

A photograph of an older man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a dark suit, playing a double bass. He is looking down at the instrument with a focused expression. The background is a solid, vibrant yellow. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the man's face and the texture of the instrument.

SYDNEY SYMPHONY FOR SCHOOLS

2027 SEASON

SYDNEY
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Emirates

Principal Partner

WELCOME TO OUR SYDNEY SYMPHONY FOR SCHOOLS 2027 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 our series for K–2 led by leading children's educators and performers. These playful, engaging concerts introduce students to the building blocks of music through storytelling, movement and interactive fun.

For **primary and lower secondary students**, four 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 in Western Sydney – making access easier for schools across the region.

Secondary students can access some of our most exciting mainstage performances at special schools prices along with 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. *Listen to This* is part performance, part musical guided tour, where Conductor in Residence Benjamin Northey brings music and history to life through 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 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 2027.



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 2027 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 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 2027?

Great benefits, support and savings

SIMPLE AFFORDABLE PRICING

We've kept the same reduced prices we introduced in 2026. We've also increased the number of free teacher tickets to one free teacher with every ten students making it 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 2027.

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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READY, SET, LISTEN!

Ready, Set, Listen! is our series of 30-minute concerts specially created for students in Years K–2.

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.

Presenting Partner



PRICING

Student	\$15
Teacher	1 teacher free* for every 10 students
Additional Teacher	\$15

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



SOUNDS LIKE A NEW ADVENTURE

READY, SET, LISTEN! PEER GYNT

Travel through a magical world of devilish trolls and daring adventure. From the glowing sunrise of *Morning Mood* to the racing excitement of *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, Grieg's *Peer Gynt* is a journey through vivid musical scenes and unforgettable melodies.

It's a wonderfully colourful way for young listeners to experience classical music at its most expressive.

Duration: approximately 30 minutes.

GRIEG arr. Hansen
Peer Gynt (excerpts)

EMILY WHO presenter

Term 1, Week 7

FRIDAY 12 MARCH, 10AM

FRIDAY 12 MARCH, 11.30AM

FRIDAY 12 MARCH, 1PM

Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House



READY, SET, LISTEN! PETER AND THE WOLF

Step into Prokofiev's charming musical tale. From the bird's fluttering flute to the wolf's dark brass, you'll meet every colourful character of *Peter and the Wolf* through the orchestra.

It's a playful introduction to the world of classical music, melody and storytelling, packed with adventure and imagination.

Duration: approximately 30 minutes.

PROKOFIEV arr. Speedy-Hutton
Peter and the Wolf (excerpts)

TIM HANSEN presenter

Term 2, Week 1

FRIDAY 30 APRIL, 10AM

FRIDAY 30 APRIL, 11.30AM

FRIDAY 30 APRIL, 1PM

Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

READY, SET, LISTEN! BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY

Da da da DAAAH! Hear the famous four notes that changed the history of music. Beethoven's Fifth bursts with drama and excitement, making it one of the most legendary works ever written.

In this bite-sized concert, young listeners will discover how a small rhythm can power a whole piece of music.

Duration: approximately 30 minutes.

BEETHOVEN
Symphony No.5 (excerpts)

ERICA BYRNE presenter

Term 3, Week 8

FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 10AM

FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 11.30AM

FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 1PM

Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

READY, SET, LISTEN! THE NUTCRACKER

Enter the enchanted dreamscape of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, where dancing sweets, sparkling snow and festive magic come to life.

The Nutcracker glows with memorable melodies, from the graceful *Waltz of the Flowers* to the thrilling *Russian Dance*. This beloved ballet is full of the joy of storytelling – perfect for curious young ears ready to discover the wonder of classical music.

Duration: approximately 30 minutes.

TCHAIKOVSKY arr. Hansen
The Nutcracker (excerpts)

EMILY WHO presenter

Term 4, Week 6

FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER, 10AM

FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER, 11.30AM

FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER, 1PM

Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

SCHOOLS CONCERTS

For older students, two programs 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 Western Sydney, Bathurst, Dubbo, Goulburn and Wagga Wagga – making access easier for schools across New South Wales.

PRICING

Student	\$15
Teacher	1 teacher free* for every 10 students
Additional Teacher	\$15

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



THE FLYING ORCHESTRA

CONCERT HALL,
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Best suited to Years 3–8

Let your spirit soar with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in a program made for curious ears and wide-eyed imaginations.

At its heart is Joseph Twist's *The Flying Orchestra*, inspired by Clare McFadden's book and the universal truth that music is everywhere, carrying the stories of our lives.

This is a lively introduction to the full orchestra, inviting students to listen, imagine and be swept away by the music.

Duration: approximately 50 minutes.

Program to include:

Richard MILLS Snapshots & Stories

Joseph TWIST The Flying Orchestra

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

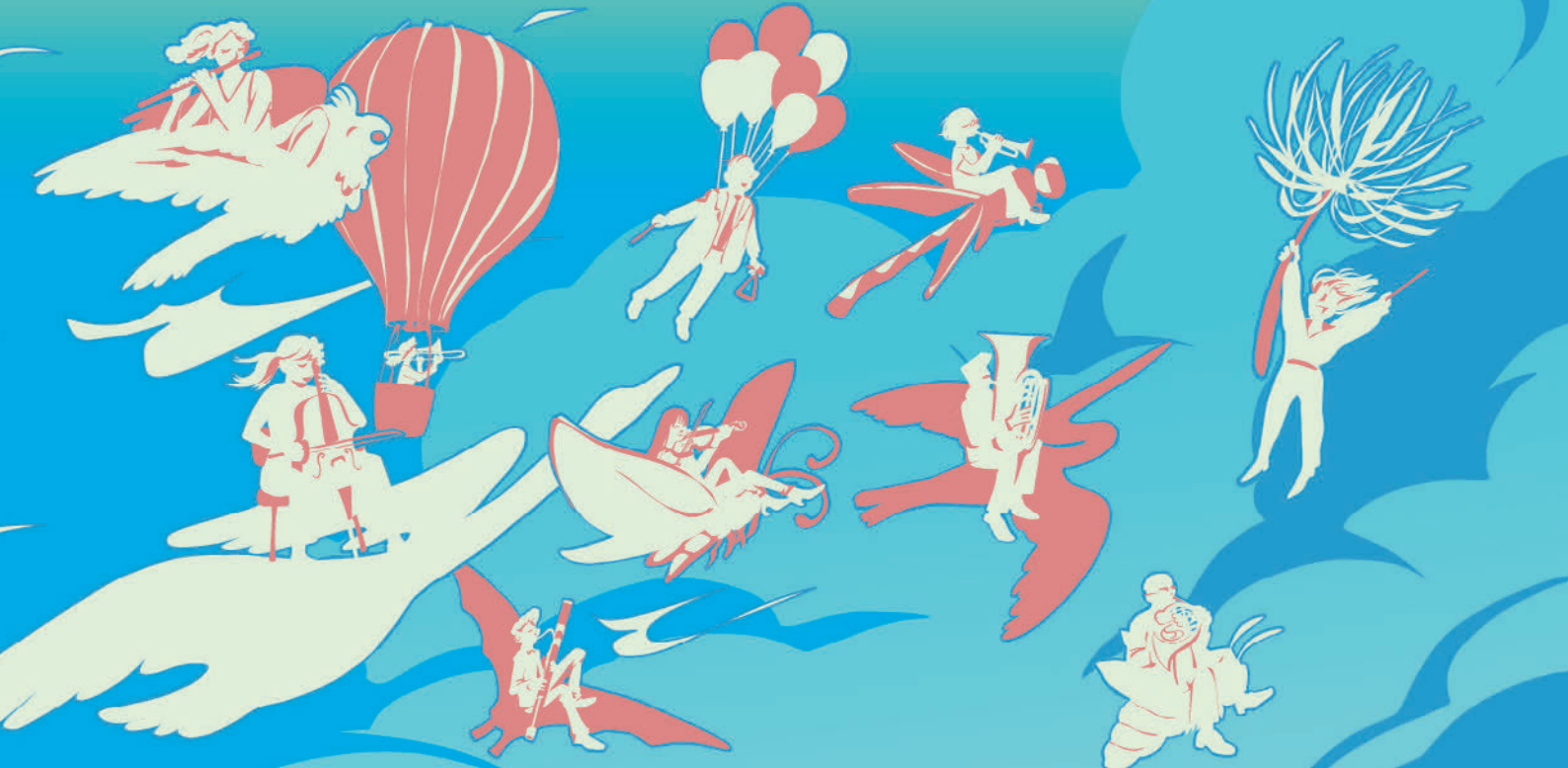
Term 2, Week 3

FRIDAY 14 MAY, 10AM

FRIDAY 14 MAY, 12.30PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

SOUNDS LIKE TAKING FLIGHT



BEETHOVEN & THE FLYING ORCHESTRA

2027 REGIONAL TOUR

Best suited to Years 1–6

Students in Bathurst, Dubbo, Goulburn and Wagga Wagga will have the opportunity to experience the Sydney Symphony Orchestra live in this special schools performance.

At its heart is Joseph Twist's *The Flying Orchestra*, inspired by Clare McFadden's book and the universal truth that music is everywhere, carrying the stories of our lives.

Coupled with excerpts from one of the most iconic pieces of music ever written – Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, made famous by countless movies and TV shows – this is a magical concert not to be missed!

Duration: approximately 50 minutes.

Program to include:

BEETHOVEN Symphony No.5 (excerpts)

Joseph TWIST The Flying Orchestra

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

Term 2, Weeks 1–6

THURSDAY 29 APRIL, 10.30AM

Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre

FRIDAY 30 APRIL, 10.30AM

Dubbo Regional Theatre

THURSDAY 3 JUNE, 10.30AM

Goulburn Performing Arts Centre

FRIDAY 4 JUNE, 10.30AM

Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre

A SYMPHONY OF STORIES

CONCERT HALL, SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Best suited to Years 3–8

In this concert, led by Conductor in Residence Benjamin Northey, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra brings magical tales to life.

Richard Mills's whimsical ballet *Snugglypot & Cuddlepup* beams with colour, character and atmosphere. And the mischievous magic of Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* opens a door into a new, spellbinding adventure.

Part concert, part storybook, this program is a chance to hear how composers paint scenes, shape characters and make stories sing.

Duration: approximately 50 minutes.

Program to include:

Richard MILLS *Snugglypot & Cuddlepup*

Sean O'BOYLE Bear Hunt

MENDELSSOHN

A Midsummer Night's Dream: Overture

DUKAS The Sorcerer's Apprentice

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

Term 3, Week 5

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST, 10AM

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST, 12.30PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

PHILHARMONIA FANTASTIQUE

COLISEUM THEATRE, WESTERN SYDNEY

Best suited to Years 3–8

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra takes students inside the orchestra with this fascinating concert. Made famous by Disney's *Fantasia*, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Paul Dukas revels in the fantastic, with vividly painted storytelling. And *The Space Between Stars* by Sydney composer Ella Macens has fast become an audience favourite, celestial and radiant.

Then, Grammy-winning composer Mason Bates and Oscar-winning animator Gary Rydstrom bring the orchestra to life in a 25-minute animated film with a live soundtrack. In *Philharmonia Fantastique* we journey through the anatomy of an orchestra as strings pulse, winds flutter, percussion bursts and brass gleams. With each section becoming their own character, this is music like you have never experienced before.

Duration: approximately 50 minutes.

DUKAS The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Ella MACENS

The Space Between Stars (excerpt)

Mason BATES Philharmonia Fantastique

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

Term 3, Week 6

FRIDAY 27 AUGUST, 11.30AM

Coliseum Theatre, Western Sydney

LISTEN TO THIS

Best suited to Years 7–12, *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.

All *Listen to This* performances include Auslan interpretation provided by Auslan Stage Left.

Presenting Partner



LISTEN TO THIS: DISCOVER DVOŘÁK

DVOŘÁK'S NEW WORLD SYMPHONY

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Romantic Period

Dvořák's Ninth is one of the best-loved symphonies ever written. Positively jam-packed with memorable melodies and arresting rhythms, it will be playing on a loop in your head for weeks. But what exactly makes it so catchy?

Benjamin Northey walks you through the ways that Dvořák constructed this masterpiece and explains why it has captivated listeners for more than 130 years. Full of fascinating musical Easter eggs with wide-ranging influences from European, African American and Native American musical traditions, it's a work that reveals more and more with every hearing.

But while we can tell you how it works, we can't help you get the tunes out of your head!

Duration: approximately 70 minutes.

With excerpts from
DVOŘÁK Symphony No.9, From the New World

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor/presenter

Term 1, Week 7

TUESDAY 9 MARCH, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

LISTEN TO THIS: DISCOVER BEETHOVEN

BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Classical Period; Music of the Romantic Period

How did Beethoven's Fifth Symphony become one of the most famous works of classical music?

Whether you're an aficionado or completely new to the genre, you'll recognise the opening instantly. Benjamin Northey explores the iconic work, discussing the ideas that make it so compelling, demonstrated by performances from the Orchestra.

From the urgent first movement all the way to the blazing finale, Beethoven's Fifth is a masterclass in momentum and transformation. By the end, you'll see why it remains so powerful more than two centuries after it was written.

Duration: approximately 70 minutes.

With excerpts from
BEETHOVEN Symphony No.5
BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor/presenter

Term 3, Week 2

TUESDAY 27 JULY, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



PRICING

Student	\$25
Teacher	1 teacher free* for every 10 students
Additional Teacher	\$25

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

LISTEN TO THIS: DISCOVER RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

SCHEHERAZADE

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Romantic Period

Step into the thrilling world of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, where every theme tells a story and shifting landscapes are realised in vivid orchestral colour.

Inspired by *The Thousand and One Nights*, *Scheherazade* pulls you onboard Sinbad's rocking ship, where a wandering prince, a love song and a brilliant crashing finale unfold around the Sultan's dark motif and the spellbinding voice of the violin.

Benjamin Northey explores this captivating work, discussing how repetition, variation and orchestration build a piece that's as dramatic as it is beautiful. Rich in atmosphere and filled with unforgettable melodies, this is music to spark your imagination.

Duration: approximately 70 minutes.

With excerpts from
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Scheherazade*

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor/presenter

Term 3, Week 5

TUESDAY 17 AUGUST, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

LISTEN TO THIS: DISCOVER ELGAR

ELGAR'S ENIGMA VARIATIONS

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Romantic Period; Music of the 20th Century

Elgar's *Enigma Variations* capture a wonderfully English paradox – full of emotion, but carefully guarded.

Elgar's masterpiece consists of fourteen musical portraits of his friends and family; as striking as the differences between the short pieces are, Benjamin Northey explains to us how they're held together by a common thread. And the most iconic variation, *Nimrod*, is full of gorgeous, palpable feeling that seems to reach more deeply through its restraint.

But what is the Enigma? That is a mystery that has enthralled us for more than a century. That's the power of Elgar.

Duration: approximately 70 minutes.

With excerpts from
ELGAR *Enigma Variations*

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor/presenter
**MUSICIANS FROM THE SYDNEY CONSERVATORIUM
OF MUSIC, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**

Term 3, Week 9

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

OPEN REHEARSALS

Best suited to Years 7–12, 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.

PRICING

Student	\$15
Teacher	1 teacher free* for every 10 students
Additional Teacher	\$15

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

We've selected rehearsals early 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 compact format offers a focused and enriching experience, and is just \$15 per student.

Please note that the duration of these rehearsals is entirely at the discretion of the conductor, and they may not always include specific repertoire or appearances by guest soloists.



OPEN REHEARSAL WITH PIETARI INKINEN

SHOSTAKOVICH

Symphony No.7, Leningrad

PIETARI INKINEN conductor

Duration: approximately 60-90 minutes subject to rehearsal requirements. Please note repertoire and duration are at the discretion of the conductor.

Term 2, Week 4

TUESDAY 18 MAY, 10AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



OPEN REHEARSAL WITH EVA OLLIKAINEN

Possible repertoire to include:

Elena KATS-CHERNIN Wild Swans: Suite
TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto
SIBELIUS Symphony No.5

EVA OLLIKAINEN conductor

INMO YANG violin

NINA KORBE soprano

Duration: approximately 60-90 minutes subject to rehearsal requirements. Please note repertoire and duration are at the discretion of the conductor.

Term 3, Week 2

THURSDAY 29 JULY, 10AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



OPEN REHEARSAL WITH BENJAMIN NORTHEY

Possible repertoire to include:

Ella MACENS The Space Between Stars
Harry SDRAULIG

Violin Concerto **SYDNEY PREMIERE**

DVOŘÁK

Symphony No.9, From the New World

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

EMILY SUN violin

Duration: approximately 60-90 minutes subject to rehearsal requirements. Please note repertoire and duration are at the discretion of the conductor.

Term 2, Week 7

WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE, 10AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



OPEN REHEARSAL WITH GUSTAVO GIMENO

Possible repertoire to include:

RACHMANINOV Piano Concerto No.2
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV Scheherazade

GUSTAVO GIMENO conductor

BEHZOD ABDURAIMOV piano

Duration: approximately 60-90 minutes subject to rehearsal requirements. Please note repertoire and duration are at the discretion of the conductor.

Term 3, Week 8

TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER, 10AM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

SOUNDS LIKE ROLLING THUNDER

MEET THE MUSIC

A VARIETY OF INSPIRING MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

Best suited for Years 9–12, *Meet the Music* gives students access to mainstage Sydney Symphony concerts at a fraction of the price and supported by high quality learning resources.

In 2027, 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.

Presenting Partner



PRICING

Student	\$25
Teacher	1 teacher free* for every 10 students
Additional Teacher	\$25

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



Donald Runnicles

DONALD RUNNICLES CONDUCTS MAHLER'S FIRST SYMPHONY

SCHUMANN'S PIANO CONCERTO WITH LUKÁŠ VONDRÁČEK

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Romantic Period;
Music of the 20th Century

Mahler's First Symphony begins in near stillness, as if the music is forming as we listen. Then the world opens – birdsong, folk-like dances and heavenly melodies slowly breaking through the dark. It's music that feels born in the moment, shaped by Mahler's imagination as it unfolds.

An expert in Germanic Romantic repertoire, Principal Guest Conductor Sir Donald Runnicles leads Mahler with dramatic instinct, drawing you through its shifting moods and sublime terrain.

Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto brings a different kind of intensity – its striking opening immediately giving way to wistful lyricism. Lukáš Vondráček, hailed for the 'astonishing delicacy' of his tone (*The Washington Post*), navigates its shifting moods with rare sensitivity, holding introspection and momentum in perfect balance.

R SCHUMANN Piano Concerto
MAHLER Symphony No.1

DONALD RUNNICLES conductor
LUKÁŠ VONDRÁČEK piano

Term 2, Week 2

FRIDAY 7 MAY, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

SIMONE YOUNG CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONIES 1, 2 & 3

A BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL WITH SIMONE YOUNG

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Classical Period;
Music of the Romantic Period

These symphonies are where Beethoven found his voice – and changed music forever. The First and Second charm with wit and energy. Then his Third, the *Eroica*, discards the rulebook altogether. Bold, expansive and unmistakably new. From cracking chords to sweeping lyrical melodies, it bends Classical elegance into unrelenting Romantic fire.

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No.1
Symphony No.2
Symphony No.3

SIMONE YOUNG conductor

Term 2, Week 8

WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

SIMONE YOUNG CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONIES 6 & 7

A BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL WITH SIMONE YOUNG

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Classical Period;
Music of the Romantic Period

Calm, restorative and full of movement – Beethoven's Sixth transports you to the natural world. From gentle daybreak to bubbling streams, thundering storms and fresh renewal after rain, it captures all the joy and warmth the countryside brings. Then the Seventh takes over, pulsing with a rhythmic energy Wagner called the 'apotheosis of the dance'. This is a concert where gentle beauty meets unstoppable momentum.

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No.6
Symphony No.7

SIMONE YOUNG conductor

Term 2, Week 9

WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE, 7PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Jean-Guihen Queyras/Marco Borggreve

TCHAIKOVSKY'S SIXTH SYMPHONY

JEAN-GUIHEN QUEYRAS PERFORMS SHOSTAKOVICH

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the 20th Century;
Music of the Romantic Period

Few composers stir our emotions like Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky.

Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony soars directly to the heart, then suddenly falls away into one of the most devastating endings of the repertoire. And in the hands of conductor Joshua Weilerstein, immensely human.

Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto is no less intense, driving forward with restless energy and sharp wit. In his long-awaited Sydney debut, French cellist Jean-Guihen Queyras brings the bite and fierce emotional force Shostakovich demands.

Gideon Klein's *Partita for Strings* is a compelling opener. Written while Klein was interned at Theresienstadt, the music's tensions seem to reflect his anguish.

KLEIN arr. Saudek Partita for Strings
SHOSTAKOVICH Cello Concerto No.1
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No.6, Pathétique

JOSHUA WEILERSTEIN conductor
JEAN-GUIHEN QUEYRAS cello

Term 3, Week 4

THURSDAY 12 AUGUST, 1.30PM

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House





Xavier de Maistre/Nikolaj Lund

GLIÈRE'S HARP CONCERTO

WITH XAVIER DE MAISTRE

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Romantic Period;
Music of the 20th Century

Rarely given the spotlight, the harp becomes the star in this luminous concerto. Steeped in the late Romantic warmth of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov, Glière's music unfolds in long, glowing lines, rich with colour and lyricism. And in the hands of Xavier de Maistre, who 'plays the harp with infinite finesse and much delicacy of colour' (*Gramophone*), it's an unmissable event.

Then Berlioz loses his mind. Magnificently. In *Symphonie fantastique*, we're dropped into the fever dream of a lovesick artist: five movements of opium-induced hallucination, each one stranger than the last. A sensation at its premiere and still thrilling all these years later.

GLIÈRE Harp Concerto
BERLIOZ *Symphonie fantastique*

UMBERTO CLERICI conductor
XAVIER DE MAISTRE harp

Term 3, Week 7

FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 7PM
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

RACHMANINOV'S SECOND PIANO CONCERTO

WITH BEHZOD ABDURAIMOV

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Romantic Period;
Music of the 20th Century

Few concertos announce themselves like Rachmaninov's Second.

In the hands of Behzod Abduraimov, 'the most perfectly accomplished pianist of his generation' (*The Independent*), this is music of vast emotional scale, anchored by melodic richness.

Led by conductor Gustavo Gimeno, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* spins four vivid scenes from *One Thousand and One Nights* into a dazzling orchestral showpiece. Lush, cinematic and endlessly inventive, it remains one of orchestral music's great storytelling spectacles.

RACHMANINOV Piano Concerto No.2
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Scheherazade*

GUSTAVO GIMENO conductor
BEHZOD ABDURAIMOV piano

Term 3, Week 8

THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 1.30PM
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Behzod Abduraimov/Evgeny Eutykhov

INFERNAL DANCES

SCHUBERT & LISZT

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Classical Period;
Music of the Romantic Period

From the heavenly to the hellish, in the space of one concert.

Schubert's Fifth Symphony opens in a burst of pure Classical delight. Bright, fresh and a touch Mozartian, it's alive with a lighter spirit. Cherish it. Because when it ends, we descend...

Liszt's *Totentanz* seizes the ancient hymn for the dead, the *Dies Irae*, and wrings from it something thrillingly macabre. Spine-tingling runs up the keyboard plummet to thunderous brass depths. It's an extraordinary journey that demands an artist like Kirill Gerstein, who 'has the ability to make even the most terrifyingly difficult compositions look like a piece of cake' (*Australian Arts Review*).

After all that, it might take a moment to come back to earth.

SCHUBERT Symphony No.5
LISZT *Totentanz*

FINNEGAN DOWNIE DEAR conductor
KIRILL GERSTEIN piano

Term 3, Week 9

FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER, 11AM
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Finnegan Downie Dear/Supplied



Donald Runnicles/Jay Patel

DONALD RUNNICLES CONDUCTS BRAHMS & MOZART

WITH ANDREW HAVERON
& RICHARD WATERS

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Classical Period;
Music of the Romantic Period

Not just one of the great debut symphonies but a towering achievement of the Romantic era, Brahms laboured over his First for over twenty years, conscious of the long shadow Beethoven had cast. The result was worth the wait. From its brooding opening, the music unfolds with lush lyricism before gathering itself into an extraordinary and triumphant finale, the journey from dark to light complete.

Brahms brings the drama, Mozart the pure delight. His Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola is a grand showcase for two soloists in conversation. Our Concertmaster Andrew Haveron and Principal Viola Richard Waters bring both virtuosity and longstanding musical rapport to one of Mozart's most elegant creations.

MOZART Sinfonia Concertante for Violin & Viola

BRAHMS Symphony No.1

DONALD RUNNICLES conductor
ANDREW HAVERON violin
RICHARD WATERS viola

Term 4, Week 1

THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER, 1.30PM
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

SIMONE YOUNG & PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD

BRAHMS & ROSS EDWARDS

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Romantic Period;
Music of the 21st Century

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, praised by *The Guardian* for his 'astonishing clarity and control', is the perfect artist for Brahms's Second Piano Concerto – a work symphonic in scope which requires a musical architect to carry its weight.

Simone Young leads the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in the world premiere of Ross Edwards's Seventh Symphony – a monumental addition to a body of work that has shaped Australian orchestral music. Written with Young's close involvement, this symphony continues to explore his distinct, rhythmically alive sound world in fresh forms.

Ross EDWARDS

Symphony No.7 **WORLD PREMIERE**
BRAHMS Piano Concerto No.2

SIMONE YOUNG conductor
PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD piano

Term 4, Week 4

FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 7PM
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

SIMONE YOUNG & JAMES EHNES

ELGAR'S ENIGMA VARIATIONS

Focus areas: Music of Western Art Traditions;
Music of the Romantic Period;
Music of the 20th Century

Restraint on the surface, deep feeling underneath. Elgar's *Enigma Variations* is the quintessentially English masterpiece known to move even the stiffest of upper lips. With Simone Young at the helm, the orchestra journeys, variation by glorious variation, toward *Nimrod* – one of the most thrilling moments in the symphonic repertoire.

Sibelius's Violin Concerto approaches from a wilder, more exposed place. In the hands of Canadian violinist James Ehnes – 'a flawless technician and a serious, ever perceptive musician' (*The Guardian*) – it's as elemental as being caught out in a storm.

The concert opens with pioneering English composer Ethel Smyth's *On the Cliffs of Cornwall* – vivid, salt-lashed scene-painting that shares something of Sibelius's feeling for untamed landscape.

SMYTH On the Cliffs of Cornwall
SIBELIUS Violin Concerto
ELGAR Enigma Variations

SIMONE YOUNG conductor
JAMES EHNES violin

Term 4, Week 6

THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER, 1.30PM
Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House



Simone Young/Jay Patel

PLAYERLINK 2027

A statewide orchestral experience for
young musicians aged 9–17
(incorporating *Young Musicians' Workshop*)

Designed for committed young instrumentalists in Years 4–12 (aged 17 years and under), *Playerlink* brings together talented students from across New South Wales for intensive musical experiences led by Sydney Symphony musicians and Fellows.

Whether joining us in Sydney, Wollongong, Wagga Wagga or Coffs Harbour, students develop skills alongside other passionate young musicians from across the state.

At every *Playerlink* Hub, participants engage in full ensemble rehearsals, instrument-specific sectionals, workshops and masterclasses, culminating in an informal performance for family and friends.

Applications for all Playerlink 2027 Hubs open on **1 September 2026**. Applicants should submit one application and indicate their preferred hub or hubs. Applications close separately for each hub, approximately 12 weeks before the program begins.

APPLICATION CLOSING DATES

Wagga Wagga Hub
Friday 11 December 2026

Wollongong Hub
Friday 5 March 2027

Coffs Harbour Hub
Friday 14 May 2027

Sydney Hub
Friday 9 July 2027



Preserve Photography

PLAYERLINK HUBS

VENUE / DATE	PROGRAM ARTISTS	PARTICIPATION FEE
Wagga Wagga Riverina Conservatorium of Music Friday 2 – Sunday 4 April 2027	Musicians of the Sydney Symphony	\$225
Wollongong St Mary's Star of the Sea College Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 May 2027	Sydney Symphony Fellows	\$180
Coffs Harbour Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium Friday 6 – Sunday 8 August 2027	Musicians of the Sydney Symphony	\$225
Sydney (formerly Young Musicians Workshop) St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas Wednesday 29 September – Friday 1 October 2027	Sydney Symphony Fellows	\$270

Why do fees differ between hubs?

The Playerlink experience is consistent across all hubs and includes rehearsals, sectionals, workshops and a final performance.

Program fees vary according to each hub's format, duration, staffing model and delivery costs. Regional hubs are delivered as either 2-day or 2.5-day programs, while the Sydney hub is delivered as a 3-day program. Fees are set to support broad access while reflecting the different requirements of each location.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Playerlink is open to orchestral instrumentalists in Years 4–12 (aged 17 years and under) performing at an intermediate to advanced level on their instrument. Instrument-specific minimum standards and audition requirements will be published when applications open.

Places are available for:

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass
- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Bassoon
- French Horn
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Tuba
- Percussion

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra is committed to ensuring that financial circumstances are not a barrier to participation.

Participants may apply for a fee subsidy of up to 50% of the program fee. Financial assistance applications can be submitted as part of the Playerlink application process.

TEACHERS CONDUCTING MASTERCLASS

After a successful debut in 2025, our Teachers Conducting Masterclass returns to support music teachers to feel more confident and effective when leading their own ensembles.

PRICING

Teacher	\$300
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Purchase your tickets at
sydneysymphony.com

Led by Conductor in Residence Benjamin Northey, the day is designed for teachers who want to develop their conducting technique, communication skills and rehearsal leadership.

The full day masterclass will start with a session with Benjamin Northey on conducting fundamentals, practical technique and approaches to communicating clearly with an ensemble.

In the afternoon, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will join the session. Six selected participants will have the opportunity to conduct the Orchestra and receive feedback, while other attending teachers will observe and learn from the process.

Please note that purchasing a ticket does not guarantee the opportunity to conduct in the masterclass. A selection process for the six conducting participants will take place closer to the date, with further details provided to ticket holders.

This is an ideal opportunity for secondary school teachers who regularly lead advanced school ensembles, as well as those looking to build confidence and practical skills.

MONDAY 19 JULY

Eugene Goossens Hall, ABC Ultimo





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.

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Your 2027 Teacher Resource Kits can be downloaded from our website in advance of your concert. Find out more at sydneysymphony.com/teachers-resources

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2027 SEASON CALENDAR

CONCERT / WORKSHOP		PROGRAM	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
TERM 1	March								
	Listen to This: Discover Dvořák	Listen to This		9					
	Ready, Set, Listen! Peer Gynt	Ready, Set, Listen!					12		
	April								
TERM 2	Playerlink – Wagga Wagga	Playerlink					2	3	4
	Beethoven and the Flying Orchestra – Bathurst	Schools Concerts				29			
	Beethoven and the Flying Orchestra – Dubbo	Schools Concerts					30		
	Ready, Set, Listen! Peter and the Wolf	Ready, Set, Listen!					30		
	May								
	Donald Runnicles conducts Mahler's First Symphony	Meet the Music					7		
	The Flying Orchestra	Schools Concerts					14		
	Open Rehearsal with Pietari Inkinen	Open Rehearsals		18					
	Playerlink – Wollongong	Playerlink						29	30
	June								
	Beethoven and the Flying Orchestra – Goulburn	Schools Concerts				3			
	Beethoven and the Flying Orchestra – Wagga Wagga	Schools Concerts					4		
	Open Rehearsal with Benjamin Northey	Open Rehearsals			9				
	Simone Young conducts Beethoven's Symphonies 1, 2 & 3	Meet the Music			16				
	Simone Young conducts Beethoven's Symphonies 6 & 7	Meet the Music			23				
TERM 3	July								
	Teachers Conducting Masterclass	Teachers Workshops	19						
	Listen to This: Discover Beethoven	Listen to This		27					
	Open Rehearsal with Eva Ollikainen	Open Rehearsals				29			
	August								
	Playerlink – Coffs Harbour	Playerlink					6	7	8
	Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony	Meet the Music				12			
	Listen to This: Discover Rimsky-Korsakov	Listen to This		17					
	A Symphony of Stories	Schools Concerts					20		
	Philharmonia Fantastique	Schools Concerts					27		
	September								
	Glière's Harp Concerto	Meet the Music					3		
	Open Rehearsal with Gustavo Gimeno	Open Rehearsal		7					
	Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto	Meet the Music				9			
	Ready, Set, Listen! Beethoven's Fifth Symphony	Ready, Set, Listen!					10		
	Listen to This: Discover Elgar	Listen to This		14					
	Infernal Dances	Meet the Music					17		
	Playerlink – Sydney	Playerlink			29	30	1		
TERM 4	October								
	Donald Runnicles conducts Brahms & Mozart	Meet the Music				14			
	November								
	Simone Young & Pierre-Laurent Aimard	Meet the Music					5		
	Simone Young & James Ehnes	Meet the Music				18			
	Ready, Set, Listen! The Nutcracker	Ready, Set, Listen!					19		

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