

2017 SEASON



sydney symphony orchestra

David Robertson

The Lowy Chair of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

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

Olympian Orchestra – Music for Sport

FAMILY CONCERTS

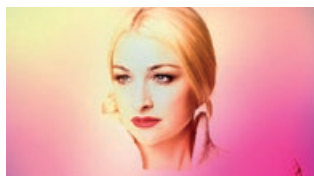
Sunday 26 March, 2pm



Principal Partner



CLASSICAL



Kate-Miller Heidke and the SSO

Featuring songs by Kate Miller-Heidke, including *Last Day on Earth*, *O Vertigo*, *Sarah*, and highlights from *The Rabbits*
Benjamin Northey conductor
Kate Miller-Heidke vocalist, keyboard *[pictured]*
Keir Nuttall guitar

Meet the Music
Thu 23 Mar 6.30pm
 Kaleidoscope
Fri 24 Mar 8pm
Sat 25 Mar 8pm
 ■ A BMW Season Highlight



Olympian Orchestra: Music for Sport
An SSO Family Concert

Including:
WALDTEUFEL The Skaters' Waltz
COPLAND Fanfare for the Common Man
MILLS Countdown Fanfare
 from the 2000 Sydney Olympics
RAVEL Bolero
DVOŘÁK New World Symphony: Largo
HOLST The Planets: Jupiter
R STRAUSS Thus Spake Zarathustra: Introduction
Toby Thatcher conductor
Guy Noble compere *[pictured]*

Family Concerts
Sun 26 Mar 2pm



Songs and Vistas
An Alpine Symphony

DORMAN After Brahms
BRAHMS Song of Destiny
BRAHMS Song of the Fates
R STRAUSS An Alpine Symphony
Asher Fisch conductor
Sydney Philharmonia Choirs

APT Master Series
Wed 29 Mar 8pm
Fri 31 Mar 8pm
Sat 1 Apr 8pm



Death and the Maiden
Cocktail Hour

BEETHOVEN String Trio in C minor, Op.9 No.3
SCHUBERT String Quartet in D minor
 (Death and the Maiden)
Musicians of the SSO

Cocktail Hour
Sat 1 Apr 6pm
Cocktails from 5.30pm
 Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House



Symphony, Suite & Slides
Rachmaninoff's Third

RACHMANINOFF Symphony No.3
VINE Five Hallucinations for
 trombone and orchestra **AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**
WAGNER Die Meistersinger: Suite
Mark Wigglesworth conductor
Michael Mulcahy trombone *[pictured]*

Meet the Music
Wed 5 Apr 6.30pm
 Thursday Afternoon Symphony
Thu 6 Apr 1.30pm



Elgar's Cello Concerto

KNUSSEN The Way to Castle Yonder
ELGAR Cello Concerto
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Symphony No.5
Robert Spano conductor
Harriet Krijgh cello *[pictured]*

Thursday Afternoon Symphony
Thu 20 Apr 1.30pm
 Emirates Metro Series
Fri 21 Apr 8pm
 Great Classics
Sat 22 Apr 2pm

sydneySymphony.com

8215 4600 Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

Tickets also available at
sydneyoperahouse.com 9250 7777
 Mon–Sat 9am–8.30pm Sun 10am–6pm

ALL CONCERTS AT SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE



WELCOME

FAMILY CONCERTS

Welcome to our first SSO family concert for 2017!

Today we explore orchestral music that has been connected with sport. Three types of music fill today's program: anthems, fanfares and music for movement.

Music builds excitement, encourages spectator participation and inspires player morale as crowds of supporters sing in anthem-like praise of their heroes. Fanfares highlight the importance of a sporting occasion. This is exemplified in the opening and closing ceremonies of major international sporting events and in medal presentation ceremonies. Sports such as skating and gymnastics combine movement with music. Grownups in the audience will remember Torvill and Dean's gold-medal Bolero ice dancing routine at the 1984 Winter Olympics.

After the concert, look for the memories of Australian sports people on the foyer screens, kindly compiled for us from the collection of the State Library of NSW. Or race to the northern foyer and follow the purple carpet down the stairs to the Kids Activity Zone. Explore some unusual wind instruments in the Exotic Instruments display. Stop by the Percussion Club to test some sporty percussion rhythms. Compose your own fanfare at the Composing Wall or record your own groovy anthem or fanfare in the Mobile Orchestra.



Linda Lorenza

Director of Learning & Engagement
Sydney Symphony Orchestra



**sydney symphony
orchestra**

David Robertson
Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

FAMILY CONCERTS

SUNDAY 26 MARCH, 2PM

.....
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CONCERT HALL

OLYMPIAN ORCHESTRA

Music for Sport

Toby Thatcher conductor

Guy Noble compere

Introduction to *Thus Spake Zarathustra*

by **Richard Strauss** [1864–1949]

Olympic Fanfare

by **John Williams** (born 1932)

The Skaters (Les Patineurs) – Waltz

by **Émile Waldteufel** [1837–1915]

Countdown Fanfare

by **Richard Mills** (born 1949)

Largo from the *New World Symphony*

by **Antonín Dvořák** [1841–1904]

Fanfare for the Common Man

by **Aaron Copland** [1900–1990]

Jupiter from *The Planets*

by **Gustav Holst** [1874–1934]

Bolero

by **Maurice Ravel** [1875–1937]

Fanfare and Theme (Gonna Fly Now) from *Rocky*

by **Bill Conti** (born 1942)

arranged by **Scott Kinmont**

.....
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!**



Principal Partner

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Richard Strauss (German, 1864–1949)

Introduction to *Thus Spake Zarathustra*

This phenomenal fanfare starts in the depths of the orchestra with rumbling kettle drums (timpani). Then the brass instruments rise above it, playing the simplest of themes – based on just two notes – for a majestic, blazing effect. In Strauss’s ears, this was the sound of the sun rising. It’s two minutes long, but it’s just the beginning of a monumental orchestral piece called *Thus Spake Zarathustra* (33 minutes!).

John Williams (American, born 1932)

Olympic Fanfare

John Williams, composer of the music for *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *Jaws* and more, has composed the official theme for four different Olympic Games, including Seoul (1988), Atlanta (1996) and Salt Lake City (2002). Today’s thrilling *Olympic Fanfare* was written for the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984. It’s a brilliant example of his ability to combine the heroic sound of brass instruments with a Romantic sense of flowing lyricism. Williams himself said it was intended to represent ‘the spirit of cooperation, of heroic achievement, all the striving and preparation that go before the events and all the applause that comes after them’.

Émile Waldteufel (French, 1837–1915)

The Skaters (Les Patineurs) – Waltz

Émile Waldteufel [vult-toy-fel] was the French answer to Vienna’s Waltz Kings, Johann Strauss and family. Throughout the second half of the 19th century he conducted balls in Paris and wrote music for them. His most famous waltz of all is called *Les Patineurs* or *The Skaters*, composed in 1882. It’s filled with musical pictures: the shimmering glitter of the snowy scene, sliding violins suggesting blades on the ice, some acrobatic leaps (are these the figure skaters?), and sleighbells!

Richard Mills (Australian, born 1949)

Countdown Fanfare

Richard Mills began his career as an orchestral percussionist but is now best known as a composer and conductor, and as a central figure

in Australian musical life. His music is popular with performers and audiences alike, and includes the ballet *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie*, which received an APRA award for Most Performed Serious Work, together with his *Overture with Fanfares*. Mills was a natural choice to contribute to the opening and closing ceremonies of the Sydney Olympic Games (the *Countdown Fanfare* was heard in both). The music rings with energy and optimism, until just towards the end when there’s a sudden hush and we start to count...

Antonín Dvořák (Czech, 1841–1904)

Largo from Symphony No.9, New World

When he was in his 50s, Dvořák [dvor-zhark] was so famous that he was headhunted to run a conservatorium in New York. While there, he wrote his last and most celebrated symphony, which mixes excitement at the sights and sounds of America with his homesickness for his native Bohemia. His (Czech) subtitle for the symphony was a message home: ‘From the New World’. The second movement is marked *Largo* or ‘very slow’ and it positively aches with nostalgia. It sounds like it could be a negro spiritual, but in fact that came later when a student added words to Dvořák’s original melody to create ‘Goin’ home’. The instrument that is so well-suited to this soulful music is the cor anglais, a member of the oboe family.

Aaron Copland (American, 1900–1990)

Fanfare for the Common Man

The *Fanfare for the Common Man* – composed in 1942 for ‘the war effort’ – is Aaron Copland’s greatest hit. And yet it’s not often performed in formal concert programs. You’re more likely to hear it on television, in movies, at sporting events. For a time the Rolling Stones adopted it as their entrance music. In 1968 all six ABC orchestras performed the *Fanfare* on the same day to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. And in 1996 it opened the Atlanta Olympics. [Copland is pronounced ‘Copeland’ but never spelled that way!]

Gustav Holst (English, 1874–1934)

Jupiter from *The Planets*

Perhaps you know Holst's *Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity* from singing the hymn 'I Vow to Thee, My Country' or perhaps you recognise it as the Rugby World Cup anthem 'World in Union' – that's the stirring, noble theme of the middle section, which we perform today. The music comes from a much bigger orchestral suite, inspired by the planets not as astronomical bodies viewed through a telescope but as *astrological* figures in the horoscope. According to Holst, the planet Jupiter brings 'an abundance of life and vitality' – those under its influence will be cheery and hopeful in disposition, as possess a noble and generous spirit.

Maurice Ravel (French, 1875–1937)

Bolero

Bolero was composed for dancing (a ballet by Ida Rubinstein in 1928), so it's no surprise that ice dancers Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won gold performing to its hypnotic sounds in the 1984 Winter Olympics at Sarajevo. This colourful and exciting music quickly became Ravel's most popular work, which he wasn't happy about. He famously said that it was '17 minutes of orchestration without music!' In fact, it's only 15 minutes long, and in the tradition of all good gymnastics and skating routines, we've cunningly shortened it even further!

Bill Conti (American, born 1942)

Fanfare and Theme (*Gonna Fly Now*) from the film *Rocky*

Released in 1977, *Rocky* has become a cinema classic, a film in which we can cheer for the underdog as he strives to win both respect and

a prize fight against the reigning champion. The most iconic moment in the film is the training montage, underscored by a classic fanfare and the rousing 'Gonna Fly Now' theme. In an interview, composer Bill Conti explained how he wrote a very sad melody 'because this guy was a loser' but then 'made it peppy and fast' to give him some inspiration! Our version today has been arranged by Scott Kinmont from the SSO Trombone section.

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA © 2017

Sporting Composers

Composers don't just sit around writing music all day. Did you know that...

- Arnold Schoenberg was a keen if 'choppy' tennis player and he enjoyed playing matches with George Gershwin
- English composer Benjamin Britten was also fond of tennis
- Giacomo Puccini loved sailing
- Edward Elgar was a keen cyclist
- Dmitri Shostakovich was a qualified soccer referee; he also wrote a ballet about soccer: *The Golden Age*
- Charles Ives played baseball
- George Butterworth was a Morris dancer
- Sergei Prokofiev's preferred 'sport' was chess
- Arthur Honegger wrote a piece called *Rugby*
- Claude Debussy composed the music for a ballet called *Jeux*, in which the characters play tennis

Will Cassell, Sports Trivia Officer

Will – who plays flute and rugby – is one of our Young Ambassadors for 2017. Young Ambassadors are determined to share their passion for symphonic music, and the SSO helps them do that by giving them unique access to the orchestra: in the audience, backstage, online and even on stage!

Find out more: bit.ly/SSOYoungAmbassadors





Composing Wall

Test out your musical ideas for the ultimate fanfare at the composing wall. Meet our fanfare-arranging trombonist, **Scott Kinmont*** and hear your own composition in an exclusive world premiere. [*Post concert only]

Exotic Instruments
Exotic = originating in or characteristic of a distant country. Find a fanfare with some unusual brass instruments including the found-sound horn!

Mobile Orchestra
Join the accompaniment challenge. Compose some loops on our mobile devices to accompany favourite sports fanfares and anthems.

Percussion Club

Find your fanfare beats at percussion club – play the tambourine, drums and claves.

Olympian Selfie Corner

Find the SSO banners and platform. Take your own photo on the podium and share it on social media with hashtag #sydsymph and tag us:

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

CHRISTIE BREWSTER



Toby Thatcher conductor

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 international conducting masterclasses. In his final year of studies he performed with the London 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, 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 SSO. In 2016 the University of Sydney named him winner of the Outstanding Achievements of Young Alumni Award and he was awarded the Brian Stacey Award for Australian Conductors. In 2017 he was invited by the Salzburg Festival to apply for their prestigious Young Conductors Award. Toby Thatcher is also the founder and director of the London-based orchestra Ensemble Eroica as well as conductor of contemporary music group Ensemble x.y.

Did you know that Toby...

- is currently learning German
- writes and paints in his spare time
- attended several events at the 2000 Sydney Olympics
- played club cricket as a fairly average bowler



Guy Noble compere

Guy Noble is a conductor, broadcaster, pianist, writer, composer, producer and raconteur who loves all genres of music and has played, conducted or talked about most of them. He has conducted the Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Western Australian, Tasmanian, Queensland and Canberra symphony orchestras, the Auckland Philharmonia, and the Hong Kong Symphony and Malaysian Philharmonic orchestras. He was the host of the Breakfast show on ABC Classic FM (1999–2001), writes a regular column for *Limelight* magazine, and has worked with a wide variety of international and local artists including Harry Connick Jr, Ben Folds, The Beach Boys, The Whitlams, The Pointer Sisters, Human Nature, Dianne Reeves, Glenn Frey from The Eagles, Randy Newman and Clive James. He conducted Opera Queensland's production of *La Boheme*, wrote and produced *Karaoke The Musical* (starring John Paul Young), and his *Opera! The Opera* was premiered in November 2016 at WAAPA in Perth. Guy has written a book about music (*The Music Explorer*), recorded numerous CDs, and is the host and conductor for the Music on Sundays series for the QSO, Classics Unwrapped for the ASO and Great Opera Hits for Opera Australia. In June he will conduct the SSO in Last Night at the Proms.

Did you know that Guy...

- first performed solo with the SSO as a boy soprano in 1977
- owns a Darth Vader helmet
- loves to kayak on Sydney Harbour
- prefers wearing white to play sport

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 fourth year as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director.

THE ORCHESTRA



David Robertson

THE LOWY CHAIR OF
CHIEF CONDUCTOR
AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Brett Dean

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
SUPPORTED BY
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Kim Falconer†

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Francesco Celata

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Learning & Engagement

PHOTO: Keith Saunders



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