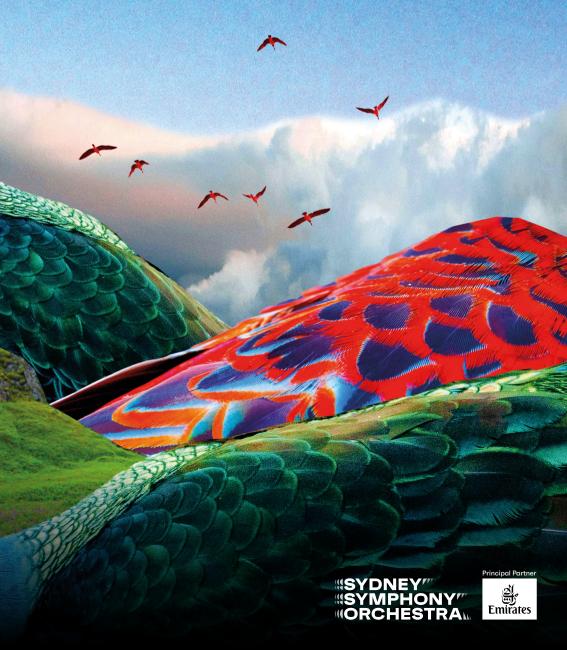
DANIEL MÜLLER-SCHOTT

PERFORMS TCHAIKOVSKY



SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PATRON Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC 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 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.

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, Zdenêk 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. Australian-born Simone Young commenced her role as Chief Conductor in 2022, a year in which the Orchestra made its return to a renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

PERFORMING IN THIS CONCERT

FIRST VIOLINS

Andrew Haveron Concertmaster

Alexandra Osborne Associate Concertmaster

Fiona Ziegler

Assistant Concertmaster

Associate Concertmaster Emeritus

Jennifer Booth

Sophie Cole Sercan Danis

Georges Lentz **Emily Long** Alex Mitchell Alexander Norton

Claire Herrick

Leone Ziegler Benjamin Tjoao Tamara Elias*

Emily Qin*

SECOND VIOLINS

Lerida Delbridge Principal

Kirsty Hilton

Principal

Marina Marsden

Principal Emeritus

Emma Jezek Assistant Principal

Alice Bartsch Victoria Bihun

Rebecca Gill Emma Haves

Shuti Huana Wendy Kong Nicole Masters

Robert Smith Maja Verunica Riikka Sintonen^o

VIOLAS

Richard Waters Principal

Justin Williams

Associate Principal

Anne-Louise

Comerford Associate Principal Emeritus

Sandro Costantino Stuart Johnson Justine Marsden

Felicity Tsai Amanda Verner Leonid Volovelsky

Andrew Jezeko Stephen Wright^o

Dana Lee*

Catherine Hewgill Principal

Simon Cobcroft

Associate Principal

Leah Lynn

Assistant Principal

Kristy Conrau

Timothy Nankervis Elizabeth Neville

Christopher Pidcock

Adrian Wallis

Noah Lawrencet Rebecca Herman*

DOUBLE BASSES

Kees Boersma

Principal

Alexander Henery

Principal

David Campbell

Dylan Holly

Steven Larson Jaan Pallandi

Benjamin Ward Harry Young[†]

FLUTES

Emma Sholl

Acting Principal Carolyn Harris

Katlijn Sergeant

Principal Piccolo

OROFS

Shefali Pryor

Principal

Amy Clough[†] **Alexandre Oguey**

Principal Cor Anglais

CLARINETS

Olli Leppäniemi

Principal

Christopher Tingay

Alexander Morris

Principal Bass Clarinet

BASSOONS

Todd Gibson-Cornish Principal

Matthew Wilkie

Principal Emeritus

Fiona McNamara

Noriko Shimada Principal Contrabassoon

HORNS

Samuel Jacobs

Principal

Euan Harvey

Acting Principal 3rd Horn

Rachel Silver

Emily Newhamo Rachel Shaw*

TRUMPETS

David Elton Principal

Brent Grapes

Associate Principal

Cécile Glémot Anthony Heinrichs

TROMBONES

Scott Kinmont

Acting Principal

Nick Byrne

Christopher Harris Principal Bass Trombone

TUBAS

Steven Rossé

TIMPANI

Antoine Siguré

Principal

PERCHISSION

Rebecca Lagos Principal

Mark Robinson

Associate Principal /

Ian Cleworth*

Section Percussion

Timothy Constable

HARP

Louisic Dulbecco

Principal

KEYBOARDS

Louisa Breen*

Guest Principal Piano

Catherine Davis* Guest Principal Celeste

Bold Principal

- * Guest Musician
- ^o Contract Musician
- † Sydney Symphony

Fellow

2025 CONCERT SEASON

EMIRATES MASTERS SERIES

Wednesday 22 October, 8pm Friday 24 October, 8pm Saturday 25 October, 8pm

EMIRATES THURSDAY AFTERNOON SYMPHONY

Thursday 23 October, 1.30pm

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

DANIEL MÜLLER-SCHOTT PERFORMS TCHAIKOVSKY

MAGIC FROM TCHAIKOVSKY, STRAVINSKY AND DUKAS

LIONEL BRINGUIER conductor

DANIEL MÜLLER-SCHOTT cello

PAUL DUKAS (1865–1935)
The Sorcerer's Apprentice (1897)

PETER ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840-1893)

Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op.33 (1877)

[Fitzenhagen version]

- i. Introduction (Moderato quasi andante)
- ii. Theme (Moderato semplice)
- iii. Variation I (Tempo della thema)
- iv. Variation II (Tempo della thema)
- v. Variation III (Andante sostenuto)
- vi. Variation IV (Andante grazioso) vii. Variation V (Allegro moderato)
- viii. Variation VI (Andante)
- ix. Variation VII and Coda (Allegro vivo)

INTERVAL

IGOR STRAVINSKY (1882-1971)

Petrushka (1946 version)

- i. The Shrovetide Fair Legerdemain scene Russian Dance
- ii. Petrushka's Room
- iii. The Blackmoor's Room Dance of the Ballerina Valse Petrushka
- iv. The Shrovetide Fair (Toward Evening)

Preconcert talk

By Alastair McKean in the Northern Foyer (7:15pm Wed, Fri, Sat), and on the Lounge Level (12.45pm Thurs)

Estimated durations

Dukas – 12 minutes Tchaikovsky – 18 minutes Interval – 20 minutes Stravinsky – 35 minutes

The concert will run for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes

Cover image

By Rebecca Shaw

Principal Partner



IN MEMORIAM



VALE JOHN PAINTER AM

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra pays tribute to former Principal Cello John Painter (1932-2025).

The musicians and staff of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra were greatly saddened to learn of the death of John Galloway Painter AM on Saturday 13 September 2025.

John was a hugely significant figure in Australian music in the second half of the twentieth century, serving in the Cello section of the Sydney Symphony (1954–1965, and Principal from 1960), founding the Australian Chamber Orchestra in 1975 and later directing the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (1982–1985) Canberra School of Music (1985–1995) and Australian Institute of Music (AIM) in Sydney (1997-2003).

John was also at various times involved with the Australia Council for the Arts, Musica Viva Australia, National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) and Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM).

His connection to and influence on several generations of musicians was profound, whether as performer, administrator, teacher, union advocate or as the head of major institutions.

Born in Adelaide on 28 September 1932, Painter demonstrated musical talent early, winning a two-year scholarship to study with Harold Parsons at Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium at the age of 12. The following year John was offered a position in the South Australian (now Adelaide) Symphony Orchestra – and also managed to convince his father and headmaster to cover-up the fact that he had left school before the legal age!

John moved to Sydney in 1949, spending 18 months studying with Laurie Kennedy and working in nightclubs and dancehalls. But in 1950, still only 18, John was offered the role of Principal Cello back in Adelaide, where he also won the ABC's Concerto & Vocal Competition.

In 1954 he moved back to Sydney to join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra where he remained for a little more than a decade, rising to Associate Principal and ultimately Principal from 1960. These were busy years for the Orchestra: still under management of the ABC, the musicians (especially Principals) had busy schedules, performing in up to 160 concerts a year as well as recording for ABC radio in their 'free time'. Painter was also lecturing part-time at the Sydney Conservatorium.

IN MEMORIAM

John left the Sydney Symphony in 1965 but his influence on music in Australia would only grow. His role at the Sydney Conservatorium expanded, appointed Head of the String Department in 1972, Deputy Director in 1974 and ultimately Director from 1982–85.

In 1974, driven by a desire for young professionals to refine their musicianship by repeated performances of the same program and touring to different venues around the country – and to create a smaller, focused ensemble that would drive higher musical standards across the country – John formed the Australian Chamber Orchestra. John led the ACO's first performance in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House on 21 November 1975 and remained with the ensemble for a decade; its continued success is a testament to the foundation that he built.

John moved from the Conservatorium in Sydney to the Canberra School of Music in 1985, leading it for a decade and growing its reputation to be the leading music school in the country, after which he served as Director of the Australian Institute of Music (AIM) in Sydney from 1997-2003.

He eventually retired in Canberra where he remained deeply engaged in the capital's music scene, including serving on the board of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. In recognition of his incredible contribution to Australian music, John was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1981 and received the Sir Bernard Heinze Memorial Award in 2002.

For much of his life John formed a formidable double act with Lois Simpson. Lois became the youngest female musician ever in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 1940, aged just 13. She left in 1944 but returned in 1953, and remained with the Orchestra for more than 30 years, much of that as Principal Cello.

Lois and John married in 1962, and their partnership was total. Lois joined John as a founding member of the ACO, and when they moved to Canberra in 1985 Lois took over the chamber music program at the School of Music throughout John's directorship.

When she died in 2008, David Marr wrote in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that 'Simpson was birdlike, glamorous and self-deprecating but a prize fighter in the cause of music. She was not afraid to throw her tiny weight around and there are many, mostly men, who

underestimated her at their peril. She knew only one way – the right way – and not just on stage. Things had to be as perfect as practice and impeccable taste could make them.

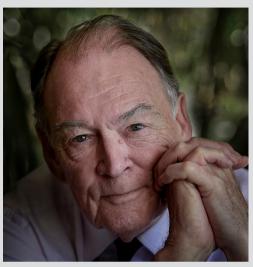


Photo courtesy Australian Chamber Orchestra.

John and Lois' influence is still felt in today's Sydney Symphony Orchestra, with many of our musicians having been taught by them or performed alongside them.

Anne-Louise Comerford, Associate Principal Emeritus Viola and a founding member of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, writes, John was a great player and a great administrator, pushing through all kinds of red tape to make things happen. His advocacy advanced music in this country to an enormous degree and he made the road to the profession so much easier for all of us than it would have been without him.

Mary Vallentine Ao, Managing Director of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra from 1986-2003, writes, 'John was an inspirational musician and leader who was passionate about the training of young musicians. Musicians from Sydney Conservatorium and Canberra School Music where John was Director perform in symphony orchestras throughout Australia. His great legacy is as founder of the Australian Chamber Orchestra now celebrating its 50th anniversary season.'

Our thoughts are with John's partner Renée Goossens, his sons Ashley and Jamie and stepsons Greg and Martin Pikler. A tribute concert for John will take place at 3pm on 12 October at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

WELCOME

Welcome to *Daniel Müller-Schott performs Tchaikovsky*, an enchanting concert of Romantic-period music by Dukas, Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky.

This year, Emirates is celebrating 25 years of flying into Sydney. Together with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, we have created one of the most significant and enduring relationships in Australia's performing arts, one we all continue to be immensely proud of.

Many may remember Disney's *Fantasia*, the animation that made the tale of a wayward magician's apprentice world famous. In this live performance, conductor Lionel Bringuier brings the unbounded joy and mischief of Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* to the Concert Hall.

Daniel Müller-Schott performs Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*, often referred to as the closest thing Tchaikovsky ever came to writing a cello concerto. In this remarkable piece, the composer expresses one musical idea in multiple tones and forms, ranging from lilting and elegant to intense, dramatic and even whimsical. You will hear why Müller-Schott is considered one of the world's finest cellists as he performs this marvellous work.

Continuing the connection to magic is Stravinsky's iconic *Petrushka*. Written as a ballet score, this archetypal story of the yearning of a puppet to become human gives the Orchestra full rein to their collective virtuosity.

As the Presenter of this *Masters Series*, Emirates proudly champions exceptional local and international talent, with a special focus on the Sydney Symphony's celebrated Chief Conductor, Simone Young AM.

Our partnership with the Orchestra has been underpinned by a shared vision: to create unforgettable journeys and remarkable experiences, and this concert perfectly illustrates our mutual commitment to excellence at the very highest level.

We are delighted by the continuing success of our long-term partnership and trust you will enjoy this marvellous concert.

Barry Brown

Divisional Vice President for Australasia

Emirates



YOUR CONCERT AT A GLANCE

PAUL DUKAS (1865–1935) The Sorcerer's Apprentice (1897)

Dukas' greatest hit is a 12-minute tone-poem based on Goethe's fable of power unleashed by incompetence. Dukas' music deftly depicts the spell cast by the sorcerer's apprentice, and the mayhem that ensue when the boy realises he can't reverse it.

It was composed in 1897, the year that saw the publication of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, the first Boston Marathon and Darwin's highest ever daily rainfall.

Contemporary music included Richard Strauss' *Till Eulenspiegels Iustige Streiche*, Busoni's Violin Concerto and Delius' *Koanga*.



Paul Dukas

PETER ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840–1893) Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op.33

[Fitzenhagen version] (1877)

Tchaikovsky always maintained a great love for the music of the 18th century, and of Mozart's in particular. The 'Rococo Variations' channels the charming, highly ornamented music of the immediate pre-classical period, using a Mozart-sized orchestra. The theme, however, is entirely Tchaikovsky's own.

It premiered in 1877, the year that saw the world's first commercial telephone service, the first Wimbledon Championships and the foundation of the Lutheran mission at Herrmansburg/Ntaria.

Contemporary music included Dvořák's String Quartet No.9, Liszt's *Les jeaux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este* and Saint-Saëns' Samson and Delilah.



Tchaikovsky in 1874. Source: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (file no. LC-USZ62-128254)

IGOR STRAVINSKY (1882-1971) Petrushka (1946 version)

Looking back, Stravinsky described being struck by 'the distinct picture of a puppet, suddenly endowed with life.' The ballet that eventuated tells the story of an ill-fated love triangle among marionettes in a street theatre, surrounded by the sights and sounds of the carnival Fair in St Petersburg.

It premiered in 1911, the year that saw Amundsen commence his expedition to the South Pole, Hiram Bingham's discovery of Machu Picchu, and the establishment of the Australian Capital Territory.

Contemporary music included Sibelius' Fourth Symphony, Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde, and Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*.



Stravinsky c. 1920-25. Source: George Grantham Bain Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (file no. LC-B2-5464-2)

LIONEL BRINGUER conductor

This season Bringuier begins his tenure as Music Director of Orchestre Philharmoniaue Royal de Liège. He has ambitious plans for the orchestra, including expanding its performance repertoire, strengthening its relationship with audiences, and enhancing its national and international reputation. His new appointment in Liège allows him to invite several of his closest musical partners, these include Gautier Capucon. Helene Grimaud and Jean-Yves Thibaudet and to visit international festivals such as the Festival International d'Aix en Provence and Bad Kissingen. Alongside this new role he is Honorary Conductor of Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice in his hometown and in addition to his symphonic work last season. he conducted a production of Carmen at Nice Opera.

For the 2025/26 season, Bringuier's guest engagements include performances with WDR Koln Symphony Orchestra, Sydney and Queensland symphonies, NOSPR Katowice and the Hallé. Additionally, he will return to conduct L'Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine with Victor Julien-Laferrière and Enescu Philharmonic with Gautier Capuçon. Highlights of previous seasons include returns to the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin for a performance at the Beethovenfest Bonn, and to the LA Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, performances with the Tokyo Philharmonic as well as projects with San Diego Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the China National Symphony Orchestra.

Very well-known across Europe and having previously served as Music Director of Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Bringuier has also held posts at Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León in Valladolid, Orchestre de Bretagne and Orchestre de Chambre de Paris. Bringuier's extensive expertise and commitment to the French repertoire have enabled him to curate sophisticated programs that feature not only underperformed works by composers such as Schmitt and Roussel, but also highlight contemporary French composers including Guillaume Connesson, Henri Dutilleux and Eric Tanquy.

Brinquier has cultivated an extensive discography, collaborating with Yuja Wang on a recording of Ravel's Piano Concerto for Deutsche Grammophon as part of a comprehensive cycle of the composer's works. Additional recordings feature Chopin with Nelson Freire and multiple projects in partnership with the Capucon brothers, such as Saint-Saëns with Renaud Capucon and Destination Paris with Gautier Capucon. released in conjunction with the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Brinquier maintains close professional relationships with many of the world's leading instrumentalists, including Lisa Batiashvili, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Yefim Bronfman, Emanuel Ax, Leif Ove Andsnes and Janine Jansen.

Bringuier comes from a family of musicians and studied cello and conducting at the Conservatoire de Paris, winning the prestigious International Besançon Competition for Young Conductors only a year after graduating. He cares passionately about education, outreach, and developing the careers of emerging conductors and soloists. In September 2020 he served on the jury of La Maestra, the first international conducting competition for women, and continues to work with local schools in his hometown of Nice to introduce children to classical music and orchestral experiences.

Bringuier was named a Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite by the French government and has been lauded with the Médaille d'or à l'unanimité avec les félicitations du jury à l'Académie Prince Rainier III de Monaco and the Médaille d'or from the City of Nice.



Photo by Simon Pauly

DANIEL MÜLLER-SCHOTT cello

Daniel Müller-Schott is one of the most soughtafter cellists in the world today and can be heard on all international concert stages. For many years he has been enchanting audiences as an ambassador for classical music, playing with the world's leading Orchestras and Conductors, as well as forming bridges between music, literature, and the visual arts. The *New York Times* refers to his 'intensive expressiveness' and describes him as a 'fearless player with technique to burn'.

Highlights of Müller-Schott's 2025/26 season include Elgar's Cello Concerto with the London Symphony Orchestra under Antonio Pappano and the chamber music evening at New York's Carnegie Hall together with Maxim Vengerov and Friends; with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra/Jun Märkl, with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra/ Danielle Rustoni and as part of the Kissinger Sommer with the Czech Philharmonic/ Dalia Stasevska.

Müller-Schott will give an extensive tour of concerts in Asia, Australia and New Zealand, playing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra/ Lionel Bringuier, Auckland Philharmonia/ Giovanni Bellincampi, Tasmanian Symphony/ Eivind Aadland and Adelaide Symphony Orchestra/Mark Wigglesworth. In January, Müller-Schott will be heard in Taiwan in Paul Huang's chamber music series and with the NSO National Symphony Orchestra/ Jun Märkl. He is touring Asia with the WDR Symphony Orchestra/Andris Poga with opening concerts in the Cologne Philharmonic and in the Bielefeld Rudolf-Oetker-Halle. The Vevey Spring Classic Festival, which Daniel Müller-Schott founded together with conductor Wilson Hermanto, will enter its fifth edition in 2026.

Müller-Schott not only performs cello concertos from the Baroque to the modern era but is also keen to discover unknown works for the expansion of the cello repertoire through his own arrangements and collaboration with the composers of our time. George Alexander Albrecht, Sir André Previn and Peter Ruzicka have dedicated cello concertos to him.

Müller-Schott's artistic credo is to create a higher intensity of perception between music, visual arts, and literature. He gives introductions to the background of the music and the composers and has written many of his CD booklet texts. At his festival in Vevey, he initiated

a Bach project with dance to visually translate the music. The cellist has developed a great affinity for the visual arts, especially for French paintings of the 19th century.

Müller-Schott is regularly invited to international music festivals. In his chamber music concerts, Daniel Müller-Schott works with Kit Armstrong, Renaud Capuçon, Veronika Eberle, Julia Fischer, Janine Jansen, Sabine Meyer, Nils Mönkemeyer, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Francesco Piemontesi, Emmanuel Tjeknavorian, Simon Trpčeski and with the Modigliani, the Aris, and Ebène Ouartets, among others.

Müller-Schott has been involved in the Rhapsody in School project for many years and regularly gives master classes worldwide.

In a career spanning over thirty years, Müller-Schott has produced an impressive discography, which have been honoured with numerous international awards. Next year Müller-Schott will release works by the Baroque masters Boccherini, Geminiani, Vivaldi and Bach on ORFEO International and all streaming platforms.

Müller-Schott studied under Walter Nothas, Heinrich Schiff, and Steven Isserlis. He was supported personally by Anne-Sophie Mutter and received the Aida Stucki Prize as well as the private tuition under Mstislav Rostropovich. At the age of fifteen, Daniel Müller-Schott won the first prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians in 1992 in Moscow, which launched his solo career.

Daniel Müller-Schott plays the "Ex Shapiro" Matteo Goffriller cello, made in Venice in 1727.



Photo by Uwe Arens

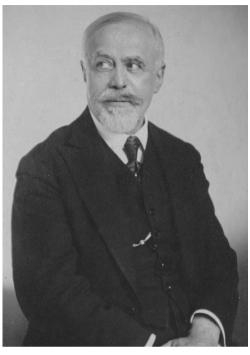
ABOUT PAUL DUKAS

Chances are that you haven't seen or maybe even heard Dukas' ballet *La Pèri*, but you would almost certainly recognise the thrilling brass fanfare with which the piece begins.

Dukas' posthumous reputation is a little like that: we know one or two works – well, one – that show his mastery of compositional technique, a fluent and attractive invention, and a personal style which is not overly beholden to any school or aesthetic movement. But his output overall is not well-known.

It's partly his own fault: Dukas was intensely self-critical and published a slim catalogue, but still – the transparent and rich scoring of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* is a feature of such works as *La Pèri* and his opera *Ariane* et *Barbe-Bleue*; his ability to combine a deep love of the music of the past with sounds of more modern provenance is found everywhere in his work, notably two substantive piano pieces, a Sonata and the *Variations, Interlude* et *Final sur une thème de Rameau* which gained him acclaim in his lifetime, and his single Symphony.

Dukas was born into comfortable circumstances in Paris, and studied at the Paris Conservatoire from 1881, when he was sixteen. At first a career as a virtuoso or academic seemed unlikely (like Ravel he was overlooked for such accolades as the Prix de Rome) and he made his name as a freelance critic, notably with an influential account of Gustav Mahler's performances of Wagner's Ring Cycle in London in 1892. He was also an esteemed editor of early music, notably that of the Baroque master Jean-Philippe Rameau.



Paul Dukas

The previous year Dukas' Overture *Polyeucte* had been premiered to much acclaim at the Concérts Lamoureux, and in 1897 he produced the work for which he is universally remembered. The opera *Ariane et Barbe-Bleue* followed in 1907 (Dukas' use of a play by Maurice Maeterlinck led to some tension between him and the followers of his friend, Debussy, whose *Pelléas et Mélisande* also uses Maeterlinck's work) and is a work of great beauty.

By 1910 his renown was such that he was appointed to the Conservatoire, ultimately taking over the composition class. He taught a Who's Who? of 20th century composers including Olivier Messiaen, Jehan Alain, Maurice Duruflé, Jean Langlais and Carlos Chávez. Despite his demonstrably huge knowledge of technique and repertoire, Dukas wrote little of consequence, apart from La Pèri, in the final decades of his life. And, like Sibelius with whom he is sometimes compared, Dukas is said to have destroyed the scores of a several major works for chamber ensembles, symphony orchestra and the stage.

ABOUT THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

Phillip Sametz writes:

Written in 1897, Dukas' scherzo is based on Goethe's ballad of the same name (in German, *Der Zauberlehrling*), which in turn is derived from a work of the ancient Greek satirist Lucian, *The Lie Fancier*, in which the character Eucrates relates some of his experiences as an apprentice to the magician Pancrates, who has lived in a cave for 23 years, all the while taking instructions in magic from the goddess Isis.

A précis of Goethe's version of the tale prefaces some editions of the score:

The Sorcerer's Apprentice tells of a magician who can transform a broomstick into an animate being and have it perform all his menial tasks for him. The magician's apprentice one day overhears the magic formula with which the broomstick becomes alive and tries to apply it himself in his master's absence. The broom is ordered to bring water from the well. It performs this routine mechanically and efficiently. When the apprentice tires of this game, he wants to transform the water carrier back into a broomstick, but finds that he does not know the necessary formula. The enchanted stick continues to bring in bucket upon bucket of water until the room overflows. The apprentice passes from annoyance to despair. Fortunately, the sorcerer comes home, pronounces the magic words, the broom becomes inanimate, and all is quiet again.

In all his music Dukas is a composer who cares deeply about the integrity of structure, and in *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* he manages to write a formal scherzo and still, with exactness, follow the story of Goethe's narrative. With the first theme we hear – announced softly by the violins – we seem to be present as the apprentice utters his incantations, while with the second (given to the clarinet, then oboe, then flute) we meet the dormant broom, before it begins its spooky activity. These two themes dominate the work, and in various ingenious guises chart our progress through the story. The true musical climax appears at the point

where the desperate apprentice believes he has transformed the broom back to its inactive state once again, after which the 'broom' theme scampers about in an even more feverish manner than it has previously, until the sorcerer returns and summons an imperious calm.

The Sorcerer's Apprentice was already quite well known in the concert hall before Leopold Stokowski conducted it in Walt Disney's animated film Fantasia (1940), and after this it attained a popularity that could not (it seems) be divorced from the image of Mickey Mouse as the apprentice the Disney team had created. The work responded so well to such treatment because of its lucidity and thematic memorability. For all their many beauties, none of Dukas' other pieces seek the immediacy of appeal The Sorcerer's Apprentice attains, and in none does Dukas seek to be illustrative in so openhearted a fashion.

The Sorcerer's Apprentice is scored for piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, bass clarinet, 3 bassoons and contrabassoon; 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 2 cornets and 3 trombones; timpani, percussion, harp and strings.

It was premiered in Paris on May 18 1897, with Dukas conducting the Societe Nationale de Musique.

The Sydney Symphony first performed the piece on 13 April 1939, conducted by Edgar Bainton.

Other notable performances include those led by John Farnsworth Hall (1946), Eugene Goossens (1948), Fernando Previtali (1951), Moshe Atzmon (1970), Willem van Otterloo (1977), Louis Frémaux (1982), Stuart Challender (1987), Mark Elder (1994) and Edo de Waart (1996).

Our most recent performances were in 2013, conducted by Benjamin Northey.

ABOUT PETER ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

Tchaikovsky was born in Votkinsk, in the Urals, where his father was a mining engineer. His musical education began with the orchestrion. a mechanical contraption that played popular operatic excerpts. He also began piano lessons in 1845. The family moved to St Petersburg in 1852, where Tchaikovsky attended the School of Jurisprudence. On graduating in 1859 he was employed at the Ministry of Justice, but attended classes run by the Russian Musical Society. Under the leadership of Anton Rubinstein, the Society founded the St Petersburg Conservatory in 1862, and Tchaikovsky enrolled in its first class, with Rubinstein as his composition teacher. After three years there, Tchaikovsky was invited by Rubinstein's equally illustrious brother, Nikolai, to teach harmony for the Moscow branch of the Russian Musical Society, which would soon become the Moscow Conservatory.

Around 1868 he became, briefly, quite friendly with the group of composers known as the Kuchka ('The Five' or 'Mighty Handful'), led by Mily Balakirev. Balakirev believed that Russian composers should create distinctly Russian music, unpolluted by the techniques of Western composition. But although Tchaikovsky had used some traditional melodies he was an internationalist at heart, and by 1877 he had broken with the Five.

Despite being homosexual, Tchaikovsky became engaged to the Belgian soprano Désirée Artôt in 1868. It didn't last.

Tchaikovsky saw no reason not to marry, and in 1877 the hour produced the woman, in the form of Antonina Milyukova, from whom Tchaikovsky received a series of love letters. It didn't last either, with Tchaikovsky abandoning Antonina for his sister's estate at Kamenka in Ukraine. He did at least provide for her in her old age.

A year before the marriage, Tchaikovsky had received a letter from another woman, Nadezhda von Meck, who was a huge fan, but expressly did not want to – and never did – meet Tchaikovsky. She did, however, want to use some of the considerable wealth her railway-tycoon husband had left her to commission new music, and for 14 years



Tchaikovsky in 1874. Source: Library of Congress, Washington, DC (file no. LC-USZ62-128254).

supported Tchaikovsky so that he could give up teaching and concentrate on composition. He and Meck corresponded frequently, offering us an insight into Tchaikovsky's aesthetics and methods.

As symphonist, and great composer for ballet, Tchaikovsky was fêted as far afield as the United States and Britain. In November 1893, days after conducting the premiere of his Sixth Symphony in St Petersburg, he became ill and was treated for cholera which was epidemic in the city. The treatment was successful, but Tchaikovsky died of complications.

ABOUT THE ROCOCO VARIATIONS

David Garrett writes:

A nostalgia for the world of the 18th century, thought of as refined, elegant and gently civilised, is never far from the surface in the highly Romantic art of Tchaikovsky, and it was Mozart who symbolised for him the best of the former century. Whatever the term 'rococo' may mean, to Tchaikovsky it meant Mozart. This set of variations is his finest tribute to his idol's art.

In no way does it detract from the success of Tchaikovsky's Variations that the Mozart he emulates contains no turbulent emotions. In short, the Variations are far from the real Mozart. Charming, elegant, deftly written, they are equally gratifying to virtuoso cellists and to audiences. The light and airy accompaniment, which enables the cello to stand out beautifully, is for 18th-century forces: double winds, two horns and strings. Tchaikovsky composed the work in 1876 (shortly before beginning his Fourth Symphony) for a cellist and fellow-professor at the Moscow Conservatorium, Wilhelm Fitzenhagen.

Fitzenhagen had requested a concertolike piece for his recital tours, so it was natural that Tchaikovsky first completed the Variations in a scoring for cello and piano. Before orchestrating it he gave the music to Fitzenhagen, who made changes in the solo part, in places pasting his own versions over Tchaikovsky's. The first performance was of the orchestral version, in November 1877. Tchaikovsky couldn't attend since he had left Russia to recover from his disastrous marriage. Fitzenhagen retained the score, and it was he who passed it on to the publisher, Jurgenson. The cello and piano version was the first to appear in print, in autumn 1878, with substantial alterations which Fitzenhagen claimed were authorised but about which Tchaikovsky complained somewhat bitterly.

But by the time Jurgenson came to publish the *Rococo Variations* in orchestral form, ten years had elapsed, during which Fitzenhagen had performed the work successfully both inside and outside Russia, and it had entered the repertoire. When Fitzenhagen's pupil, Anatoly Brandukov, asked Tchaikovsky what he was going to do about Jurgenson's

publication of the Fitzenhagen version, the composer replied, 'The devil take it! Let it stand as it is!'

The theme, which determines the character of the Variations, is Tchaikovsky's own. It has an orchestral postlude, with a final question from the cello. This, increasingly varied, rounds off most of the Variations. The first two of these are fairly closely based on the theme. These are followed by a leisurely slow waltz, the expressive heart of the Variations. In Variation IV, Tchaikovsky gives the theme a different rhythm and incorporates some bravura flourishes. In the fifth variation the flute has the theme, but the cello solo has its most substantial cadenza at the end of this variation which leads into the soulful slow variation, number six. It was this variation that, without fail, drew stormy applause on Fitzenhagen's recital tours.

The final variation begins with the solo part establishing its own particular rhythmic interpretation of the theme, a delightful way of upping the activity, which continues into the coda.

Variations on a Rococo Theme is scored for a reduced orchestra consisting of 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets and 2 bassoons, 2 horns, strings and solo cello.

Wilhelm Fitzenhagen premiered the piece in Moscow on 30 November 1877, with Nikolai Rubinstein conducting.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra first performed the work in October 1955, with Ernst Friedlander the soloist conducted by Eugene Goossens.

Other notable performances include Mstislav Rostropovich conducted by Igor Markevitch (1960), Daniel Shafran/Michael Gielen (1966), Lois Simpson/Joseph Post (1972 Regional Tour to Wollongong, Tamworth and Armidale), Paul Tortelier/Franz-Paul Decker (1980), Howard Penny/Charles Groves (1980), Penny/Decker (1980), Renaud Fontanarosa/Zdeněk Mácal (1983), Valter Dešpalj/Vernon Handley (1986), Li-Wei Qin/Vassily Sinaisky (1999), Han-Na Chang/Lorin Maazel (2000), Catherine Hewgill/Dene Olding (2010), Narek Hakhnazaryan/Oleg Caetani (2016) and Gautier Capuçon/Vladimir Ashkenazy (2018).

Our most recent performance was in Aalborg, Denmark on our 2018 International Tour, with Andreas Brantelid conducted by David Robertson.

ABOUT IGOR STRAVINSKY

Born into a St Petersburg family in 1882, Stravinsky established his reputation with three ballet scores that he wrote for the Paris seasons of Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, and which mine certain aspects of traditional Russian culture

In 1909 Stravinsky had met Diaghilev, who commissioned orchestrations of Chopin for a ballet by Mikhail Fokine; then, Diaghilev commissioned *The Firebird* and the two subsequent ballets. Stravinsky commuted between Russia and the French capital until 1914, but from then until 1920 lived in exile in Switzerland.

The early 'Russian' period concludes, more or less around 1917, when the composer whom Debussy affectionately called 'my young savage' had reached a creative impasse and had begun to look elsewhere for inspiration. With the end of the First World War, Diaghilev was keen to resume performances in Paris, and asked Stravinsky to compose a new ballet based on works (wrongly) attributed to 18th-century composer, Pergolesi. *Pulcinella*, ushers in the 30-year period that produced those works generally labelled 'neoclassical'.

Stravinsky stayed in Paris until the late 1930s. He paid homage to the Greek god most associated with 'classicism' in the 1928 ballet *Apollon musagète*, and explored the world of 'classical' mythology in the opera/oratorio *Oedipus Rex* the previous year. His revived Christian faith contributes to the *Symphony of Psalms*, written 'to the glory of God and for the Boston Symphony Orchestra' in 1930.

The mid-1930s saw the composition of his Violin Concerto and the ballet *Jeu de cartes*, and at this time Stravinsky made an increasing number of visits to the United States for concerts and lectures. A new life in the United States beckoned, and the last work he completed in Europe was the American Baroque *Dumbarton Oaks*.



Stravinsky c.1920-25. Source: George Grantham Bain Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, DC (file no. LC-B2-5464-2).

Stravinsky spent much time conducting his own work on tour, increasingly aided by Robert Craft, who would become an indispensable assistant. The largest, and concluding, work of the neo-classical period, written with librettists W H Auden and Chester Kallman, was *The Rake's Progress* (completed in 1951), a neo-Mozartian opera set in the hell of 18th century London as seen in the paintings of William Hogarth. His 1928 ballet, *The Fairy's Kiss* is a love affair with the music of Tchaikovsky, where the identity of the two composers fuses so perfectly that it is often hard to tell who is arranging whom.

After the 1951 death of Arnold Schoenberg, Stravinsky began to explore the musical system of what had always seemed the rival camp. Twelve-note serial techniques emerge in parts of such works as the completely abstract ballet *Agon*, and the *Canticum sacrum*, written for St Mark's, Venice; from *Threni* of 1958, serial method underpins whole works.

ABOUT PETRUSHKA

Petrushka, the second of Stravinsky's ballets for Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets russes, began life as a 'burlesque' for piano and orchestra called Petrushka's Cry. Stravinsky later wrote:

I had wanted to refresh myself by composing an orchestral piece in which the piano would play the most important part... In composing the music, I had in mind the distinct picture of a puppet, suddenly endowed with life, exasperating the patience of the orchestra with diabolical cascades of arpeggios.

Stravinsky, writing in later life, no doubt used the term 'diabolical', with its suggestion of 'doubleness', advisedly: much of Petrushka's harmony, notably in the inner tableaux, makes use of parallel black- and white-note figures to create a spiky bitonality.

'As a piece of musical architecture, Petrushka's Cry is', according to Stephen Walsh, 'unremarkable', but Diaghilev saw its balletic potential and asked artist Alexandre Benois to draft a scenario based on the Russian version of the puppet known in English as Mr Punch. There is no Judy, however, as the story is in fact derived from the commedia dell'arte tradition with its masked stock characters: Petrushka, a puppet with human emotions, is in love with the Ballerina, who is more attracted to the Moor. What transpired was a work in four tableaux, articulated by circusring drum-rolls, of which the second is the original Petrushka's Cry.

The first presents the Shrovetide Fair in music that immediately announces how much its composer has matured in the short time since The Firebird. In a gesture that looks forward to The Rite of Spring, Stravinsky creates scintillating, active textures that are nonetheless harmonically static, and cuts seeminaly randomly between them to depict the bustle of the fair. Some of the music is derived from street cries and songs of St Petersburg: two organ grinders in the first tableau 'duel' with songs sent to Stravinsky by his friend, Andrei Rimsky-Korsakov. After establishing this busy scene, Stravinsky focuses on the figure of the Charlatan, or Showman, who brings his puppets to life with the sound of the flute. Their 'Russian Dance' was taken from sketches for the work that would become The Rite of Spring.

The second tableau is set in Petrushka's cell, into which the puppet falls as if kicked. After his characteristic black and white motif for clarinets, swarming figurations featuring the piano indicate Petrushka's helplessness and fury at the Ballerina's preference for the dashing Moor. She enters the room, is frightened by his manic attempts to win her over, and leaves.

Things comes to a head in the third tableau, where the Moor seduces the Ballerina in an agile waltz featuring flute and trumpet. Petrushka appears and attacks the Moor but is overpowered and flees.

The final tableau returns us to the Shrovetide Fair, which is suddenly interrupted as Petrushka, still fleeing the Moor, appears and runs across the stage with Moor chasing him, and the Ballerina following. The Moor kills Petrushka. In the appalled silence the Charlatan shakes the body to show the crowd that it is a puppet, but Petrushka's ghost appears above the stage.

In moving to the USA, Stravinsky found that copyright law gave no protection to his European works, so by 1947 he had revised several scores to republish and copyright them, and took the opportunity in *Petrushka* to produce a work for slightly smaller forces than the 1911 original.

Stravinsky's revised score for *Petruska*, published in 1947, is scored for 3 flutes (third doubling piccolo), 2 oboes, cor anglais, 3 clarinets (third doubling bass clarinet), 2 bassoons and contrabassoon; 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones and tuba; timpani, percussion, harp, piano, celeste and strings.

The full ballet premiered in Paris at the Théâtre du Châtelet on 13 June 1911.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra performed Stravinsky's suite from the ballet in March 1944, conducted by Bernard Heinze.

Other notable performances of the various versions include those led by Eugene Goosens (1947, 53, 55), Charles Mackerras (1960), Nicolai Malko (1961), John Hopkins (1962), Moshe Atzmon (1969, 70), Charles Dutoit (1977, 2001), Leif Segerstam (1979), Jukka-Pekka Saraste (1986), Eduardo Mata (1987), Stuart Challender (1988 in Sydney and on our USA tour), Andrew Litton (1991), Edo de Waart (1993), George Pehlivanian (1999) and Lothar Zagrosek (2008).

Our most recent performances were in 2016, led by David Robertson.

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