



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

Carnival of the (Australian) Animals

FAMILY CONCERTS
Sunday 24 September, 2pm



WELCOME

FAMILYCONCERTS

Welcome to a very special family concert!

Today we explore orchestral music that represents animals. Saint-Saëns' original music evokes the size, the shape, the sounds and the personality of animals from the elephant to the lion to a kangaroo. And in this performance, Bradley Trevor Greive's witty and informative script leads us into the world of Australian and endangered species. We are thrilled to introduce the 'Atlas of Living Australia' to your families today. At home after the concert you can explore the species in your locality using the website **ala.org.au**

After the concert, look for the unique wildlife on the foyer screens. Climb up to the Northern Foyer, follow the purple carpet down the stairs to the Kids Activity Zone. Explore some unusual animal sound-making objects in the Exotic Instruments display. Stop by the Percussion Club to play some animal rhythms with Saint-Saëns. Join *Dangerous Creatures* composer Matthew Hindson at the Composing Wall to compose your own animal motif. Don't forget you can get techno down in the Mobile Orchestra.

And in a special treat – after the concert – you can see some real live Aussie animals with the keepers at the Zoomobile down on ground level under the main stairs as you exit the Sydney Opera House.



Linda Lorenza Director of Learning & Engagement Sydney Symphony Orchestra



Special sighting!

After the concert, head down to the around level under the main stairs to meet some living Australian animals in the Taronaa Community Zoomobile (until 4pm).



Get techno. Make animal music to groovy

Mobile Orchestra

beats on our mobile devices

Composing Wall

Test out your musical ideas for a lyrebird lullaby or dugong duet. Meet Dangerous Creatures composer Matthew Hindson as you hear your composition in an exclusive world premiere. (Post concert only)

Exotic = originating in or characteristic of a distant country. Just like animals, instruments can look unusual and make amazing sounds. Exotic Instruments

Percussion Club Join Melanie Young to play along on claves, drums and tambourines to Saint-Saëns'

Carnival of the Animals themes.



Animal Onesie Selfie Corner

Find the SSO banner and platform. Capture your own carnival moment. Share your photo on social media with hashtag **#sydsymph** and tag us to win your own copy of The Bush Concert book.

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FAMILY CONCERTS SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 2PM SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CONCERT HALL



CARNIVAL OF THE (AUSTRALIAN) ANIMALS

Toby Thatcher *conductor* Laurence Matheson *piano* Peter de Jager *piano* Richard Morecroft *narrator*

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835–1921) Carnival of the (Australian) Animals with words by Bradley Trevor Greive

See page 6 for a list of today's menagerie

Laurence Matheson, piano Peter de Jager, piano Richard Morecroft, narrator

MATTHEW HINDSON (born 1968)

Four movements from *Dangerous Creatures* with words by Chris Jarvis

Spiders Army Ants Scorpions Rhinoceros Tango

Richard Morecroft, narrator



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

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Carnival of the (Australian) Animals

Music: Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals – Grand Zoological Fantasy Words: Bradley Trevor Greive

BTG's poems are listed first for each musical section, followed by Saint-Saëns' original animal titles:

- Introduction A Toast to Camille Saint-Saëns' Ghost Royal March of the Marsupial Lion – His Terrifying Majesty Introduction and Royal March of the Lion
- Nature's Most Gifted Artist The Superb Lyrebird Hens and Roosters
- Swift Animals The Emu's Crazy Legs Wild Asses (Speedy Animals)
- 4. Slow Animals The Koala and the Blobfish Tortoises
- 5. The Happy Heavyweight The Dugong The Elephant
- Hopping Animals All you Need to Know About the 67 Species of Macropods Kangaroos
- 7. God's Aquarium The Coral Reef Aquarium
- 8. Omniaudient (All-Hearing) Animals with Long Ears The Greater Bilby Personages with Long Ears
- 9. The Boobook in the Depth of Night Nature's After-Party The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Forest
- Keep Australia Beautiful, Or Else! The Australian Tiger Beetle Aviary
- 11. Looking for Trouble The Mulga Snake Pianists
- 12. Little Whiskers, Big Hearts The Passionate Antechinus Fossils
- The View from Heaven Soaring with the Wedge-Tailed Eagle The Swan
- 14. Finale A Land of Countless Wonders Grand Finale

Camille Saint-Saëns

Born Paris, 1835 Died Algiers, 1921

Saint-Saëns reminded many people of a bird, with his hooked nose, his stocky frame perched on thin legs, and his way of bouncing along energetically, so that you could recognise him even from a distance by his walk. A parrot, perhaps, and a talkative one – loud-voiced and noisily opinionated.

He also struck those who knew him as childlike in a way, in spite of his great and unquestioned mastery of his art. No wonder he wrote one of the most enduring musical entertainments for children of all ages!

Saint-Saëns began his career as a prodigy – precocious both as a pianist and as a composer



and mastering everything he tackled with disconcerting ease. When he gave his first public concert, aged ten, he played a Mozart piano concerto and then offered to perform any one of the 32 piano sonatas of Beethoven (from memory!) as an encore.

But despite tremendous talent and all outward signs of professional success, Saint-Saëns' personal life was not very happy. He married late, the marriage broke down, and his two young sons died tragically. Saint-Saëns' paternal instincts found a substitute in his relationships with his students at the École Niedermeyer, founded to train church organists and choirmasters. One of these, the budding composer Gabriel Fauré, became a lifelong friend, almost the son Saint-Saëns was never granted. With friends such as Fauré, Saint-Saëns enjoyed bantering, and many private jokes.

Carnival of the Animals

About 1861 Saint-Saëns promised his students a 'grand zoological fantasy'; he finally got around to writing it 25 years later! The result is a collection of 14 musical miniatures, each depicting a different animal.

Carnival of the Animals was intended as a surprise for the famous cellist Lebouc, for whom The Swan was written. (Michel Fokine later used this as the music for *The Dying Swan*, the ballet solo that he choreographed for Anna Pavlova.) *The Swan* was the only part of the *Carnival* Saint-Saëns allowed to be published or even performed during his lifetime. He was afraid that this light-hearted musical creation would harm his reputation as a serious composer. Nevertheless, it is a very good member of a rare species – the musical joke.

The *Carnival* can be enjoyed as an amusing characterisation in music of various animals. That is the level on which it is usually taken, and which has inspired the narrations with which it is often accompanied. (The most famous verses are those by Ogden Nash, which begin with the useful couplet: 'Camille Saint-Saëns was wracked with pains, When people addressed him as "Saint Sains".)

But Carnival of the Animals is also a private joke, conceived by a musician for musicians. It's full of witty references to other composers and other pieces of music (to name just two: you'll hear a very slow version of the Can-Can in Tortoises and Saint-Saëns' own Danse macabre in Fossils) – no doubt the original listeners recognised even more!

ADAPTED FROM A NOTE BY DAVID GARRETT © 2013

Bradley Trevor Greive

Born Hobart, 1970

Bradley Trevor Greive AM is an author, artist, naturalist, actor, adventure sportsman and media personality. He began his career in the Australian Army but in 1993 'gave up regimented life of the military elite to undertake a series of underpaid but creatively enlightening positions, including stints in advertising, modelling and table waiting'.

Since then he has written more than 20 books, of which the best-known is *The Blue Day Book* (2000), an uplifting collection of amusing animal photos and inspirational texts. In 2000 he also joined the ranks of the Taronga Foundation, supporting and sponsoring wildlife.

His creative projects – too numerous and varied to list here – have included cartooning, a collaboration with wildlife photographer Mitsuaki Iwago (*Priceless – The Vanishing Beauty* of a Fragile Planet), voicing the Albatross in Finding Nemo, travelling to Antarctica, programs with presenter Christopher Lawrence on ABC Radio, producing *An Intimate Evening With* John Cleese (starring Cleese and featuring Richard Morecroft), living in Alaska while

Dangerous Creatures

Music: Matthew Hindson Words: Chris Jarvis

Spiders Army Ants Scorpions Rhinoceros Tango

This piece was conceived as a contemporary 'Carnival of the Animals', but filled with animals that can hurt or harm us. They range from the enormous (*Rhinoceros Tango, Big Black Bears*) to the tiny (*Spiders, Army Ants* and *Scorpions*). In addition to portraying the animals themselves, some of the movements depict their interactions with humans: for example, waking at night to

Matthew Hindson

Born Wollongong, 1968

Matthew Hindson is one of the most-performed and commissioned composers of his generation. His works have been performed by ensembles and orchestras throughout Australia and overseas, and he has been featured at national and international festivals, with orchestras and by Musica Viva. His music has been used for dance by such companies as the Birmingham Royal Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Ballett Schindowski and the Sydney Dance Company, and earlier this year Sydney audiences heard his music when the Australian Ballet performed David Bintley's *Faster*.

His music often displays influences of popular music styles within a classical music context, and is characterised by directness and immediacy. And his innate sense of drama, wit researching a book on brown bears and Tlingit culture, and taking on the role of Executive Creative Consultant to Disney Global Creative.

In 2016 he wrote his Australian-themed set of verses for *Carnival of the Animals*, premiered by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. He lives on a remote farm on the east coast of Tasmania.

find a scorpion in one's tent! The original work is in seven movements, concluding with *Humans*, the most dangerous creature of all. Today we perform a selection of four movements. The accompanying poems are by BBC presenter Chris Jarvis and were written for the premiere by the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 2009.



and spontaneous joie de vivre has enabled him to break down barriers and reach new audiences. hindson.com.au

THE ARTISTS



Toby Thatcher conductor SSO Assistant Conductor, supported by Rachel & Geoffrey O'Conor and Symphony Services International

Toby Thatcher was born in Melbourne and raised in Sydney, where he studied at the Conservatorium of Music and participated in the Symphony Australia Young Conductor Development Program. He subsequently completed a Master's degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he studied oboe as well as participating in international conducting masterclasses. In his final year of studies he performed with the Philharmonia Orchestra and London Sinfonietta and was offered a trial with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for the position of Principal Cor Anglais.

After graduating, he was a finalist and prize winner at the 2015 Georg Solti International Conducting Competition. That same year he won a Neeme Järvi Prize at the Menuhin Festival and was appointed Assistant Conductor to the SSO. In 2016 he received Sydney University's Outstanding Achievements of Young Alumni Award and the Brian Stacey Award for Australian Conductors, and he was recently invited by the Salzburg Festival to apply for their prestigious Young Conductors Award. He is founder and director of the London-based Ensemble Eroica and conductor of contemporary music group Ensemble x.y. This year for the SSO, Toby Thatcher has conducted concerts in the Playlist, Family, and Mozart in the City series, as well as on tour in Central West NSW

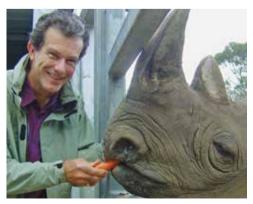


Richard Morecroft *narrator*

Richard Morecroft is one of Australia's most familiar television faces, particularly as the ABC's nightly news presenter for 20 years, the host of many wildlife documentaries and, most recently, the SBS quiz *Letters and Numbers*. He is particularly remembered for reading the TV news with a baby flying fox wrapped up inside his shirt. The book and film *Raising Archie* told the story of his fostering the little bat until its eventual release into the wild.

Richard Morecroft's enthusiasm for the natural world has been a lifelong commitment and he has been a Trustee of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Patron of the Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRES) and is a Governor of the Taronga Zoo Foundation.

Together with his partner Alison Mackay, he has authored books on wildlife for children and adults. Richard Morecroft appears by arrangement with Saxton Speakers Bureau.





Laurence Matheson piano

Melbourne pianist Laurence Matheson studied with Tim Young at the Australian National Academy of Music, having previously been involved in the Young ANAM program (2005-08). He participated twice in the final of the ANAM Chamber Music Competition and won the ANAM Directors' Prize. He has also performed at the Melbourne Recital Centre and in broadcasts on ABC Classic FM and 3MBS FM. As a concerto soloist he has appeared with Orchestra Victoria, the ANAM Orchestra, Preston Symphony and South Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. He has also played in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria and the Opera Australia Orchestra (with Opera Australia and as soloist with the Australian Ballet). Chamber projects include collaborations with Paavali Jumppanen, Michael Houstoun, the Aurora Ensemble, Peter Hill, Anthony Marwood, Kathy Stott and Lisa Moore; and Wilma Smith, Sophie Rowell and Tim Young are among his regular chamber music partners. In 2016 he was an ANAM Fellow, appearing in concerts throughout Melbourne and outside Victoria, and in a solo recital at the Melbourne Recital Centre. This year he appears with the Melbourne Youth Orchestra. Wilma and Friends, and performs in the 4MBS and Melbourne festivals and the Sydney Opera House Utzon Room series. He is also an accomplished harpsichordist, has directed the ANAM Orchestra and was commissioned to write for Victorian Opera's 2012 production of Cinderella.



Peter de Jager piano

Peter de Jager is a Melbourne-based pianist, harpsichordist and composer. His diverse repertoire encompasses all periods of western classical music as well as musical theatre and cabaret. He is on the faculty of the Australian National Academy of Music as an Associate Artist. and works regularly as a collaborative pianist, particularly with Trio Bresciani. Performance highlights include the solo piano part in Messiaen's Turangalîla-Symphonie (Melbourne Youth Orchestra, 2011), all five major keyboard works of lannis Xenakis (2016 Bendigo International Festival of Exploratory Music), and participating in the Lucerne Festival Academy under the direction of Pierre Boulez. He won the inaugural Australian International Chopin Competition in 2011, and in 2016 he was awarded second prize in the Australian National Piano Award. In 2013 he recorded an album of French oboe sonatas with Ben Opie, and a solo album is forthcoming. In 2014 he was awarded the Freedman Fellowship and he used the \$15,000 prize to commission the 98-minute Piano Sonata by Chris Dench. He has performed this in Australia and Europe for which he received the accolade of Performance of the Year in the 2017 Art Music Awards. As a composer. Peter de Jager has received commissions and performances from Astra, the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, Speak Percussion, Syzygy and Arcadia Winds, and he co-wrote Reception: The Musical with Bethany Simons. He is currently producing his first album of chamber music, Crystals.

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