

September 2018 Newsletter of the

ORPHEUS STRINGS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

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www.orpheusstrings.org

The Orpheus Strings Orchestra performs at the
Pat Heffernan Hall of Katoomba Public School, Merriwa Street, Katoomba.
Admission at the door is \$15 full, \$10 pensioners, children free with supervising adult.



Thank you to all audience members who attended the recent ensemble concert. \$1000 was raised for the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group.

PROGRAMME FOR ORPHEUS STRINGS ORCHESTRA CONCERT

SUNDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER at 3:00pm

This will be our annual student concert, featuring local music students as soloists.
Several string students will join the orchestra for the finale of the concert.

Robert FUCHS (1847-1927): Fuchs composed five serenades that were very popular in his lifetime, earning him the nickname, “Serenade Fox”. His **Serenade No 3 Opus 21** was composed in 1877 and dedicated to Elizabeth Habsburg, Empress of Austria. The opening movement is tinged with sadness but the piece brightens with the remaining movements. The 2nd movement is a Menuetto that characterises Viennese elegance. The 3rd movement is a bright march and the 4th is titled *Alla Zingarese* as it contains gypsy themes.

Astor PIAZZOLLA (1921-1992): Piazzolla was commissioned to compose **Oblivion** in 1984 (while living in Italy) as the theme for the movie, *Enrico IV*. Originally for oboe and string orchestra, it has been adapted many times for various instruments. Written in the form of a melonga, this short piece is less “jazzy” than Piazzolla’s typical tangos. It has melancholic, long-held notes that alternate with slow-falling, interwoven figures. Miriam Cooney will be the solo oboist.

Ennio MORRICONE (1928): Italian-born, Ennio Morricone commenced studies of composition, choral arrangement and trumpet at the age of 12 years. He has written over 500 scores and songs for movies and television, including **Gabriel’s Oboe** from the 1986 movie, *The Mission*, the score to which has been ranked at the top of the list of best film scores of all time. This Academy Award nominated piece is now a standard in the oboe repertoire. English singer, Sarah Brightman, penned lyrics to the melody for her song, *Nella Fantasia*. Miriam Cooney will play this haunting piece, arranged by USA composer, Robert Longford.

Henry PURCELL (1659-1695): Purcell's **Sonata for trumpet and strings in D-major Z.850** dates from 1693/94. The 1st movement has a fanfare-like theme with the trumpet phrases echoed by the strings. The short 2nd movement is for strings only while the 3rd movement is a lilting fugue with the trumpet echoing the strings. The piccolo trumpet will be played by Jude Macarthur, who has been selected to tour the UK in 2019 with the Sydney Youth Orchestra.

The second Purcell piece is the well-known **Rondeau from *Abdelazer* for String Quartet**. The rondeau is the 2nd movement of Purcell's 1695 10-movement suite of dances, written as incidental music for the revival of Aphra Behn's 1676 play, *The Moor's Revenge*. The piece gained popularity when used by Benjamin Britten in his 1945 work, *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. Considered to Purcell's last, this composition has been arranged over the years for almost every instrument. At our concert it will be performed by a student string orchestra.

Antonio VIVALDI (1687-1741): We welcome back 11-year-old Jeremy Spikmans, who at last year's student concert amazed the audience with his performance of a Stamitz cello concerto. This time he has brought his younger brother, Leon, to perform Vivaldi's **Concerto for Two Cellos and Orchestra in G-minor RV531**. Composed c1720, the concerto opens with cadenzas for both the cellos and the orchestra in imitation. The 2nd movement is slow with a hint of sadness, with the solo cellos accompanied by cellos and double basses only. This movement is contrasted by the frenetic 3rd movement.

Dimitri KABALEVSKY (1904-1987): Kabalevsky was a prolific composer for piano and chamber orchestra. He was appointed to the Moscow Conservatorium as professor of music in 1939. Although a modernist Russian composer, he attracted peer criticism for being too traditional. He wrote **Piano Concerto No 4 Opus 99**, also known as *The Prague*, in 1975, being inspired by his visit to that city. It soon became a standard piece in the piano concerto repertoire. Kabalevsky's compositions are influenced by social realism, which is characterised by simplicity and pleasant-sounding tunes. Although scored for piano and string orchestra, the 3rd movement has the addition of a snare drum. After two years absence from our student concert, we welcome back Diana Babajanyan to play the 1st and 3rd movements of this difficult work.

George Frederick HANDEL (1685-1759): Several string students will join the main orchestra to perform Handel's **Passacaglia from Keyboard Suite No 7 in G-minor**. The six-movement suite was written c1706 for harpsichord and is in Baroque form. Handel published the work himself in 1720, as an arrangement for viola and violin, with many arrangements for various instruments appearing since then. The *Passacaglia*, with its several variations on the main theme, is the final movement of the suite. This arrangement is by USA composer and educator, Robert Frost (1942-2013).

The orchestra acknowledges the assistance of Blue Mountains City Council in assistance to stage this concert through their Community Assistance Grant.

Colin Semmler and Julie Cooney



PRIZES

The June concert complimentary tickets to the next concert were won by Meredith Broadbent.



2018 CONCERT DATES

Orchestra: September 23rd, November 25th.

Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital Concert: November 4th

