibles and fictional facts about the orchestra!

After the concert you *could* stay to watch the violas stack the chairs, but we suggest you venture to the northern foyer to cast your vote in the mugshot ballot box – you decide the culprit, who killed the composer! Then you can discover today's exotic instruments and make some music. Crack the codes with the mobile orchestra or feel the beat in percussion club. Head down to the cave for a round of orchestral pursuit! Style some notes on the composing wall and hear your very own composition in a world premiere at the Sydney Opera House!



Linda Lorenza

Director of Learning & Engagement
Sydney Symphony Orchestra



FAMILY CONCERTS

SUNDAY 22 MAY, 2PM

.....
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CONCERT HALL

THE COMPOSER IS DEAD

An SSO Family Concert

Toby Thatcher conductor

with narrator and professional showoff

Frank Woodley

as The Inspector in

The Composer is Dead

Music by Nathaniel Stookey and

Words by Lemony Snicket

.....
The concert will be performed without
interval and will conclude at
approximately 3pm.
.....

**Join us in the Northern Foyer after the concert
for our musical Activity Zone for kids!**



**Special
School
Holiday
Matinees!**



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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BUGS BUNNY *at the Symphony II*

CONDUCTED BY **GEORGE DAUGHERTY**
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Composing Wall

Test out your musical ideas on the composing wall. Hear works in progress in an exclusive world premiere in the Northern Foyer. Meet **Andrew Howes!**

Exotic Instruments
Exotic = originating in or characteristic of a distant foreign country. Discover some exotic instruments. Today, see the miniature harp and some horns (they may or may not be French)

Mobile Orchestra

Got an instrument in your pocket? Everyone does these days – the mobile phone! Join our pop-up mobile orchestra.

Percussion Club

Rhythm is the answer! Set up the beat and crack the code on some famous music with found sound sources and our easy percussion collection.



Cast your vote in the mugshot ballot box!



ABOUT THE SHOW

The Composer is Dead for narrator and orchestra

Nathaniel Stookey says...

I hope I'm not giving away too much by saying that *The Composer is Dead* ends with a funeral march... Classical composers have always had a preoccupation with death, partly because we are human, like you, partly because we grapple with the mysteries of the universe, partly because death sells records and always has... Someday you'll be able to tell your grandchildren that you appreciated a living composer before that living composer became, like all composers, dead.

Lemony Snicket says...

I have been asked if I might say a word or two about the text of *The Composer Is Dead*, and the one or two words are 'Boo hoo'. The story – which, as far as I know, is absolutely true – is so heartbreakingly glum that I cannot imagine that you will be able to listen to it without dabbing at your tears with a nearby handkerchief.

The Composer is Dead is one of the latest creations in the long and noble tradition of music that introduces young audiences to the sounds of the symphony orchestra. Among the classics is Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* from 1936, with unforgettable music and the story of what happens when a brave boy ignores the rules in order to rescue his friends. Ten years later Benjamin Britten was writing *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, showing off all the different instruments with a spectacular set of variations on a baroque theme by Henry Purcell. *The Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns was written in 1886 to amuse his grownup friends, not for children, but it too has become a favourite with children getting to know the orchestra.



Perhaps the accordionist did it!

It's safe to say, though, that today's show by Nathaniel Stookey and Lemony Snicket is the first to turn the genre into a murder mystery. This sinister guide to the orchestra was commissioned and premiered by Stookey and Snicket's hometown band, the San Francisco Symphony, in 2006 (and it has become a book as well, with illustrations by Carson Ellis and an accompanying CD). In the past decade it has been performed by hundreds of orchestras worldwide and has been cited as one of the five most performed works of the 21st century.





OLE LUTJENS

Nathaniel Stookey music

American composer Nathaniel Stookey was born in 1970. He was first commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony at the age of 17 and since then has written music for some of North America's top orchestras. His music for grownups includes *Mahlerwerk*, *Yield to Total Elation*, several string quartets, *Into the Bright Lights* for mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, a monodrama called *Ivonne* for soprano and trio, *Zipperz* for two pop singers and orchestra, and *Double*, a concerto for two violins and strings. He also wrote the musical score for John Doyle's production of Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and his work for the theatre has been praised for its innovation and emotional immediacy. We're pleased to report that Nathaniel Stookey is still alive.

The Orchestra

Today you'll hear the – possibly murderous – musicians of the SSO play the following instruments: in the woodwinds there are two flutes (with the little flute known as the piccolo), two oboes (with a low and lamentable oboe known as the cor anglais), two clarinets (with a bass clarinet) and two bassoons (with the even lower contrabassoon); in the brass section there are four horns, two trumpets, three trombones and tuba; in the percussion section there is a timpanist playing kettle drums with three musicians playing bass drum, tam tam (not the same as a Tim Tam), glockenspiel, vibraphone and marimba (and possibly a few more things we forgot to count); there's a harp; and the string section with – in ascending order of size – violins, violas, cellos and double basses.



Lemony Snicket words

San Francisco author Lemony Snicket is reported to have had an unusual education, which may or may not explain his ability to evade capture. He is the author of the 13 volumes in *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, several picture books including *The Dark* (with Jon Klassen), and a quartet of mysteries collectively titled *All The Wrong Questions*.

As Daniel Handler he has written novels – most recently *We Are Pirates* – and 'not novels', including several collaborations with artist Maira Kalman: *Hurry Up and Wait*, *Girls Standing on Lawns* and *13 Words*. He also writes for *The Believer* where his column 'What the Swedes Read' – in which a reader makes his way through one book by each Nobel Laureate – appears in each issue.





Mr Violin – the trickier part



Ms Cello – what does she have in her cello case?



Mr Double Bass – a low type, boring but steady



Mr Viola – disposed of the murder weapon and started stacking chairs



Ms Clarinet – claims she's not sneaky



Mr Trumpet – boisterous and utterly brazen



Mr French Horn – did not understand the question



Mr Trombone – sliding out of reach of the law



Mr Tuba – no one has ever seen his face



Ms Percussion – always hitting things



Mr Conductor – plenty of enemies

Who
killed the
composer?

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Toby Thatcher *conductor*

Assistant Conductor, supported by Rachel & Geoffrey O'Connor and Symphony Services International

Toby Thatcher was born in Melbourne and raised in Sydney, where he studied at the Conservatorium of Music. At the age of 19 he participated in the Symphony Australia Young Conductor Development Program.

He subsequently completed a master's performance degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he studied oboe as well as participating in several international conducting masterclasses, studying with Neeme Järvi, Paavo Järvi, Johannes Schlaefli, Leonid Grin and Nicolás Pasquet. In his final year of studies he performed with the London Philharmonia and London Sinfonietta, and was offered a trial with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for the position of Principal Cor Anglais.

Following his graduation, he was a finalist and prize winner at the 2015 Georg Solti International Conducting Competition with the HR-Sinfonieorchester and Frankfurter Opern und Museumsorchester, conducting Strauss's *Don Juan* and Dvořák's *Carnival Overture* in the final. That same year he won a Neeme Järvi Prize at the Menuhin Festival and was appointed Assistant Conductor to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

He is the founder and director of the London-based orchestra Ensemble Eroica, with whom he has appeared at King's Place and St Martin in the Fields, as well as conductor of contemporary music group Ensemble x.y.

He has worked with orchestras internationally and in the 2016–17 season he will make concert debuts with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Sinfonieorchester Basel.

In April the University of Sydney named Toby Thatcher winner of the Outstanding Achievements of Young Alumni Award for 2016.

Later this year, Toby Thatcher conducts the SSO in concerts with Pink Martini (15, 16, 17 September) and two concerts at City Recital Hall: Mad About Mozart (6 October) and Alexandre's Playlist (1 November). He will also conduct another Family Concert: The Pied Piper of Hamelin (9 October).

Did you know that Toby...

- **played recorder and piano before taking up the oboe**
- **writes and paints in his spare time**
- **recently spent a day attending hearings in London's High Court – strictly as research, of course!**
- **is already regretting signing up for the 2017 London Marathon**



Frank Woodley *narrator and The Inspector*

In 2006, after 20 years in the much-loved Perrier Award-winning duo Lano and Woodley, Frank said goodbye to being one half of a double act, and since then he has been busier than a bee (bees are allegedly flat out). His smash hit solo show, *Possessed*, played across Australia and at the Edinburgh Festival; his animated short, *Chicken of God*, received an AFI nomination; and he won the coveted Herald Angel Award at the Edinburgh Fringe for his role of Candide in the Malthouse Theatre production of *Optimism*. He was also a regular guest on ABC TV's music quiz show *Spicks and Specks* and Network Ten's *Good News Week*, and an audience favourite on *Thank God You're Here*.

His 2010 solo tour, *Bewilderbeest*, quickly sold out around the country, and in 2012 he was back with a new show, *Bemusement Park*. 2012 also saw the much anticipated debut on ABC TV of *Woodley*. This series – which he created, wrote and produced – starred Frank as the title character opposite Justine Clarke and newcomer Alexandra Cashmere, and saw him nominated for Best Performance in a Television Comedy in the AACTA Awards.

In 2013 Frank Woodley premiered a more daring stage show, *Inside*, this time alongside Simon Yates from Acrobat. This Kafkaesque piece put the two clowns in prison and premiered at the 2013 Sydney Festival before touring to Adelaide and Melbourne. The following year he took a new show, *Fool's Gold*, to the Adelaide

Fringe, Darwin Festival, Brisbane and Sydney comedy festivals, and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. He has also stretched his musical legs playing Sir Robin in Monty Python's *Spamalot* at QPAC (Harvest Rain Theatre Company), and the Inspector in *The Composer is Dead* at the Sydney Opera House (Sydney Youth Orchestra) and the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Last year he made an exciting foray into children's fiction with the first two books in the *Kizmet* series. This year he tours not one but two new shows: one for the kids and the other for adults – something for everyone who loves Woodley's special brand of nonsense-genius.

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



DAVID ROBERTSON

THE LOWY CHAIR OF
CHIEF CONDUCTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

.....
PATRON Professor The Hon. Dame Marie Bashir *AD CVO*
.....

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 SSO 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.

Well on its way to becoming the premier orchestra of the Asia Pacific region, the SSO has toured China on four occasions, and in 2014 won the arts category in the Australian Government's inaugural Australia-China Achievement Awards, recognising ground-breaking work in nurturing the cultural and artistic relationship between the two nations.

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. The orchestra's history also boasts collaborations with legendary figures such as George Szell, Sir Thomas Beecham, Otto Klemperer and Igor Stravinsky.

The SSO's award-winning Learning and Engagement program is central to its commitment to the future of live symphonic music, developing audiences and engaging the participation of young people. The orchestra promotes the work of Australian composers through performances, recordings and commissions. Recent premieres have included major works by Ross Edwards, Lee Bracegirdle, Gordon Kerry, Mary Finsterer, Nigel Westlake, Paul Stanhope and Georges Lentz, and recordings of music by Brett Dean have been released on both the BIS and SSO Live labels.

Other releases on the SSO Live label, established in 2006, include performances conducted by Alexander Lazarev, Sir Charles Mackerras and David Robertson, as well as the complete Mahler symphonies conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy.

This is David Robertson's third year as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director.

THE ORCHESTRA



David Robertson
THE LOWY CHAIR OF
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Brett Dean
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
SUPPORTED BY
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Emily Long
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Léone Ziegler
Benjamin Tjoa†
Brett Yang†

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Stan W Kornel
Monique Irik°
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ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
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HyungSuk Bae†
Bethan Lillicrap†

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Benjamin Ward
John Keene†

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A/ ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Stephanie Vici†

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Joshua Oates†

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Francesco Celata
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Sandra Ismail†

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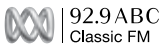


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REGIONAL TOUR PARTNER



MARKETING PARTNER

