





# **2019 CONCERT SEASON**

#### **TEA AND SYMPHONY**

FRIDAY 5 APRIL, 11AM

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CONCERT HALL



# **David Drury**

**David Drury** organ

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685–1750) Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV 546

WILLIAM BYRD (1540–1623)

**Three Elizabethan Dances** 

Galliard

Pavane

Galliard

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835–1921)

Fantaisie No.1 in E flat

Con moto – Allegro di molto e con fuoco

Carnival of the Animals

The Swan

Danse macabre, Op.40

**JEAN LANGLAIS (1907–1991)** 

Suite brève

Grands Jeux

Cantilène

Plainte

Dialogue sur les Mixtures



**David Robertson** 

The Lowy Chair of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

Estimated durations: 13 minutes, 4 minutes, 6 minutes, 3 minutes, 9 minutes. 16 minutes

The concert will be performed without interval and will conclude at approximately 12 noon.

Cover image: David Drury (Photo by Tim Skinner)



#### APRIL



# Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix™ in Concert

Let the wizarding world enchant you as the fifth film is projected onto a giant screen and the orchestra perform Nicholas Hooper's wonderful score. Classified M.

HARRY POTTER characters, names and related indicia are © & ™ Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. Harry Potter Publishing Rights © JKR. (s19)

Wed 10 Apr, 7pm Thu 11 Apr, 7pm Fri 12 Apr, 7pm Sat 13 Apr, 2pm Sat 13 Apr, 7pm

Sydney Opera House

International Pianists in Recital Mon 29 Apr, 7pm City Recital Hall



# Lisa Moore in Recital GLASS Etude No.2 IANÁČEK In the Mists

GLASS Etude No.2 JANÁČEK In the Mists BEETHOVEN Sonata in E flat, Op.31 No.3 SCHUMANN Waldszenen (Forest Scenes) BRESNICK Ishi's Song RZEWSKI Pjano Piece No.4

Lisa Moore piano

MAY



# Breakfast at Tiffany's in Concert WITH THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY

Audrey Hepburn dazzles in her legendary role as the deliciously eccentric Holly Golightly, a New York City socialite determined to marry a millionaire. Relive Henry Mancini's legendary score, including the beautiful Oscar® and Grammy® winning song Moon River, performed live to film.

Brought to you by CineConcerts.

Sat 4 May, 7pm Sun 5 May, 2pm Sydney Opera House



# The Sydney Symphony celebrates Paul Goodchild

\*MACENS The Space Between Stars
\*SIBELIUS Finlandia
LOVELOCK Trumpet Concerto
NIELSEN Symphony No.4, The Inextinguishable

Jessica Cottis conductor
Paul Goodchild trumpet

Meet the Music
Wed 8 May, 6.30pm\*
Thursday Afternoon Symphony
Thu 9 May, 1.30pm\*
Emirates Metro Series
Fri 10 May, 8 pm\*
Sydney Opera House





## Yulianna Avdeeva performs Chopin's Piano Concerto No.1

MEYER Hommage à Johannes Brahms CHOPIN Piano Concerto No.1 BRAHMS orch. Schoenberg Piano Quartet in G minor

Andrey Boreyko conductor • Yulianna Avdeeva piano

Abercrombie & Kent Masters Series Wed 15 May, 8pm Fri 17 May, 8pm Sat 18 May, 8pm Sydney Opera House





### Emma Matthews sings Mozart Arias

SCHUBERT Rosamunde: Highlights
MOZART Voi avete un cor fedele
The Marriage of Figaro: E Susanna non vien! ... Dove sono
Ah se in ciel, benigne stelle
SCHUBERT Symphony No.3

Umberto Clerici conductor • Emma Matthews soprano

Mozart in the City
Thu 30 May, 7pm

City Recital Hall

JUNE



## Last Night of the Proms

Program includes:

ARNE Rule, Britannia!
PARRY Jerusalem
ELGAR Pomp and Circumstance – March No.1

Guy Noble conductor Sydney Philharmonia Choirs Meet the Music
Thu 6 Jun, 6.30pm
Sydney Symphony Presents
Fri 7 Jun, 8pm
Sat 8 Jun, 2pm
Sydney Opera House



### THE ARTIST



## **David Drury** organ

Born in 1961, David Drury is well known to
Australian audiences as an organist, choral
conductor and composer of choral music.
A graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of
Music, he became the first and only Australian to
win the 'Tournemire prize' for improvisation at the
St Alban's International Organ Competition in 1987.

Since then he has toured England, France, Germany, Canada, USA and New Zealand as a recitalist, and appeared as soloist with the Sydney, Adelaide and West Australian symphony orchestras, the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2018, David played for the Choir of The Pilgrim Church, Adelaide on a tour of 10 English Cathedrals. In June he played recitals in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris and Southwark Cathedral, London. He also played in the Bach B minor Mass with the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and solo recitals in the Sydney Symphony's 'Tea and Symphony' series and for the Sydney Town Hall and the Brisbane City Hall.

In 2019 he will play Handel organ concertos with the Queensland Baroque Orchestra, the Bach St Matthew Passion for the Royal School of Church Music Winter School, and the Bach Magnificat with the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. David has also performed with the Australian Baroque Brass in the Bowral Autumn Music Festival and with Camerata Antica in the Ballarat Festival.

David is Director of Music at St Paul's College at the University of Sydney. His choral music is published by Crescendo Music Publications.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

As Kantor of the Thomasschule (St Thomas's School) in Leipzig from 1723, Bach composed for the city's four main churches, including the Thomaskirche and the Nikolaikirche and held several disciplinary and teaching roles in the school, many of which he soon delegated to more junior members of staff. Despite Leipzig remaining Bach's home for the rest of his life, and the glorious outpouring of liturgical music that it produced, his time as Kantor – which also involved the music directorship of the city's university – was by no means satisfying, and there were on occasion serious disputes with the church and municipal authorities.

Perhaps in the hope of finding a new position, Bach revived his career as a recitalist and performed in numerous important cities including on three occasions in the Saxon capital, Dresden.

The Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV 546, almost certainly dates from the 1720s. By this time Bach had completed the first book of *The Well-tempered Clavier*, which formalised his 'prelude and fugue' model, where the two pieces are separate but equal.

The prelude here is no quasi-improvisatory flourish: at first Bach creates the illusion of massive space by staggering the movement of full chords between the two hands, before allowing the music to burgeon into ornate tracery. The harmony becomes more and more intricately chromatic, and indeed fugal, often over long held pedal-notes until finally reined in by a return to the opening gestures. Chromaticism is also a feature of the fugue, with its unusual five-bar subject that outlines a falling sequence of broken chords, yet its more regular rhythmic patterns give the piece a stability in sharp contrast to the prelude.

While Bach's relations with authority were not always cordial – in fact in Weimar, Bach was jailed by the Duke for daring to resign his position – for William Byrd, the greatest English composer of the Renaissance, the balancing act was even more precarious. Where Bach was frequently involved in squabbles over his salary, Byrd was a notorious litigant, often over property. He was also a Catholic, born toward the end of the reign of Henry VIII and so living through the turmoil of the Tudor succession and religious upheavals of Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I, and into the reign of James I. Despite his family's religion, he was probably a child chorister of the Chapel Royal, and was certainly an organ student of composer Thomas Tallis, who, as would Byrd, managed to work within both Catholic and Anglican liturgies.

Unlike great European contemporaries such as Palestrina or Victoria, Byrd was an all-rounder, composing a vast array of liturgical music as well as a considerable number of secular instrumental pieces. His professional life started in earnest in the early years of Elizabeth's reign when he became organist of Lincoln Cathedral, which also involved being master of the Choristers. Like Bach, he fought with the cathedral authorities, at one point losing his salary for a time because, Joseph Kerman has put it,



Bach by Elias Gottlob Haussmann, 1746

The prelude here is no quasi-improvisatory flourish: at first Bach creates the illusion of massive space by staggering the movement of full chords between the two hands.

'an increasingly Puritan chapter resented Byrd's protracted organ playing in the services as too Popish'. (They were smart enough to keep Byrd on a retainer when he left for London.) In addition to Latin church music, such as the three masses – favoured by the Queen for her Chapel Royal – Byrd more or less codified Anglican church music in his settings of English-language text for the Great Service, Psalms, various canticles and anthems, having honed his skill in secular song settings. Again, despite Byrd's Catholicism, Elizabeth 'granted full privilege and license unto our well-beloved servants Thomas Tallis and William Byrd...to imprint any and so many as they will of set song or songs' – in other words, a huge monopoly on music publishing.

Byrd's instrumental music includes consort pieces for viols, but is dominated by his music for keyboard, notably organ and the small harpsichord known as the virginals. A number of works are Fantasies built of contrasting sections, and he cultivated variation-forms such as the *In nomine* or 'Divisions', but the majority of his keyboard works are dances, usually pairs of pavans (or *pavanes*) and galliards. Here, to quote Howard Mayer Brown, Byrd 'stylised and brought' these dances 'into the realms of high-art music.'

Like the Prelude and Fugue, the Pavan-Galliard pair is a study in contrasts, though each is a standalone piece. The galliard is a lively triple-metre dance, its steps involving a leap at the end of each phrase. Byrd's galliards typically consist of three strains, each of sixteen bars, in which the second eight is an ornamented version of the first. The first galliard we hear today shows Byrd's fluid harmony, alternating major and minor modes in succession, and freely sounding chords a third apart. In the varied repeats, Byrd has rapid ornamental runs passed from hand to hand. The energy of the galliard (whose name connotes vigour) offsets the grave dignity of the pavan. In slow duple metre, the pavan likely takes its name from the city of Padua, (though some argue for its derivation from the Spanish word for peacock). According to one contemporary 'is easy to dance, consisting merely of two single steps [simples] and one double step [double] forward, [followed by] two single steps and one double step backward. The Pavan we will hear is in G, characterised by stately scale-based melodies and gentle counterpoint, with restrained ornamentation toward the close of its third strain. It makes a pair with the following galliard, which begins with a propulsive dotted rhythm, and a syncopation that briefly sounds like the piece is in 6/8. The central strain contains liquid ornamentation, while the final one draws out the contrast between 3/4 and 6/8.

Saint-Saëns, too, trained as a church musician. He began his studies at the Paris Conservatoire in 1848, so by the late 1860s was in the period of his early maturity as an artist. From 1857 he had been organist at the church of the Madeleine; in 1861 he took



William Byrd

...'an increasingly
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as too Popish'

up a teaching position at the Ecole Niedermeyer. (Niedermeyer, the school's founder, was determined to train musicians who were able to build on the long traditions of Catholic church music; he had written a treatise on how 'modern harmony is submitted to the form of the ancient modes', another case of the fusion of modern and classical ideas.) Claude Debussy loathed Saint-Saēns, but writing as his alter-ego Monsieur Croche in 1903 observed that:

We are indebted to him for having recognized the tumultuous genius of Liszt, and we should remember that he professed admiration for old Bach at a time when such an act of faith was also an act of courage.

Liszt had been a great mentor ever since 1857 when, hearing Saint-Saëns improvising at the organ of the Madeleine church, he had declared the young Frenchman to be 'the finest organist in the world'. It was at this time that he composed his Fantaisie in E flat, which inaugurated the new Cavaillé-Coll instrument at the church of Saint-Merry that year. (Aristide Cavaillé-Coll (1811-1899) was an organ builder whose innovations include configuring the console so that the whole organ could be activated from a single manual or keyboard, developing the English idea of the swell box, whereby shutters can open or shut to create a real crescendo, and refining the mechanism whereby a player can 'store' different combinations of stops and recall them at the touch of button, rather than requiring extravagant choreography and/or a team of assistants. This new flexibility in manipulating volume, mass and colour led almost inevitably to the creation of genuinely symphonic works for the instrument.) Saint-Saëns' short piece has no liturgical connotation, and falls into two contrasting sections. The opening is a bubbly prelude that makes much use of syncopation. There follows a longer fiery march-like section in 12/8.

Saint-Saëns wrote a few pieces for organ, but other works of his have been enthusiastically arranged for the instrument. Saint-Saëns had joked about writing a Grand Zoological Fantasy for his young students at the École Niedermeyer in the early 1860s but only produced the *Carnival of the Animals*, for large ensemble, in 1886. He quite rightly suspected that the piece could become so popular as to eclipse the rest of his output, so refused to publish it and permitted performances of only one movement during his lifetime: this was 'The Swan', composed to honour a veteran cellist, Lebouc. This movement was arranged by organ virtuoso and composer Alexandre Guilmant who published it in 1897.



Saint-Saëns

'We should remember that Saint-Saëns professed admiration for old Bach at a time when such an act of faith was also an act of courage.'



#### Saint-Saëns at the piano

The Danse macabre was originally a song, to a poem of Henri Cazalis that depicts Death tapping his foot on the gravestones in a cemetery, tuning, and then playing his violin for the emerging skeletons to dance to until dawn. The poem describes Death's music as a gig and then a sarabande, though Saint-Saëns composed a more energetic tarantella. When it proved challenging to sing, Saint-Saëns recast the work for orchestra with the 'Dies irae' chant, presaging the terrible day of judgement, appearing in a surprising major key. British organist Edwin Lemare published this organ version in 1919.

In 1784 the Institution des Jeunes Aveugles opened in Paris as the world's first specialist school for blind children; in 1819 one of its pupils was the young Louis Braille, who in addition to inventing the Braille alphabet was a church organist, and invented a method of musical notation for the blind as well. The Institution National des Jeunes Aveugles, as it became, founded an organ class in 1826 with some 14 graduates working professionally in Paris churches by 1833. One of many later distinguished alumni, Jean Langlais undertook further study at the Paris Conservatorium under Marcel Dupré for organ and, alongside Olivier Messiaen, under Paul Dukas for composition, and won prizes in both disciplines. He became organist at Saint-Pierre de Montrouge, had an extensive career as a touring virtuoso and taught organ and composition at his old school. Writing about Langlais' Suite brève which dates from 1947, David Drury notes:

The *Grand Jeux* is a majestic but aggressive statement with reference to the French classical genre of the same name. The *Cantilène* is a beautiful melody played in the pedals and

Jean Langlais undertook further study at the Paris Conservatorium under Marcel Dupré for organ and, alongside Olivier Messiaen, under Paul Dukas for composition.



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then treated with two variations. The Plainte evokes a sense of disguiet. A groaning of the soul in a prayer of complaint. There is however, often a sense of resignation at the various cadences. A calm resolution does come at the very end. The Dialogue is another reference to an earlier French organ form with a distinctive dance style.

Gordon Kerry © 2019



Jean Langlais at the console of the Cavaillé-Coll organ, Sainte-Clotilde, 1954



### sydney symphony orchestra

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The Hon Jane Mathews Ao pictured with percussionist Timothy Constable, who says "the Orchestra is very lucky to have a dear friend like Jane! For many years she has been our champion, commissioning new music and personally supporting my chair. What a legend!"

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHAIR PATRONS PROGRAM CALL (02) 8215 4674

## Sydney Symphony Fellowship

The Fellowship program receives generous support from Paul Salteri AM & Sandra Salteri and the Estate of the late Helen MacDonnell Morgan.

Fellowship Artistic Director, Roger Benedict is supported by Warren & Marianne Lesnie.

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Sydney Symphony Orchestra 2019 Fellows

# Sydney Symphony Orchestra Commissions 2019

Each year – both alone and in collaboration with other orchestras worldwide – the Sydney Symphony Orchestra commissions new works for the mainstage concert season. These commissions represent Australian and international composers, established and new voices, and reflect our commitment to the nurturing of orchestral music.

STEVE REICH Music for Ensemble and Orchestra
Premiered February 2019
Commissioned with the support of Dr Stephen Freiberg &
Donald Campbell

CHRISTOPHER ROUSE Bassoon Concerto Premiering 28, 29, 30 November 2019 Commissioned with the support of Geoff Stearn



# Sydney Symphony Bequest Society

We recognise the generosity and vision of donors who help to secure a bright future for the Sydney Symphony by making a bequest. The Sydney Symphony Bequest Society honours the legacy of Stuart Challender, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's renowned Chief Conductor from 1987 until his untimely death in 1991. In addition to those listed below, we also acknowledge those who wish to remain anonymous.

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### Stuart Challender, Sydney Symphony Orchestra Chief Conductor and Artistic Director 1987–1991

We gratefully acknowledge donors who have left a bequest to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON MAKING A BEQUEST TO THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, PLEASE CONTACT OUR PHILANTHROPY TEAM ON 8215 4625.

## Sydney Symphony Orchestra Vanguard

Sydney Symphony Vanguard is an adventurous way to demonstrate your commitment to supporting a secure future for orchestral music and live performance. A membership program for the musically curious, Vanguard is your ticket to join the Sydney Symphony community.

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