

November 2018 Newsletter of the

ORPHEUS STRINGS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

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Secretary: Colin Semmler

Friends Office Bearers

Chairperson: Colin Semmler Ph: 47825765

Secretary: Cheryl Herman

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.



PROGRAMME FOR ORPHEUS STRINGS ORCHESTRA CONCERT

SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER at 3:00pm

As this is the final concert for the year, audience members are invited to stay for celebratory refreshments at the conclusion of the concert.

Arcangelo CORELLI (1653-1713): The concert will open with the popular **Concerto Grosso in G-minor Opus 6 No 8**, better known as the **Christmas Concerto**. This concerto is regularly performed and broadcast at this time of the year. It was written in 1690 but published posthumously. The composition features solos for first violin, second violin and cello. Apparently, Corelli was aiming to create a musical picture of the angels hovering above Bethlehem, inspired by the Sandro Botticelli's final painting, *The Nativity*. The finale is probably the earliest example of a Pastorale. For the performance of this popular work, the orchestra will be joined by several of the string students featured at the September student concert.

Joseph SUK (1874 - 1935): There are three generations of Czech composers by the name of Joseph Suk, the eldest born in 1827. The **Ella Polka** was composed by Joseph Suk II for piano in 1909 while he was living in Spain. Shortly before his death, Suk arranged the polka for small string orchestra and triangle. In his early years, Suk mainly wrote serious and heavy music, later developing a lighter style that was evident in his major work, *Raduz*, in which he had a polka for a peacock and a swan. From then on, he wrote lighter music that was more appealing to the public. He dedicated the *Ella Polka* to Ela Svabinsky, wife of Czech artist and printmaker, Max Svabinsky. As a point of interest, Antonin Dvorak was Joseph Suk's teacher and father-in-law.

Ross EDWARDS (1943): Ross Edwards is a Sydney-based composer who often escaped to the Blue Mountains where he did much of his composing, drawing inspiration from the bush and its birds and insects. He has gained a significant international profile and enjoys frequent airing on Australian radio. He composes for many genres, including film and dance. **The Enyato 1 (Chorale and Ecstatic Dance)** was written as a string quartet in 1993, then arranged for string orchestra in 2001 at the request of composer, musicologist and educator, Richard Gill. The *Chorale* is contemplative, and slow, written in Mediaeval European modality with South-East Asian inflections, while the *Dance* is more extroverted. It has an Australian flavour, using pentatonic modes and cross-rhythms. We have chosen to perform this piece in honour of Ross Edwards' 75th birthday in December as well as Richard Gill, who died on the 28th October at the age of 76.

Peter TCHAIKOWSKY (1840-1893): Tchaikowsky wrote his four-movement **Serenade for Strings** in 1880/81 while he was working on the *1812 Overture*. It was originally sketched as a string quartet before its performance as an orchestral piece in 1882, to the approval of critics and public. Its popularity has continued. The waltz movement is often performed and broadcast individually and reflects the composer's love of ballet music. The Russian-born American choreographer, George Balanchine, used the *Waltzer* and *Elegie* in his 1936 ballet, *Serenade*. The final two movements have Russian influences with snippets of two Russian folk songs. Tchaikowsky said of this composition that it was his homage to Mozart. "It is intended to be an animation of his style and I should be delighted if I thought I had in any way approached this".

Colin Semmler and Julie Cooney



PRIZES

The September concert complimentary tickets to a future concert were won by June Sinclair.



2019 CONCERT DATES

- Sunday March 24th
- Sunday June 23rd
- Sunday September 15th
- Sunday December 1st

Ensemble and Hospital Concert dates are yet to be confirmed.

