

SYDNEY SYMPHONY FOR SCHOOLS



2026 SEASON

Edition 05/2025

«SYDNEY»
«SYMPHONY»
«ORCHESTRA»

Principal Partner



Welcome to our Sydney Symphony
for Schools 2026 Season – designed
to spark curiosity, creativity and a
lifelong love of music.



We're offering more than ever before – more concerts, more venues and more ways for students and teachers to be inspired by great music.

For our **youngest audiences**, *Ready, Set, Listen!* is a brand-new series for K–2 featuring beloved children's entertainer Emily Who. These playful, engaging concerts introduce students to the building blocks of music through storytelling, movement and interactive fun.

For **primary students**, three concerts in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall explore and unpack orchestral music through storytelling, participation and vibrant live performance. We're also thrilled to bring the full Sydney Symphony experience to the Coliseum Theatre – making access easier for schools across the region.

Secondary students can access some of our most exciting mainstage performances at special schools prices and supported by curriculum-aligned classroom resources.

Meet the Music (Stages 5 & 6) includes ten concerts at the Sydney Opera House, featuring world-class artists and a diverse mix of repertoire directly linked to the NSW Music Syllabus.

New in 2026, *Listen to This* is a series created by Conductor in Residence Benjamin Northey. Part performance, part musical guided tour, music and history come to life through live demonstration, storytelling and discussion.

Students can also experience the inner workings of the Orchestra through our *Open Rehearsals*. Across four unique events, witness the creative process as musicians and conductors shape a performance in real time.

All concerts are supported by our **free Teacher Resource Kits**, offering high-quality materials to help you bring orchestral music into your classroom – whether you're a music specialist or not.

We're also offering **expanded professional learning** through the return of *Tuned Up!*, providing practical tools, creative ideas and confidence to make music an active and inspiring part of students' learning.

We believe in the transformative power of live music. Combined with great teaching, it has the potential to inspire a lifelong connection to creativity and culture. We can't wait to share this journey with you and your students in 2026.



John Nolan
Director of Learning
& Engagement



Benjamin Northey
Conductor in Residence

HOW TO BOOK

It's easy to book tickets to any of our Sydney Symphony for Schools 2026 Season programs – just follow these four simple steps.

1. REQUEST A QUOTE

Scan the QR code below or go to **sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com/schools** and complete the online form with an approximation of the number of students and teachers attending.



2. YOUR PRICE QUOTE

A quote will be generated and sent to you by email. We will aim to contact you within 5 business days.

3. PAYMENT OPTIONS

Using your booking number issued as reference, you can deposit directly into our nominated bank account, send a cheque or pay by credit card. Details will be on the invoice issued to you.

4. CONFIRM FINAL ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

We understand that final attendance numbers can vary. Changes to your booking can be made no later than 8 weeks prior to the first performance date by emailing **schools@sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com** or calling **(02) 8215 4600**.

For all concert performances, your tickets will be ready for collection at the Box Office of each venue or from the Sydney Symphony representative on arrival.

WHY BOOK IN 2026?

GREAT BENEFITS, SUPPORT AND SAVINGS

NEW SIMPLIFIED PRICING

In 2026 we have simplified our schools pricing and reduced the cost of several key programs, making it even easier for you to bring your students to the Sydney Symphony.

COMPLIMENTARY TEACHERS LOUNGE MEMBERSHIP

To thank you for your important work you are eligible for complimentary membership to the Sydney Symphony's Teachers Lounge program. As a member you'll receive special discounts and offers throughout 2026.

DEDICATED CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM

If you need assistance, you can speak to a dedicated schools program representative. They are here to help with any enquiries and ensure you and your students have the best Sydney Symphony experience.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If your school requires support to attend a Sydney Symphony concert, please contact the Sydney Symphony Customer Relations team at **schools@sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com** to discuss your eligibility for supported access to the available programs.

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FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS



PRICING

Student	\$15
Teacher	1 Teacher Free* for every 15 students
Additional Teacher	\$15*

*For full details and terms visit sydneyphilharmonics.com/terms

READY, SET, LISTEN!

Ready, Set, Listen! is our brand new series of 30-minute concerts specially created for students in K-2 and featuring beloved children's entertainer **Emily Who**.

Each performance centres around a piece of core classical repertoire arranged for a smaller ensemble, specially adapted for young ears and imaginations.

These playful, engaging concerts are packed with musical concepts, introducing students to the building blocks of music through storytelling, movement and interactive fun.

READY, SET, LISTEN! SYMPHONIC DANCES

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS K-2

Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances* combine irresistible rhythms with big, catchy tunes – a perfect introduction to classical music!

Music from:

RACHMANINOV arr. Hansen
Excerpts from *Symphonic Dances*

EMILY WHO presenter
TIM HANSEN arranger

Term 2, Week 2

FRIDAY 1 MAY, 10AM
FRIDAY 1 MAY, 11.30AM
FRIDAY 1 MAY, 1PM

Studio, Sydney Opera House

READY, SET, LISTEN! THE PLANETS

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS K-2

Holst's iconic *The Planets* is one of the best-loved pieces of music ever written. Full of memorable melodies and dramatic moments, you can almost see our solar system spinning around you as you listen.

Music from:

HOLST arr. Hansen *The Planets*

EMILY WHO presenter
TIM HANSEN arranger

Term 4, Week 3

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER, 10AM
FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER, 11.30AM
FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER, 1PM

Studio, Sydney Opera House

Amy Zhou





Anna Lapwood/Nick Rutter



Philharmonia Fantastique/Vulcan Productions

PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 5–8

The Grand Organ is a force unto itself. 10,244 pipes of thunder and clarity, embedded in the walls of the Sydney Opera House.

In this bold program, international sensation Anna Lapwood joins the Sydney Symphony Orchestra to showcase the most epic moments written for organ and orchestra. In Richard Strauss' blazing *Sunrise* from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* and the triumphant finale of Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony her virtuosity proves the extraordinary power of this instrument.

With new music by First Nations composer Adam Manning and surprises to come, this is a concert students won't forget. Bold and buzzing with musical power.

Adam MANNING

Rhythmic Acknowledgment of Country

Richard MILLS New Work

R STRAUSS Thus Spoke Zarathustra: Sunrise

SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No.3, Organ: Finale

ALEXANDER SODDY conductor

ANNA LAPWOOD organ

Term 1, Week 8

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH, 11.30AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

PHILHARMONIA FANTASTIQUE: THE MAKING OF THE ORCHESTRA

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 3–8

What if you could see the sounds of an orchestra? Grammy-winning composer Mason Bates and Oscar-winning animator Gary Rydstrom bring instruments to life in *Philharmonia Fantastique*. In this 25-minute animated film, students take a magical journey through the anatomy of an orchestra, where strings pulse, winds flutter, percussion bursts and brass gleams. With each section becoming their own character, this is music like your students have never experienced before.

Guided by Conductor in Residence Benjamin Northey, students will hear and see how sound is shaped and set in motion. Paired with highlights from Holst's *The Planets*, this concert is orchestral brilliance in full colour. Cinematic and simply unforgettable.

Adam MANNING Rhythmic Acknowledgment of Country

Mason BATES Philharmonia Fantastique

HOLST The Planets:

Mars, the Bringer of War

Mercury, the Winged Messenger

Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

Term 2, Week 2

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL, 11.30AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

SOUNDS LIKE IMAGINATION

ORCHESTRAL COLOUR AND STORY

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 3–8

Step into the world of orchestral storytelling with this dynamic, curriculum-linked experience designed especially for students.

In this interactive performance, students will discover how composers use rhythm, texture, instrumentation and movement to create vivid musical worlds. Guided by acclaimed conductor Benjamin Northey, the Orchestra brings to life music that dances, swells and transforms before their eyes and ears.

Through carefully selected works, from sweeping American landscapes to fiery Spanish dances and driving rhythmic build-ups, students will explore how orchestral music communicates emotion, energy and narrative without a single word.

COPLAND Appalachian Spring

FALLA The Three-Cornered Hat: Suite No.1

RAVEL Bolero

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor & presenter

Term 2, Week 6

FRIDAY 29 MAY, 11.30AM

Coliseum Theatre

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 3–6

What better way to introduce children to the sounds of the orchestra than Saint-Saëns' beloved *Carnival of the Animals*? With plodding double-bass elephants, pecking piano-and-string hens and graceful cello swans, this piece has all the fun and fascination of a family trip to the zoo.

Alex Turley's *Animalia* adds an Australian twist, weaving familiar sounds of our unique wildlife into a magical companion piece. Students will watch with eagle eyes as our musicians bring each animal to life using their instruments, expertly wrangled by Sydney Symphony Conductor in Residence Benjamin Northey in this captivating concert for primary-aged listeners.

Adam MANNING Rhythmic Acknowledgment of Country

SAINT-SAËNS Carnival of the Animals

Alex TURLEY Animalia

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

THEA ROSSEN presenter

Term 3, Week 8

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, 10AM

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, 12.30PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

SOUNDS LIKE DISCOVERY



LISTEN TO THIS

Listen to This is an evening of musical discovery like no other, hosted by Conductor in Residence Benjamin Northey.

Part performance, part guided tour, these unique concerts offer a behind-the-scenes look at how music by the great composers works. Building on the legacy of Richard Gill and his beloved *Discovery* series, experience live demonstrations of the music paired with thoughtful commentary and conversation.

Held at the Sydney Opera House, with no interval and a dynamic, engaging format, *Listen to This* is designed for curious minds – whether you're discovering classical music for the very first time, or finding out what makes your favourite pieces tick.

PRICING

Student	\$15
Teacher	1 Teacher Free* for every 15 students
Additional Teacher	\$15*

*For full details and terms visit sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com/terms

LISTEN TO THIS: DISCOVER TCHAIKOVSKY

TCHAIKOVSKY'S FIFTH SYMPHONY

TOPIC AREAS: 19TH CENTURY MUSIC

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony is one of his most powerful creations, famous for its cyclical theme. It opens in restraint with a mournful clarinet melody, shadowed by the strings. By the time we reach the finale that tragic opening theme returns transformed, now defiant.

Take a closer look at this magnificent work and explore musical motifs and composing techniques that make this symphony – and its composer – so special.

Program to include:
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No.5
BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

Term 1, Week 7
TUESDAY 10 MARCH, 7PM
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

LISTEN TO THIS: DISCOVER ELGAR

ELGAR'S CELLO CONCERTO

TOPIC AREAS: MUSIC 1900–1945

Edward Elgar's Cello Concerto is a powerful, poignant work, written in the aftermath of the First World War. It grabs you right from its famous opening chords, which seem to cry out in search of compassion, understanding – any shred of human kindness – before taking you on a journey of extraordinary emotion.

Learn more about Elgar and music at the dawn of the 20th century, and examine the influence this work has had on the century of music that has followed it.

Program to include:
ELGAR Cello Concerto
BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

Term 2, Week 11
TUESDAY 30 JUNE, 7PM
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

LISTEN TO THIS: DISCOVER BEETHOVEN

BEETHOVEN'S SEVENTH SYMPHONY

TOPIC AREAS: 19TH CENTURY MUSIC

Few figures have had a greater influence on the world, and especially on music, than Ludwig van Beethoven. He expanded the emotional canvas available to composers, writing bigger and grander and more impactful music than anyone had before – and that very few have attempted since.

Beethoven considered his Seventh Symphony one of his best works and it's not hard to see why. With irrepressible rhythms, solemn beauty and breathtaking dynamics, this is music that aims to make an impact – and it delivers.

Program to include:
BEETHOVEN Symphony No.7
BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

Term 3, Week 9
TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER, 7PM
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

OPEN REHEARSALS

Our Open Rehearsals invite students into the heart of the Sydney Symphony's creative process.

These sessions offer a unique opportunity to observe how a conductor shapes the music with the Orchestra and how musicians collaborate to bring a performance to life.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2026

In 2026, our Open Rehearsals are evolving to provide even deeper insight. We've selected rehearsals earlier in the preparation process, giving students the chance to witness more interaction and artistic development as the music comes together.

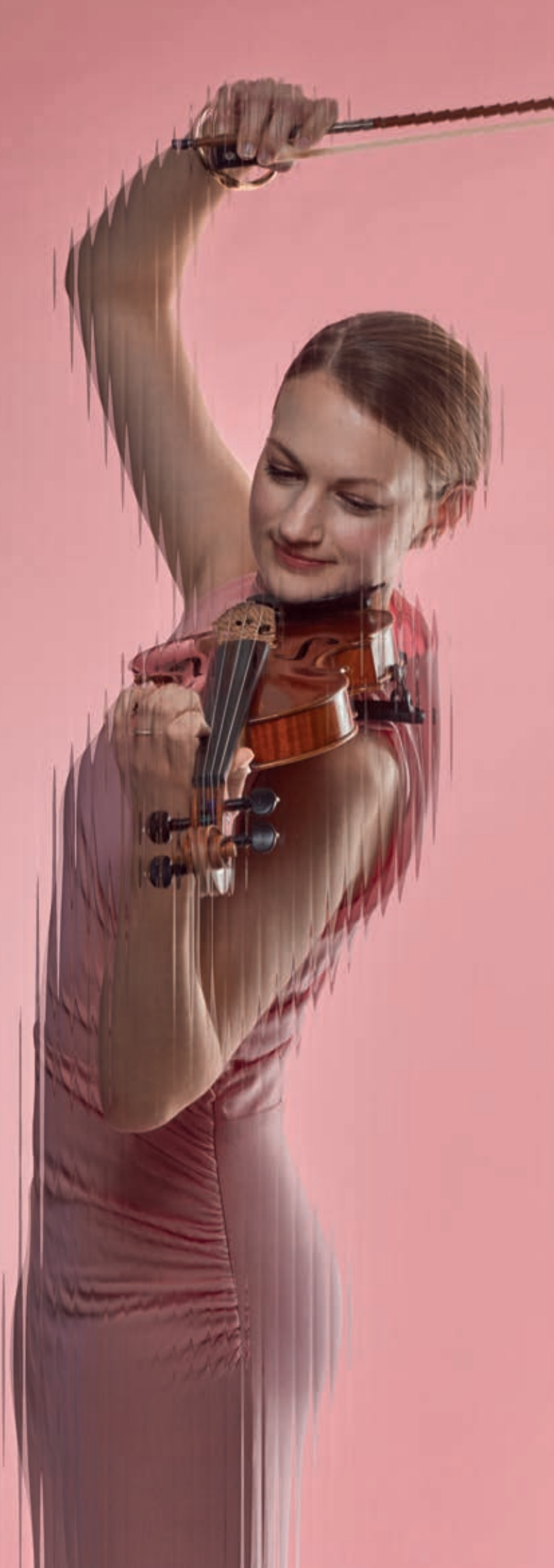
To better fit within the school day, Open Rehearsals will now run for no more than 90 minutes. This more compact format offers a focused and enriching experience – and to reflect this we have reduced prices from \$25 to \$15 per student.

Please note that these rehearsals may not always include specific repertoire or appearances by guest soloists.

PRICING

Student	\$15
Teacher	1 Teacher Free* for every 15 students
Additional Teacher	\$15*

*For full details and terms visit sydneysymphony.com/terms





OPEN REHEARSAL WITH NICHOLAS CARTER

Possible repertoire to include:

BRITTEN Peter Grimes: Four Sea Interludes

RACHMANINOV Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

DEMESSIEUX Poème

DEBUSSY La Mer

NICHOLAS CARTER conductor

ALEXANDER GAVRYLYUK piano

Please note this is a working rehearsal

Repertoire and duration are at the discretion of the conductor

Term 2, Week 4

TUESDAY 12 MAY, 10AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



OPEN REHEARSAL WITH ANJA BIHLMAIER

Possible repertoire to include:

Melody EÖTVÖS The Saqqara Bird

SCHUMANN Cello Concerto

BEETHOVEN Symphony No.5

ANJA BIHLMAIER conductor

IVAN KARIZNA cello

Please note this is a working rehearsal

Repertoire and duration are at the discretion of the conductor

Term 2, Week 9

TUESDAY 16 JUNE, 10AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



OPEN REHEARSAL WITH SIMONE YOUNG

Possible repertoire to include:

ELGAR Cello Concerto

R STRAUSS An Alpine Symphony

SIMONE YOUNG conductor

SHEKU KANNEH-MASON cello

Please note this is a working rehearsal

Repertoire and duration are at the discretion of the conductor

Term 3, Week 2

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY, 10AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



OPEN REHEARSAL WITH FABIEN GABEL

Possible repertoire to include:

BERLIOZ Beatrice and Benedict: Overture

HK GRUBER Aerial (Trumpet Concerto)

R STRAUSS Der Rosenkavalier: Suite

RAVEL La Valse

FABIEN GABEL conductor

HÅKAN HARDENBERGER trumpet

Please note this is a working rehearsal

Repertoire and duration are at the discretion of the conductor

Term 3, Week 4

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST, 10AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

MEET THE MUSIC

A VARIETY OF INSPIRING MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

In 2026, there are ten Meet the Music concerts covering a range of teaching topics, with a variety of repertoire to choose from and amazing international guest artists for your students to experience – all taking place in the world-class Sydney Opera House Concert Hall and supported by our free Teacher Resource Kits.

Designed to fit every school's learning program, our Meet the Music series gives your students the chance to experience firsthand what they've explored in the classroom.



María Dueñas/Felix Broede

SAINT-SAËNS' ORGAN SYMPHONY

WITH BRUCH'S FIRST VIOLIN CONCERTO

TOPIC AREAS: 19TH CENTURY MUSIC

When the Grand Organ enters Saint-Saëns' Symphony, the room changes. And with Anna Lapwood at the helm, the experience is all-encompassing and full of character. 140 years since it first premiered in London, the thrill of this work remains.

Bruch's First Violin Concerto begins in shadow and discovers light. Just 22 years old, breakthrough violinist María Dueñas draws out its drama with finely tuned articulation and expressive depth. *New York Classical Review* praises her 'impeccable technique and the variety of colours she draws from her instrument'.

Conductor Alexander Soddy traces a luminous arc between these two Romantic landscapes with striking clarity and flair. From the glowing intimacy of Bruch to Saint-Saëns' blazing finale, this is one of the most exciting programs of the season.

BRUCH Violin Concerto No.1
SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No.3, Organ

ALEXANDER SODDY conductor
MARÍA DUEÑAS violin
ANNA LAPWOOD organ

Term 1, Week 8

THURSDAY 19 MARCH, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

PRICING

Student	\$25
Teacher	1 Teacher Free* for every 15 students
Additional Teacher	\$25*

*For full details and terms visit sydney-symphony.com/terms



Anna Lapwood/Martin Stevens

ANNA LAPWOOD PERFORMS MAX RICHTER

A UNIVERSE OF SOUND

TOPIC AREAS: MUSIC 1900–1945,
MUSIC OF THE LAST 25 YEARS

Anna Lapwood's immense talents have inspired new music for the organ, and in this concert she performs two Australian premieres of new works written for her – Max Richter's *Cosmology* and Kristina Arakelyan's Toccata.

Richter's music comes directly from the heart; his compositions feel both vast and intimately personal. Co-commissioned by the Sydney Symphony, his concerto for organ and choir glows with slow-building harmonies, while Arakelyan's bold Toccata is a vivid and driving work full of rhythmic fire.

Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra surges with colour and invention, weaving together unexpected instrumental combinations. Eerie nocturnes, playful twists and blazing climaxes reveal the Orchestra's astonishing range.

Kristina ARAKELYAN

Toccata [AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE](#)

Max RICHTER

Cosmology
(Concerto for Organ, Orchestra and Choir)
[AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE](#)

BARTÓK

Concerto for Orchestra

ANDRÉ DE RIDDER conductor

ANNA LAPWOOD organ

SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS

Term 1, Week 9

THURSDAY 26 MARCH, 1.30PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



The Planets/Supplied

SYMPHONIC CINEMA: THE PLANETS

REBECCA LAGOS
PERFORMS WESTLAKE

TOPIC AREAS: MUSIC 1900–1945,
MUSIC OF THE LAST 25 YEARS
(AUSTRALIAN FOCUS)

In this world premiere presentation, a captivating silent film by Dutch director Lucas van Woerkum is paired with Holst's *The Planets* to explore the vastness of the cosmos and the intimacy of human experience. Van Woerkum performs as cinema soloist, matching his film in real time to the Orchestra's performance of Holst's celestial masterpiece.

Australian composer Nigel Westlake's music is equally as striking, especially his concerto written for our Principal Percussion Rebecca Lagos. Join us for an entertaining journey through space and time.

IVES The Unanswered Question

Nigel WESTLAKE

When the Clock Strikes Me
(Percussion Concerto, revised 2025)

[AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE](#)

HOLST The Planets

(with Symphonic Cinema) [WORLD PREMIERE](#)

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

REBECCA LAGOS percussion

LUCAS VAN WOERKUM

director, Symphonic Cinema

SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS

EMMA THOMPSON & GREG WISE

actors on film

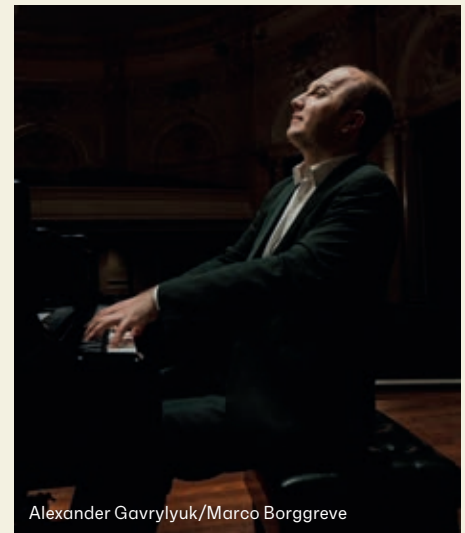
ARTS UMBRELLA VANCOUVER

dancers on film

Term 2, Week 2

FRIDAY 1 MAY, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Alexander Gavrylyuk/Marco Borggreve

ALEXANDER GAVRYLYUK PERFORMS RACHMANINOV

AN OCEAN OF SOUND

TOPIC AREAS: 19TH CENTURY MUSIC,
MUSIC 1900–1945,
MUSIC 1945 TO MUSIC 25 YEARS AGO

'A virtuoso in the fullest sense,' (Gramophone) pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk dazzles in Rachmaninov's notoriously difficult *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. Just wait for the moment where Rachmaninov flips the melody upside down to reveal an angelic tune hiding underneath the devilish original.

This program draws inspiration from the ocean: Britten's *Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes* present an unforgiving antagonist; Debussy's *La Mer* depicts a world of enchantment, and in its Australian premiere, *Poème* by Jeanne Demessieux plumbs the still depths of the sea.

Acclaimed Australian conductor Nicholas Carter returns home from triumphs in Europe and America to lead this program of oceanic contrasts.

BRITTEN Four Sea Interludes

RACHMANINOV

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

DEMESSIEUX *Poème* [AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE](#)

DEBUSSY La Mer

NICHOLAS CARTER conductor

ALEXANDER GAVRYLYUK piano

Term 2, Week 4

THURSDAY 14 MAY, 1.30PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Andrey Boreyko/Jakub Siemiączko

STRAVINSKY'S THE FIREBIRD

FAIRYTALES COME TO LIFE

TOPIC AREAS: MUSIC 1900–1945

Stravinsky's *Firebird* bursts off the stage in a riot of colour and sound. Opening in shadow and ending in a spellbinding blaze, very few works capture the magic of folk storytelling with such vibrant power.

Paired with Liadov's hair-raising *Kikimora*, these are works connected by bold musical storytelling.

Conductor Andrey Boreyko brings rare fluency and understanding to this music: *Bachtrack* praises him as 'a commanding presence, thrilling and enthralling in equal measure'. He doesn't just interpret it, he embodies it.

LIADOV *Kikimora*
STRAVINSKY

The Firebird (complete 1910 version)

ANDREY BOREYKO conductor

Term 2, Week 8

THURSDAY 11 JUNE, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Anja Bihlmaier/Nikolaj Lund

BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY

WITH SCHUMANN'S
CELLO CONCERTO

TOPIC AREAS: MUSIC OF THE LAST
25 YEARS (AUSTRALIAN FOCUS),
19TH CENTURY MUSIC

You know the opening. But the real thrill of Beethoven's Fifth comes from the unrelenting momentum that follows. The transition from the third movement's suspended hush into the finale is unforgettable.

Returning after a standout debut, conductor Anja Bihlmaier brings clarity and fire. *Limelight* hailed her 2024 performance as a 'triumph that brought the house down'.

This rich, century-spanning program features Australian composer Melody Eötvös' *The Saqqara Bird*, a modern work of drifting forms and flickering light. Rising star Ivan Karizna brings warmth and poise to every moment, from its melancholy opening to its playful finale.

From quiet revelation to enduring power, this program serves as a reminder that music can, and always will, lift us into the light.

Melody EÖTVÖS *The Saqqara Bird*
SCHUMANN Cello Concerto
BEETHOVEN Symphony No.5

ANJA BIHLMAIER conductor
IVAN KARIZNA cello

Term 2, Week 9

THURSDAY 18 JUNE, 1.30PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Sheku Kanneh-Mason/Mahaneela

SIMONE YOUNG & SHEKU KANNEH-MASON

ELGAR'S CELLO CONCERTO

TOPIC AREAS: MUSIC 1900–1945

Sheku Kanneh-Mason catapulted to stardom after his performance at the royal wedding of Harry and Meghan. But it's his superb musicianship that has led him to work with the world's greatest orchestras and conductors, including our own Chief Conductor Simone Young.

Now it is Sydney's turn to experience this young star, performing Elgar's beloved Cello Concerto.

Another artist in her element, Simone Young demonstrates her mastery of the music of Richard Strauss in the vast *An Alpine Symphony*. Experience the power of this evocative ascent, from majestic daybreak to triumphant summit, complete with a thunderous storm.

ELGAR Cello Concerto
R STRAUSS An Alpine Symphony

SIMONE YOUNG conductor
SHEKU KANNEH-MASON cello

Term 3, Week 2

THURSDAY 30 JULY, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Lucas Jussen, Arthur Jussen/Marco Borggreve

LUCAS & ARTHUR JUSSEN PERFORM POULENC

WITH STÉPHANE DENÈVE

TOPIC AREAS: MUSIC 1900–1945

Praised by *Gramophone* for their ‘astonishing sensitivity’, Lucas and Arthur Jussen bring their extraordinary musical synchronicity to every phrase of Poulenc’s sparkling Concerto for Two Pianos. It’s the perfect vehicle for their effortless virtuosity.

Led by conductor Stéphane Denève, an audience (and orchestra) favourite, this thrilling program whisks you away to the Eternal City with Respighi’s magical *Pines of Rome*, a glorious orchestral piece that builds to a triumphant march to the Coliseum.

POULENC Concerto for Two Pianos
RESPIGHI Pines of Rome

STÉPHANE DENÈVE conductor
LUCAS JUSSEN piano
ARTHUR JUSSEN piano

Term 3, Week 7

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Umberto Clerici

UMBERTO CLERICI CONDUCTS DVOŘÁK

MUSICAL MEMORIES
OF HOME

TOPIC AREAS: 19TH CENTURY MUSIC,
MUSIC 1945 TO MUSIC 25 YEARS AGO

The music that we hear as children is forever seared into our souls. Conductor Umberto Clerici conducts this richly textured program featuring music by two composers who grew up to conquer the world’s concert halls but who never forgot their roots in rural areas of eastern Europe.

Dvořák’s Eighth Symphony is one of the cheeriest he ever wrote, drawing on the folk music of his native Bohemia to paint a vivid depiction of his people and his homeland. György Ligeti’s *Concert Românesc* was equally inspired by his childhood in Transylvania (now in Romania) and the village bands he heard as a child.

LIGETI Concert Românesc
DVOŘÁK Symphony No.8

UMBERTO CLERICI conductor

Term 3, Week 9

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 11AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Bomsori Kim/Bartek Barczek

BEETHOVEN & TCHAIKOVSKY

DONALD RUNNICKES
& BOMSORI KIM

TOPIC AREAS: 19TH CENTURY MUSIC,
MUSIC OF THE LAST 25 YEARS

Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles brings his vast experience to bear on two of the greatest works in orchestral music in this unmissable concert.

Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto is one of the best-loved in the repertoire. The thrilling climax of the first movement, where the soloist’s runs are picked up by the orchestra, feels like a fire catching. Bomsori Kim, a violinist who is ‘ready for anything: with virtuosity, presence, clarity and a warm, rich tone’ (*Crescendo Magazine*), makes her Sydney debut.

Beethoven’s stirring Seventh Symphony is known for its lively rhythms and catchy melodies, with a finale that sweeps you up with its irrepressible energy. Much like this program.

Dobrinka TABAKOVA Orpheus’ Comet
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto
BEETHOVEN Symphony No.7

DONALD RUNNICKES conductor
BOMSORI KIM violin

Term 4, Week 1

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER, 1.30PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

SOUNDS LIKE EXPLORATION

STUDENT WORKSHOPS



MEET THE ORGAN WITH ANNA LAPWOOD

Join exciting organist Anna Lapwood for a special hands-on workshop designed to introduce secondary school students to the world of the pipe organ. Whether you're already learning the organ, play piano and are curious about the instrument, or simply want to discover something new, this workshop offers a rare opportunity to explore the organ up close with one of its most inspiring champions.

Applications open in Term 4, 2025

FRIDAY 20 MARCH, 10am–12.30pm

Christ Church Saint Lawrence, Sydney

Student \$60

PLAYERLINK

Three days of nothing but music. The ultimate immersive musical experience for young talent, *Playerlink* brings together aspiring music students from across NSW for a series of masterclasses and workshops led by Sydney Symphony musicians.

Playerlink helps students take their skills up a notch in a fun and engaging way. Learn what it takes to perform like a professional, whilst being a part of some great music experiences.

Applications open in Term 1, 2026

FRIDAY 19 – SUNDAY 21 JUNE

New England Conservatorium of Music, Armidale

Student \$160



JUNIOR STRINGS WORKSHOP

Join the string-playing Fellows of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for a fun and inspiring day of music-making designed for young string players at AMEB Level 3–5. Open to violin, viola, cello and double bass students, this workshop offers the chance to play alongside the Fellows and improve ensemble skills in a supportive and energetic setting.

Whether you're looking to grow your confidence, connect with other young musicians, or just enjoy a day immersed in music, this is a fantastic opportunity to learn from some of Australia's brightest emerging professional artists.

Applications open Term 2, 2026

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Venue to be announced

Student \$60

YOUNG MUSICIANS WORKSHOP

Challenge your students to get to grips with a masterpiece by taking a deep dive into the finer elements of a major work. Our Young Musicians Workshop connects students with the talented musicians of the Sydney Symphony and the 2026 Sydney Symphony Fellows in a series of rehearsals, sectionals and masterclasses designed for intermediate and advanced students.

Afterwards, a free concert for family and friends gives your students the chance to showcase their newly acquired skills.

Applications open Term 2, 2026

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER – FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

Venue to be announced

Student \$160

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

TUNED UP! RETURNS

Join us for *Tuned Up!*, a week-long immersive professional learning experience designed to equip primary teachers with the knowledge, tools and confidence to deliver high-quality music education in their classrooms.

Tuned Up! is built around direct engagement with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and aims to foster meaningful connections between teachers and the world of professional music-making.

Led by leading music educator Kim Waldock, *Tuned Up!* will feature:

- Daily choral sessions
- Hands-on workshops and presentations from guest artists and educators
- Observations and interactions with the musicians of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, giving teachers insight into orchestral rehearsals and performance practices.

Spaces are limited – book now at [sydney-symphony.com/tunedup](https://sydney-symphony.com.au/tunedup)

MONDAY 19 JANUARY – FRIDAY 23 JANUARY

Christ Church Saint Lawrence, Sydney

PRICING

Teacher	\$500
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Cassandra Hannagan



CLASSROOM RESOURCES

INSPIRING STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Designed to link the concert experience to the curriculum, our Teacher Resource Kits offer lesson plans and activities that directly relate to your selected concerts in line with students' Stage and year groups.

These kits are free for all participating teachers and each commissioned kit includes:

- Detailed background information about key works
- New and engaging lesson plans and activities
- Listening guides and exploration notes
- Relevant excerpts from the scores for key works
- Easy online access to recordings for use during lessons

All our Teacher Resource Kits are created by professional music teachers and are designed to deliver targeted and flexible pedagogical approaches relevant to specific educational stages. In addition to these Teacher Resource Kits, you can keep the magic of the Sydney Symphony alive in your classroom using our free on-demand digital resources.

Your 2026 Teacher Resource Kits can be downloaded from our website in advance of your concert.

Find out more at
sydney-symphony.com/teachers-resources

THANK YOU

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The Sydney Symphony Orchestra is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

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2026 SEASON CALENDAR

CONCERT / WORKSHOP	PROGRAM	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
JANUARY								
Tuned Up! p.20	Teacher Workshops	19	20	21	22	23		
TERM 1								
MARCH		M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Listen to This: Discover Tchaikovsky p.11	Listen to This		10					
Pull Out All the Stops p.8	Concerts for Primary Schools			18				
Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony p.14	Meet the Music				19			
Meet the Organ with Anna Lapwood p.18	Student Workshops					20		
Anna Lapwood performs Max Richter p.15	Meet the Music				26			
TERM 2								
APRIL		M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra p.8	Concerts for Primary Schools			29				
MAY		M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Ready, Set, Listen! Symphonic Dances p.7	Ready, Set, Listen!					1		
Symphonic Cinema: The Planets p.15	Meet the Music					1		
Open Rehearsal with Nicholas Carter p.13	Open Rehearsals		12					
Alexander Gavrylyuk performs Rachmaninov p.15	Meet the Music				14			
Orchestral Colour and Story p.9	Concerts for Primary Schools					29		
JUNE		M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Stravinsky's The Firebird p.16	Meet the Music				11			
Open Rehearsal with Anja Bihlmaier p.13	Open Rehearsals		16					
Beethoven's Fifth Symphony p.16	Meet the Music				18			
Playerlink p.18	Student Workshops					19	20	21
Listen to This: Discover Elgar p.11	Listen to This		30					
TERM 3								
JULY		M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Open Rehearsal with Simone Young p.13	Open Rehearsals			29				
Simone Young & Sheku Kanneh-Mason p.16	Meet the Music				30			
AUGUST		M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Open Rehearsal with Fabien Gabel p.13	Open Rehearsals		11					
SEPTEMBER		M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Lucas & Arthur Jussen perform Poulenc p.17	Meet the Music				3			
Carnival of the Animals p.9	Concerts for Primary Schools					11		
Listen to This: Discover Beethoven p.11	Listen to This		15					
Umberto Clerici conducts Dvořák p.17	Meet the Music					18		
Junior Strings Workshop p.19	Student Workshops	28						
Young Musicians Workshop p.19	Student Workshops			30	1	2		
TERM 4								
OCTOBER		M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Beethoven & Tchaikovsky p.17	Meet the Music				15			
Ready, Set, Listen! The Planets p.7	Ready, Set, Listen!					30		

2026 SOUNDS LIKE...

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