

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

The Bush Concert

FAMILY CONCERTS

Sunday 5 November, 2pm





VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY'S SHOSTAKOVICH TRIBUTE



Keith Saunders

Dramatic Shostakovich

SHOSTAKOVICH

Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk: Passacaglia
Violin Concerto No.1
Symphony No.5.

Vladimir Ashkenazy conductor
Ray Chen violin

Special Event
Premier Partner Credit Suisse

Fri 10 Nov, 8pm
Sat 11 Nov, 2pm

Mondays @ 7
Mon 13 Nov, 7pm
Sydney Opera House

Gripping Shostakovich

SHOSTAKOVICH

Cello Concerto No.1
Symphony No.8.

Vladimir Ashkenazy conductor
Daniel Müller-Schott cello

APT Master Series

Wed 15 Nov, 8pm
Fri 17 Nov, 8pm
Sat 18 Nov, 8pm

Sydney Opera House

CLASSICAL



Pia Johnson

Beethoven One

Marwood and the SSO Fellows

BEETHOVEN Symphony No.1

VASKS Distant Light – Violin Concerto

Anthony Marwood violin-director • **SSO Fellows**

Tea & Symphony

Fri 17 Nov, 11am

complimentary morning tea from 10am

Sydney Opera House



Belshazzar's Feast

EÖTVÖS Halleluja – Oratorium balbulum

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

WALTON Belshazzar's Feast

David Robertson conductor
Michelle DeYoung mezzo-soprano

Topi Lehtipuu tenor

Andrew Foster-Williams bass-baritone

Martin Crewes narrator

Sydney Philharmonia Choirs

Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Emirates Metro Series

Fri 24 Nov, 8pm

Great Classics

Sat 25 Nov, 2pm

Sydney Opera House



Keith Saunders

Souvenirs

SSO Fellows

LIGETI arr. **Howarth** Mysteries of the Macabre

PÄRT Fratres for chamber ensemble (2007)

RAUTAVAARA Octet for Winds

GLAZUNOV In modo religioso for brass quintet

TCHAIKOVSKY Souvenir de Florence

Roger Benedict conductor • **David Elton** trumpet
SSO Fellows

Sun 26 Nov, 3pm

Verbruggen Hall



Shirley Suarez

Bluebeard's Castle

With Bach & Brahms

BRAHMS Alto Rhapsody

JS BACH Cantata No.82 – Ich habe genug

BARTÓK Bluebeard's Castle

David Robertson conductor

Michelle DeYoung mezzo-soprano

Andrew Foster-Williams bass-baritone

John Relyea bass

Don Hany narrator

Opera Australia Chorus

APT Master Series

Wed 29 Nov, 8pm

Fri 1 Dec, 8pm

Sat 2 Dec, 8pm

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WELCOME

FAMILY CONCERTS

Welcome to our final family concert for 2017!

Music stirs our emotions, excites our imaginations and tells stories. In difficult times music can cheer us up. This new Australian work began as music for eight musicians with singer-narrator Susan Ferguson in South Australia. Today the Sydney Symphony Orchestra brings to life the different birds of the Australian bush in the story of *The Bush Concert*. Listen to the orchestra and see if you can recognise the bird songs as they audition for a very special concert.

This afternoon we invite you to meet the people who created *The Bush Concert* – just climb up to the northern foyer and follow the purple carpet down the stairs to the Kids Activity Zone.

Before the concert you'll be able to meet singer and storyteller Susan Ferguson to learn the 'Gum Tree Song'. After the concert we'll also be joined by author-illustrator Helga Visser, creator of *The Bush Concert*, and the pictures from her book will be displayed on the foyer screens before and after today's concert. Composer Mark Simeon Ferguson wrote the music and he will be our special guest at the Composing Wall after the concert.

We hope you've enjoyed this year's series of Family Concerts and that you'll be back next year for more music-making.



Linda Lorenza

Director of Learning & Engagement
Sydney Symphony Orchestra



FAMILY CONCERTS

SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 2PM

.....
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CONCERT HALL

THE BUSH CONCERT

Toby Thatcher *conductor*

Barry Conrad *narrator*

The Bush Concert

Based on the book by Helga Visser

Music and orchestrations by Mark Simeon Ferguson

Lyrics by Ferguson and Visser

It Hadn't Rained

Committee of Galahs

Performers Wanted

Hullabaloo

Tap, Tap! Tap, Tap!

Concert Night

Misguided Magpie-Lark

Entry of the Gladiators (original music by Julius Fučík)

Pelican-can (original music by Jacques Offenbach)

Acrobats

Magician

Gum Tree Song – Please join in the singing!

La Réjouissance (original music by George Frideric Handel)

Rain – Please join in the singing!

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

.....
Based on the book *The Bush Concert* written and illustrated by Helga Visser. Text and illustrations © Helga Visser 2011. First published by Omnibus Books, a division of Scholastic Australia Pty Ltd in 2011. This production produced under licence from Scholastic Australia Pty Limited.

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COVER IMAGE: Illustration by Helga Visser © 2011

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



ABOUT THE BUSH CONCERT

The Bush Concert began life as an illustrated book by Helga Visser, who lives on the north coast of NSW. As a commercial artist she didn't always get to draw what she wanted, but now that she is retired she has time for the art (and stories) that she loves.

The book was inspired by Australian birdcalls and 71 different birds make their appearance in the story. As Helga recalls: 'It had been raining for a number of days, it was cold and dreary, and my bird friends were sitting outside looking wet and miserable. Then they started singing, first only a few notes and then finally they all joined in. They thoroughly enjoyed their singing, and so cheered themselves up.'

This musical adaptation of *The Bush Concert* brings to life some of those birdcalls and composer Mark Simeon Ferguson has marked their names into the sheet music. Many of the birdcalls are played by instruments from the woodwind section – listen carefully for the piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon. The other instruments get to play birds as well: for example, the french horn is the Southern Boobook and the trumpet is the familiar Noisy Miner and a Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo.

In basing his music on birdcalls, Mark follows in the footsteps of composers such as Frenchman Olivier Messiaen and Australian Peter Sculthorpe. (When Messiaen visited Australia he made a special early-morning excursion into the bush to hear the lyrebird!) Mark spent months researching and writing down the melodies and rhythms of the birdcalls and then chose themes or 'hooks' from these while developing original music to represent the different scenes.

In a few scenes, Mark quotes from popular orchestral pieces. Perhaps you'll recognise the **Entry of the Gladiators**, a march by Czech composer Julius Fučík (1872–1916), which quickly become famous as entry music for circus clowns. Or the **Can-Can** music, which is the *Infernal Galop* that Jacques Offenbach (1819–1880) wrote for the finale of his operetta *Orpheus in the Underworld*. And before the final song, 'Rain', Mark includes **La Réjouissance** (The Rejoicing) which comes from the *Music for the Royal Fireworks* by George Frideric Handel (1685–1759).

The Creators



Helga Visser studied at the National Art School in East Sydney and with fine artist and sculptor Arthur Murch. During this time she assisted with the mural painting at the Overseas Terminal at Circular Quay. She has worked as commercial artist in Australia, Indonesia, Holland and Hong Kong, and now concentrates on art that she loves. Portraiture was a particular interest and nature has always been an inspiration. Trips to Central Australia, and the mid-north coast of NSW, where she now lives, have inspired much of her recent work. She works mostly in oil paint and pastels. Some years ago she took up clay sculpting and has produced a number of prizewinning works. Her sculptures mostly comment on the mores and trends of today's society. *The Bush Concert* is her first children's book.

Did you know that Helga...

- rode a bicycle to school in Germany but caught the train in winter when it snowed
- always came last in running races at school – occasionally second last
- spent six weeks on a ship when migrating to Australia
- loves animals – but not spiders

.....

So there's the idea of the story – when things are looking down, look up, cheer up...sing a song, dance or crack a joke. It will make you feel better.

HELGA VISSER

.....



PHOTO: BRENT LEIDERITZ

Mark Simeon Ferguson was born into a musical family in Whyalla, SA, and as a boy studied piano and composition. He developed an interest in jazz at high school and later studied jazz performance at the University of Adelaide, where he now lectures. He has performed with leading international jazz and cabaret artists and has been heavily involved with the Adelaide Cabaret Festival. Mark's first major tours were

In today's concert, the orchestra comprises pairs of flutes (playing piccolo too), oboes, clarinets, bassoons, horns, trumpets and trombones; a tuba; percussion instruments (including vibraphone, temple blocks, snare drum, bass drum, maracas, triangle, various cymbals and a large rain stick); and strings (violins, violas, cellos and double basses).

GUM TREE SONG

They love the Red gum, Blue gum,
Grey gum, Ghost gum,
Scribbly gum, Spotted gum,
even Lemon Scented gum.

Stringy bark, Paper bark,
Iron bark, Half bark.
Even when it's
fallen they still love it as a log!

Red gum, Blue gum,
Grey gum, Ghost gum
Scribbly gum, Spotted gum,
Seven Flowered Mountain gum.

Stringy bark, Paper bark,
Iron bark, Half bark.
Any type of bark,
just not the bark of a dog!
Ruff!

RAIN

Drought is broken
Rain is here
Joyful music brings us cheer.
Hooray!

with children's entertainer Peter Combe and children's music has been an important feature of his career, including touring for 12 years alongside his singer wife Susan for Musica Viva In Schools. In addition to several commissions for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, he has composed for the SA Public Primary Schools Music Festivals and the JazzSA Youth Superbands.

Did you know that Mark...

- has a crazy Kelpie-cross dog from the pound called Frankie
- flew in a helicopter over the Bungle Bungles (WA) and was so sick his face turned blue
- started a band called Marmalade Five with his wife Susan and their three children
- was thrilled when he first heard a Green Cat Bird in the wild in Port Macquarie; his other favourite birdcalls are the Wompoo Fruit Dove and the Magpie

This narrated musical production of *The Bush Concert* was commissioned by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and premiered in its original chamber ensemble format in 2015. A full orchestral version was commissioned by Symphony Services International in 2016, and this is the version the SSO is performing today.

kids
ACTIVITY
ZONE

Northern Foyer

Learn the Bush Concert songs with Susan Ferguson (pre-concert only)

Composing Wall

Guest Composer, Mark Simeon Ferguson
(post-concert only)

Exotic Instruments
Explore some bird sounds

Mobile Orchestra
Venture into the sound zone of birdsong

Percussion Club

Get your groove on and play some rhythms
from music in The Bush Concert

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

Bird Selfie Corner – Southern Foyer

Capture your musical bird selfies at the SSO selfie wall.
Share your photo on social media with hashtag **#sydsymph**

 @sydneysymphony

 @sydneysymphonyorchestra

 @sydsymph

THE ARTISTS



PHOTO: CHRISTIE BREWSTER

Toby Thatcher *conductor*

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 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. 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 received the Brian Stacey Award for Australian Conductors. This year he was invited by the Salzburg Festival to apply for their prestigious Young Conductors Award. He is also the founder and director of the London-based orchestra Ensemble Eroica and conductor of Ensemble x.y. This year he has conducted the SSO in the Playlist, Family, and Mozart in the City series, as well as on tour in NSW.

Did you know that Toby...

- spent childhood holidays in a log cabin in northern NSW
- did work experience at Taronga Zoo
- was a cub and scout, and the leader of the winning patrol at State Rally
- recently climbed Mt Snowdon, second-highest mountain in the UK



PHOTO: LUMEOGRAPHY

Barry Conrad *narrator*

Barry Conrad's career spans music, acting, fitness and fashion. As a musician he has opened for Brian McKnight, Craig David, Eric Benet and K-Ci & JoJo, toured globally with the world-renowned Darlene Zschech and Grammy-winning Israel Houghton, written songs for an array of artists, been a background singer for artists such as Jessica Mauboy, Stan Walker and Sebastian, and even sung for the Pope. He landed a role on FOX's *Power Rangers: Ninja Storm* and featured in numerous TV commercials before making the leap to feature films in *The Sapphires*. In 2013 he was a finalist on *The X-Factor*, winning new fans and ensuring his placed as one of Australia's most exciting talents. He made his musical theatre debut as Flick in the Australian premiere production of *Violet*. He then toured nationally playing *Seaweed* in *Hairspray: Arena Spectacular*, and Kenickie in the national tour of *Grease: The Arena Experience*. That show reunited him with fellow *X-Factor* alumna and Eurovision superstar Dami Im. He has since joined the Australian cast of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, marking his fourth consecutive musical in 18 months. Barry Conrad is also a passionate advocate for health and fitness, and as a philanthropist he is a proud ambassador for R U OK?, Compassion Australia and Cancer Council.

Did you know that Barry...

- was born in South Africa to an African-English father and a German-Indonesian mother
- is a superhero fanatic and dreams of being in a Marvel movie
- chose to go by the name of Barry Conrad (his middle name) because Barry means 'sharp' and 'spear' and Conrad means 'brave' and 'wise'

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
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Steve Rossé
Principal

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Learning & Engagement

PHOTO: Keith Saunders



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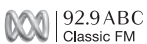
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