

4–5 November  
Sydney Opera House

# COMPASSION



Presenting Partner

**CREDIT SUISSE** 

**SYDNEY**  
**SYMPHONY**  
**ORCHESTRA**

Principal Partner



# SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PATRON **Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley** AO KC

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 Sydney Symphony Orchestra 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.

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, followed by David Robertson as Chief Conductor from 2014 to 2019. Australia-born Simone Young commences her role as Chief Conductor in 2022, a year in which the Orchestra makes its return to a renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra's concerts encompass masterpieces from the classical repertoire, music by some of the finest living composers, and collaborations with guest artists from all genres, reflecting the Orchestra's versatility and diverse appeal. Its award-winning education program is central to its commitment to the future of live symphonic music, and the Orchestra promotes the work of Australian composers through performances, recordings and its commissioning program.

**Simone Young**

Chief Conductor

**Donald Runnicles**

Principal Guest  
Conductor

**Vladimir Ashkenazy**

Conductor Laureate

**Andrew Haveron**

Concertmaster  
*Chair supported by  
Vicki Olsson*

**FIRST VIOLINS**

**Andrew Haveron**

*Concertmaster*

**Harry Bennetts**

*Associate  
Concertmaster*

**Fiona Ziegler**

*Assistant  
Concertmaster*

Jennifer Booth

Sophie Cole

Claire Herrick

Emily Long

Alexandra Mitchell

Alexander Norton

Anna Skálová

Léone Ziegler

Amanda Chen\*

**SECOND VIOLINS**

**Emma Jezek**

*Assistant Principal  
Victoria Bihun  
Emma Hayes  
Shuti Huang  
Wendy Kong  
Benjamin Li  
Maja Verunica  
Riikka Sintonen#  
Tim Yu\**

**VIOLAS**

**Anne-Louise  
Comerford**

*Associate Principal  
Rachel Dyker\*  
Jane Hazelwood  
Graham Hennings  
Hayasa Tanaka\*  
Felicity Tsai  
Amanda Verner  
Leonid Volovelsky  
Stephen Wright\**

**CELLOS**

**Leah Lynn**

*Acting Associate  
Principal*

Eleanor Betts\*

Kristy Conrau

Fenella Gill

Timothy Nankervis

Christopher Pidcock

**DOUBLE BASSES**

David Campbell  
Steven Larson  
Richard Lynn  
Jaan Pallandi

**FLUTES**

**Emma Sholl**

*Associate Principal  
Kate Lawson\**

**OBOES**

**Diana Doherty**

*Principal*

**Alexandre Oguey**

*Principal Cor Anglais*

**CLARINETS**

Christopher Tingay

**Alexander Morris**

*Principal Bass Clarinet*

**BASSOONS**

**Matthew Wilkie**

*Principal Emeritus*

**Noriko Shimada**

*Principal  
Contrabassoon*

**HORNS**

**Euan Harvey**

*Acting Principal*

Marnie Sebire

Rachel Silver

Emily Newham\*

**TRUMPETS**

**Brent Grapes**

*Associate Principal  
Trumpet  
Anthony Heinrichs  
Dominic Longhurst\**

**TROMBONES**

**Scott Kinmont**

*Associate Principal*

Nick Byrne

**Brett Page\***

*Guest Principal Bass  
Trombone*

**TUBA**

**Steve Rossé**

*Principal*

**TIMPANI**

**Mark Robinson**

*Acting Principal*

**PERCUSSION**

**Rebecca Lagos**

*Principal*

Timothy Brigen\*

Timothy Constable

Alison Pratt\*

Philip South\*

**HARP**

**Genevieve Lang\***

*Guest Principal Harp*

**KEYBOARDS /  
EXTRAS**

**Susanne Powell\***

*Guest Principal Piano*

\* = Guest Musician

# = Contract Musician

† = Sydney Symphony  
Fellow



Friday 4 November, 7pm  
Saturday 5 November, 7pm  
Concert Hall,  
Sydney Opera House

# COMPASSION

Lior & Nigel Westlake

**NIGEL WESTLAKE** conductor

**Lior** singer/songwriter

A collection of songs from Lior's catalogue, featuring:

**DOMINI FORSTER** vocals

**CAMERON DEYELL** guitar

**BRETT HIRST** bass

**MILES THOMAS** drums

## ESTIMATED DURATIONS

40 minutes,  
interval 20 minutes,  
45 minutes

The concert will conclude  
at approximately 8.45pm

## COVER IMAGE

Lior and Nigel Westlake  
Photo by Craig Abercrombie

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## *Compassion*

i. *Sim Shalom / Grant Peace*

ii. *Eize Hu Chacham? / Who is Wise?*

iii. *La Yu'minu / Until You Love Your Brother*

iv. *Inna Rifqa / The Beauty Within*

v. *Al Takshu L'avchem / Don't Harden Your Hearts*

vi. *Ma Wadani Ahadun / Until the End of Time*

vii. *Avinu Malkeinu / Hymn of Compassion*

*Compassion was commissioned by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and premiered at the Sydney Opera House on 6-7 September 2013.*

*A recording of those concerts won the ARIA Award for Best Classical Album in 2014. In 2016 Lior premiered Compassion in the US with the Austin Symphony Orchestra and subsequently won the 2016 Austin Table Critics' Award for Best Symphonic Performance.*

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PRESENTING PARTNER

CREDIT SUISSE 

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



# WELCOME

As the Orchestra's Premier Partner, we welcome you to this evening's performance of Compassion.

Tonight, you will experience the exhilarating power of vocalist Lior, appearing with the Orchestra to perform Compassion, a work he created with Nigel Westlake. This work was premiered by the Sydney Symphony nine years ago to an enthusiastic audience, who were treated to this musical deep dive into the power of human compassion and strength. We are lucky to have another opportunity to hear this electrifying piece in the newly renovated Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House.

The partnership between Lior, and Nigel Westlake has relied on creative passion and commitment. These same principles apply to Credit Suisse and the Sydney Symphony. We have been proudly supporting the Orchestra for over a decade and are thrilled that we can once again support artists such as Lior & Nigel Westlake.

We are proud to support this flagship Orchestra and wish you a very enjoyable evening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RG', with a large, stylized loop and a trailing flourish.

**Richard Gibb**

Chief Executive Officer  
Credit Suisse Australia

# ABOUT THE MUSIC

*Compassion* was borne out of tragic circumstances.

Nigel Westlake's son, Eli, was murdered in 2008 in a road rage incident; a year later, Westlake and his wife, Jan, held a memorial concert, and invited Lior, one of Eli's favourite musicians, to perform. It was a hugely charged and emotional event, and at the end of Lior's set of his own songs, he decided to conclude with an *a capella* rendition of a Jewish prayer, *Avinu Melkeinu*, and its message of compassion. Following that performance Westlake and Lior connected over the idea of creating a full orchestration of the hymn. The pair presented the work to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, which immediately commissioned a full-length work – *Compassion*, as you hear it tonight.

This symphony of songs unites the soulful power of Lior's voice with the radiance and vivid drama of Westlake's orchestral style. Their theme is the wisdom of compassion expressed through ancient writings and timeless music. Poetic, beautiful and rewarding, this unique collaboration celebrates the liberating power of compassion and kindness, that can bring people together across the divides of race and fear.

*Compassion* draws from the rich worlds of Islam and Judaism to present a collection of profound and poetic insights into the practice of compassion and its ability to transform our relationships as human beings. It offers listeners space and opportunity to reflect on the qualities of mercy and love, and how they can enrich our lives with meaning, insight, depth and worth.

"*Compassion* inhabits a vast array of emotions and colours," says Westlake, "at times pulsating and riotous, at others reflective and textural, and draws upon the myriad of influences the two of us have been able to bring to the table from our incredibly diverse backgrounds. With the utmost respect, we have tried to imbue the ancient texts with a contemporary interpretation, adhering to the purity of a single voice and orchestra."

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## LIOR singer/songwriter

Lior is one of Australia's most treasured singer songwriters, renowned for his beautiful voice and songs that radiate truth and sincerity. He burst on to the Australian music scene in 2005 with his debut album, *Autumn Flow*, which has become one of the most successful independent debut releases in Australian music history. That year Lior earned three ARIA nominations, including Best Male Artist, as well as a J Award nomination from Triple J for Australian Album of the Year. Lior's second album, *Corner of an Endless Road*, went to #2 on the Australian Albums Chart and topped the Independent charts for several weeks. Lior has subsequently released a further four albums whilst remaining a completely independent artist. He has earned a total of seven ARIA nominations as well as being a two-time ARIA Award winner.

Lior has toured extensively both in Australia and internationally. He has been a regular performer at WOMAD festivals internationally as well as various art festivals around the world including an entire season at the Edinburgh Festival. Lior has also undertaken a host of song-writing work for film and television and is a recipient of an APRA Award (Australian Performing Rights Association) for Best Original Song Composed for Screen.

In recent years, Lior has shown a keen interest in diversification, collaborating on various classical crossover works and theatre projects. In 2015 Lior starred in the Australian production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. In 2016, he completed his first theatre score for *The Wider Earth*, a play tracing the voyage of Charles Darwin. The play premiered at Queensland Theatre Company and went on to become the first ever play to perform an entire season at London's Natural History Museum. Lior received the Matilda Award for Best Original Theatre Score at the Queensland Theatre Awards that year.

In 2019, Lior completed an international tour as the featured guest vocalist for the Australian Chamber Orchestra's *Luminous* concert series. Lior was recently awarded the prestigious Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship, awarded to only nine artists nationally across all artforms for displaying outstanding excellence and courage in their chosen artform.



Lior  
Photo by Carlo Santone

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## NIGEL WESTLAKE conductor

Nigel Westlake's career, spanning almost five decades, began as a clarinettist touring Australia and the world with many orchestras, ensembles & bands.

He began composing from 1980, receiving offers to write for radio, theatre, circus, TV and film and was appointed composer in residence for ABC Radio in 1984. From 1987-1992 he was a core member of the Australia Ensemble (resident at UNSW) and in 1992 was invited by guitarist John Williams to join his septet Attacca as performer and composer.

His film credits include, *Babe*, *Ali's Wedding*, *Paper Planes*, *Miss Potter*, *Babe- Pig in the City*, *Children of the Revolution*, *The Nugget*, *A Little Bit of Soul*, *Blueback* (2023) and the IMAX films *Antarctica*, *Solarmax*, *The Edge* and *Imagine*. His television credits include numerous documentaries, telemovies, news themes and station idents.

He has received many awards, including two ARIA Awards, 15 APRA awards across both Classical and Screen categories, the 2022 APRA Distinguished Services to the Australian Screen Award and the Gold Medal for Best Original Music at the New York International Radio Festival.

He is a two time winner of the prestigious Paul Lowin Orchestral prize, in 2013 for *Missa Solis – Requiem for Eli* and in 2019 for *Spirit of the Wild – Concerto for oboe and orchestra*.

In 2020 he was awarded the Albert H. Maggs Composition Award by the University of Melbourne for his third string quartet, *Sacred Sky*.

He holds an honorary doctorate in music awarded in 2013 by the University of NSW and was the recipient of the HC Coombs Creative Arts Fellowship at the Australian National University in 2004.

In 2008 he founded the Smugglers of Light Foundation with his family in memory of his son Eli, to promote cultural awareness and empowerment through education via the mediums of music and film in youth and indigenous communities.



Nigel Westlake  
Photo by Steve Forrest



“SYDNEY”  
“SYMPHONY”  
“ORCHESTRA”

# Emotions through music

Music stirs emotion in all of us. That's why Credit Suisse has supported the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as Premier Partner since 2010.

[credit-suisse.com/au](https://credit-suisse.com/au)

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