

THE CAT EMPIRE WITH THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



27–29 August 2026

Sydney Opera House

«SYDNEY»
«SYMPHONY»
«ORCHESTRA»

Emirates

Principal Partner

2026 CONCERT SEASON

THE CAT EMPIRE WITH THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CARLO ANTONIOLI conductor
ROSS IRWIN arranger

THE CAT EMPIRE

FELIX RIEBL lead vocals, guitar
OLLIE MCGILL piano, keys
GRACE BARBE bass, vocals
DANIEL FARRUGIA drum kit
NEDA REHAMNI percussion
LAZARO NUMA trumpet, vocals
ROSS JAMES IRWIN trumpet
KIERAN CONRAU trombone

ARTE KANELA

RICHARD TEDESCO guitar
JOHNNY TEDESCO cajón, dance
CHANTELLE CANO dance

GONDWANA CHOIRS

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR
SYDNEY SYMPHONY SCHOOLS CHOIR
SAM ALLCHURCH chorus master

1. Overture / How to Explain
2. Blood on the Stage
3. Bird in Paradise
4. The Lost Song
5. Candela
6. Ballet
7. Brighter Than Gold
8. Rock'n'Roll

INTERVAL

9. Bulls
10. Devil
10. Two Shoes
11. Owl
12. Be With You Again
13. Miserere
14. Steal The Light

Thursday 27 August, 7pm
Friday 28 August, 7pm
Saturday 29 August, 7pm
Sydney Symphony Presents

Concert Hall,
Sydney Opera House

Estimated duration

The concert will conclude at
approx. 9.30pm, including a
20-minute interval.

Cover image

Photo by Cedric Tang

Audio

Des O'Neil, aFX Global
Louie Michael
Stu Padbury

Lighting

Matthew Jones, Atlas Studios

Stage

Tom Farmer
Mark Hosking
James Ross

We acknowledge the Gadigal
people of the Eora Nation,
the traditional custodians
of the land and water on
which we work and perform.
We pay our respects to their
Elders past and present.

Emirates

Principal Partner

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

THE CAT EMPIRE

For more than two decades, **The Cat Empire** have captivated audiences around the world with their infectious energy, genre-defying sound and unforgettable live performances.

Led by founding members **Felix Riebl** and **Ollie McGill**, the band continues to evolve while celebrating the vibrant spirit, musicianship and connection that have made them one of Australia's most beloved musical exports.

From sold out international tours to acclaimed orchestral collaborations, The Cat Empire's music has always been about bringing people together.

This special performance with Australian national orchestras reimagines their iconic songs with a sweeping new dimension, blending the band's unmistakable rhythms with the power and beauty of a full symphonic sound.

As part of these performances, The Cat Empire will debut a brand-new song from their forthcoming album, offering audiences a first glimpse into the band's next musical chapter.

ROSS IRWIN arranger

Roscoe James Irwin is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger and producer whose genre-defying work has made him one of Australia's most sought-after musical collaborators.

Over his career, Roscoe has worked with artists including Paul Kelly, Vance Joy, Angus and Julia Stone, The Bamboos, Kate Ceberano and Hilltop Hoods, while creating acclaimed orchestral arrangements with leading Australian ensembles.

In 2023, Roscoe composed music for the acclaimed Australian feature film *Late Night with the Devil*, earning an AACTA Award nomination for Best Original Music Score as well as producing and arranging Kate Ceberano and the MSO's ARIA Award-nominated album, *My Life is a Symphony*.

A touring member of The Cat Empire for more than 20 years, Roscoe is a key creative collaborator with the band, co-producing albums including *Where The Angels Fall* and *Bird in Paradise*, and creating the orchestral arrangements featured in their acclaimed performances with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

ARTE KANELA

Formed in Melbourne's Spanish Quarter in 1990 and friends of The Cat Empire since 2003, Arte Kanela Flamenco has become one of Australia's most respected flamenco ensembles, captivating audiences with powerful music, dynamic dance and passionate storytelling.

Led by acclaimed brothers Richard and Johnny Tedesco, alongside dancer Chantelle Cano, Arte Kanela brings together world-class musicianship, intricate rhythms and the raw energy of flamenco in every performance.

Arte Kanela are: **Richard Tedesco** guitar, **Johnny Tedesco** cajon and dancer, and **Chantelle Cano** dancer

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

SAM ALLCHURCH

Sam Allchurch is Associate Artistic Director at Gondwana Choirs, where his work with young people is widely recognised. Sam has a longstanding relationship with Gondwana, having started his musical life as a chorister in Gondwana Voices and the Sydney Children's Choir. He has worked with many of Gondwana Choirs' ensembles, in concerts, collaborations with orchestras and on tour across Australia and around the world. For ten years, he directed the Matthew Doyle Choir, Gondwana's ensemble for tenors and basses.

Sam Allchurch is also Artistic Director of Sydney Chamber Choir and Director of Music at Christ Church St Laurence.

THE SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Over its 35-year history, the Sydney Children's Choir has forged a reputation for artistic innovation and spell-binding performance. Recognised for their crystal-clear sound, their precision and artistry, they possess a courageous and compelling performance style.

The choir has performed at many high-profile events over the decades and has worked with leading ensembles and conductors including Simone Young, David Robertson and Vladimir Ashkenazy. The choir has a long history of performing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, most recently in the premiere performance of William Barton's *Of the Earth*, to celebrate the re-opening of the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

For this performance, the Sydney Children's Choir are joined by members of the Gondwana National Choirs.



Sydney Children's Choir. Photo by Lyn Williams AM.

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

GONDWANA CHOIRS

Lyn Williams AM Artistic Director & Founder

Sam Allchurch Associate Artistic Director

Lachlan Massey Artistic Associate

Peter Ellis Matthew Doyle Choir conductor

Giorgio Abboud	Jacqueline DuBois	Isabella Leong	Millicent Reid-Gallagher
Nicola Allen	Jensen Eckermann	Aojie Liu	Reif Robertson
Kirrily Armstrong	Chloe Evans	Claire Lou	Imogen Samuel
Miles Augustyn	Chloe Farrell	Liam McNamara	Olivia Sekers
Ehryn Bala	Arthur Feng	Aarav Miah	Zachary Sekers
Freddy Beck	Madeline Flannery	Reagan Michalanney	Elana Smith
Axl Beeby	Charlotte Fletcher	Catherine Miller	Eloise Sorensen
Sashko Boubbov	Sarah Fyvie	Dara Minogue	Charlotte Stanhope
Xavier Browne	Poppy Galloway	Abbey Moran	Lina Stolz
Jonatha Bruhl	Francis Gavaghan	James Morris	Shem Tasker-Murphy
Elias Buggy Axton	Estelle Gilmovich	Amina Nafti	Imogen Tencate
Heidi Campbell	Hugo Gilmovich	Mietta Nankervis	Adelaide van Breda
Rachel Carpenter	Sasha Green	Fox Neville	Jesse van Proctor
Clara Chen	Isabel Ruby Hall	Sofia Nicholas	Anna Mariya Varlik
Lynn Chen	Isla Harkin	Poppy Nolan	Rafael Vesentini
Vicky Chernyshova	Amira Hibberd	Lucy Oakes	Ariel Wang
Hector Colls-Doech	Thalia Hilz	Myla O'Keeffe	Sunday Ward
Kiera Cowie	Lara Holburn	Nino Okumushoglu	Isabelle Watts
Jespah Croyley	Felix Hruby	Lachlan Ong	Callum Wherrett
Emmett Daly	Oriana Ikladious	Lucas Ong	Marcel Whitelaw
Iris Davidow	Rafaela Ikladious	Arkie Pearce	Malley Wiggins
Bibi DeBelle Hancock	Yuhansa Jayakody	Violet Pendlebury	Genevieve Williams
Jessica Dibben	Kinja Katona	Mia Peters	Jessica Wong
George Ding	Finley Kaufmann	Thomas Prowse	Sophia Woods
Emily Dingle	Louis Kerbert	Sophie Pugh	Leah Yip
Stirling Donaldson	Herbie Khan	Samuel Pyke	Vithushi Yogavaran
Nicholas Dramitinos	Chun Yee (Hazel) Lam	Alexander Razavi	Olivia Yu
Alexander DuBois	Scout LaMotta	Elizabeth Reid	

SYDNEY SYMPHONY SCHOOLS CHOIR

The Sydney Symphony Schools Choir is a specially assembled choir of students from across Sydney.

Ingrid Acheson	Lilli Drevon	Maya Kaufling	Hope Owen
Zahra Alamgir	Trisha D'Silva	Allegra Kennedy-Scott	Zara Papallo
Beth Alderson	Atticus Duong	Annabelle Kenyon	Chayse Parry
Zeeba Amini	Adeline Earl	Filip Kiraly	Lani Parsons
Lily Andre	Romany Edema	Hannah Koskie	Quin Peiris
Mae Ballard	Thomas Fagan	Ruby Langley	Stephanie Phong
Clea Ballard	Christopher Fernandez	Perri Lawrence	Georgie Porter
Tess Bell-Leemen	Charlotte Frilingos	Stephanie Lawson	Jai Ranby
Alfie Berger	Jamie Gaffney	Yvonne Lee	Sarah Roh
Aisling Blackburn	Eli Gajewski	Parisa Elle	Sophia Saady
Aidan Bolstad	Grace Galvin	Leelathayphawan	Janine Salazar
Liam Boys	Nala Geary Tokalaulevu	Putri Limilia	Sanvi Samal
Maneesha Bradley	Carla Gerber	Elle Lyons	Lea Samuels
Jolie Bryant	Eva Giurtalis	Eimear MacCormac	Sofia Santa
Jasmine Bryson	Madeline Goldie	Ilenia Macri	Teresa Petrova
Evie Butler	Myles Gregory	Charlie McCormack	Tyler Sevil
Allie Butler	Zahara Gregory	Lucy McDonald	Nikita Singh
Lily Carroll	Maya Hall	Lincoln McGown	Ewan Stewart
Gabrielle Chevrot	Jacqueline Heslop	Antigone McKibbin	Jessica Surjadi
Jia-Yu Rachel Chung	Jeremy Hewitt	Charlie McLauchlan	Bianca Tam
Abigail Combs	Iris Hirst	Olivia Meehan	Dracen Tierney-Croke
Arabella Conrad-Martin	Anastasia Ho	Daena Milliss	Vivienne Trabona
Annabelle Coonan	Daphne Hoving	Olivia Morello	Eleanor Wee
Bosse Cordes	Helen Huang	Jordi Nguyen	Ned Williams
Thure Cordes	Finlay Hunton	Tiffany Noun	Sophie Wu
Oliver Cusack	Avalon Hutensky	Emma O'Connor	Marcus Yu
Penelope Dal Pozzo	Eliza Ivkovic Jones	Amelie Officer	Irene Hong Zhang
Elizabeth De Gioia	Isabel Jentschke	Ella Ohnrich	

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

CARLO ANTONIOLI conductor

Carlo Antonioli is one of Australia's most dynamic young conductors, rapidly establishing himself both with the country's leading symphony orchestras and with vibrant, cutting-edge ensembles.

Carlo's recent appearances include concerts with the Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland, Adelaide, Tasmanian, Christchurch and Canberra symphony orchestras, Orchestra Victoria, the Australian, Sydney and Melbourne Youth Orchestras, the Australian Contemporary Opera Company, the Australian National Academy of Music, Ensemble Apex and the Australian Doctors Orchestra. Carlo has collaborated with many notable Australian and international artists, including William Barton, Roderick Williams, Julian Bliss, Katie Noonan, Li-Wei Qin and Sophie Rowell.

The 2025-2026 season sees Carlo returning to the Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras and Orchestra Victoria.

A passionate advocate for new music, Carlo has conducted many world premieres, including for composer development programs with the MSO and AYO. He also recently served as the Associate Conductor on the AYO's 2025 International Tour, preparing the orchestra for David Robertson and conducting in the Musikverein Vienna.

Carlo previously held the positions of Cybec Assistant Conductor at the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Assistant Conductor at the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. In addition to assisting MSO Chief Conductor Jaime Martín and WASO Principal Conductor Asher Fisch, he has assisted many prominent guest conductors in Australia including Vasily Petrenko, Sir Mark Elder, Sir Andrew Davis, Karina Canellakis and Mark Wigglesworth, as well as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Sir Donald Runnicles and Chief Conductor Simone Young at the SSO.

Carlo was one of five conductors selected for the Australian Conducting Academy in 2023-2024, training with all of the Australian state symphony orchestras and Orchestra Victoria. Carlo is a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and is currently the Conducting Fellow at the Royal Academy of Music, London.



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.

PERFORMING IN THIS CONCERT

FIRST VIOLINS

Alexandra Osborne
Associate Concertmaster

Fiona Ziegler
Assistant Concertmaster

Jennifer Booth
Sercan Danis
Claire Herrick
Georges Lentz
Emily Long
Alex Mitchell
Alexander Norton
Benjamin Tjoa
Leone Ziegler
Brian Hong^o

SECOND VIOLINS

Kirsty Hilton
Principal

Marina Marsden
Principal Emeritus

Emma Jezek
Assistant Principal

Emma Hayes
Shuti Huang
Monique Irik
Wendy Kong
Benjamin Li
Nicole Masters
Robert Smith
Maja Verunica

VIOLAS

Lisa Sung*
Guest Principal

Tobias Breider
Principal

Justin Williams
Acting Associate Principal

Rosemary Curtin
Stuart Johnson
Carl Lee
Justine Marsden
Felicity Tsai

CELLOS

Simon Cobcroft
Associate Principal

Kristy Conrau
Fenella Gill
Timothy Nankervis
Elizabeth Neville
Eliza Sdraulig*

DOUBLE BASS

Steven Larson
Acting Principal

Jaane Pallandi
Benjamin Ward
Harry Young^o

FLUTES

Lily Bryant^o
Acting Associate Principal

Carolyn Harris

Kate Lawson^o
Acting Principal Piccolo

CLARINETS

Francesco Celata
Associate Principal
Christopher Tingay

HORNS

Euan Harvey
Acting Principal 3rd Horn

Marnie Sebire
Rachel Silver
Emily Miers^o

TRUMPETS

Simon Sweeney*
Guest Principal

Anthony Heinrichs
Matthew Hyam*

TROMBONES

Nick Byrne
Acting Associate Principal

Jeremy Mazurek^o

Mitchell Nissen*
Guest Principal
Bass Trombone

TUBA

Scott Frankcombe*
Guest Principal

TIMPANI

Mark Robinson
Associate Principal /
Section Percussion

Bold Principal

* Guest Musician

^o Contract Musician

† Sydney Symphony
Fellow