

June 2019 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.



PROGRAMME FOR ORPHEUS STRINGS ORCHESTRA CONCERT SUNDAY 23rd JUNE at 3:00pm

Franz Joseph HAYDN (1732-1809): Haydn composed **Sinfonie No 1** in 1759 while employed by Count Morzin of Austria. It was originally scored for strings with oboes, horns, bassoon and continuo. The first movement commences with a soft bar that immediately crescendos to a buoyant forte tutti section. The second movement is a gavotte for strings only, with horns and oboe re-introduced in the lively third movement that features contrapuntal devices and fanfares. In all three movements, the first and second violins work together in imitation and conversation. The featured horn players will be Colin Mallen and Shayne Bray with Miriam Cooney, oboist.

Christoph Willibrand GLUCK (1714-1787): Gluck was an influential composer of opera with a total of 45 published. *Orpheus and Euridice* (1762) remains the only one still regularly performed. Many of his operas had long overtures that could be performed separately, which was the case with **Sinfonia in G**, the 3-movement overture to his opera, *Ipermestra*, premiering in Venice in 1744. Gluck pioneered serious opera that concentrated on the drama and action, often choosing Greek mythology as his vehicle. The orchestration of his overtures attempted to reflect the drama and lyrics that were to follow. Colin Mallen and Shayne Bray will provide the horn section, this time playing natural horns. The natural horn was the predecessor to the French horn and has no valves. Miriam Cooney will be the oboist.

Maurice RAVEL (1875-1937): Originally titled *Fandango* and commissioned as a Paris Opera ballet in 1928, **Bolero** has become Ravel's best-known work. Ravel said he was heading for an early morning swim but walked by the piano and fingered the theme that was going through his head. He decided then and there that he would compose a piece where the theme did not develop, other than with the addition of instruments as the piece progressed. Arturo Toscanini conducted its 1929 USA premiere and it became an immediate success. It is said that at the performance, a woman in the audience called "Ravel is mad!" On hearing of this, Ravel responded with the comment, "She obviously understood the piece". Orpheus will perform the Ted Ricketts (American composer) arrangement for strings, piano and percussion which is shorter than the full orchestral version but does not lose its dramatic and sensuous feeling. The strings will be supported by horns with keyboard.

Ennio MORRICONE (1928) and **Andrea MORRICONE** (1964): Father and son, Ennio and Andrea Morricone composed the theme music for *Cinema Paradiso* in 1988. The movie won the 1990 Academy Award for best foreign film. Ennio has composed music for over 450 films. The **Love theme from Cinema Paradiso** opens with a romantic melody that is shared between piano and strings. The piano will be played by Blue Mountains Grammar student, Mary Smallhorn.

Paul TERRACINI (1957): Written in 2007, **Classical Destinations** was the theme for the internationally released TV series of the same name. The first version of the music was recorded by the Prague Symphony Orchestra with Paul conducting. The second version (which we will perform at this concert) was adapted by Richard Tognetti for the Australian Chamber Orchestra and recorded in Sydney. The work is in ternary form and after a brief introduction, the solo violin states the theme. This glides into a slower, more meditative treatment of the same theme with oboe obligato. A development section leads into a re-capitulation of the principal theme, with variations. Elizabeth Cooney will feature as solo violinist, Miriam Cooney, oboe and Mary Smallhorn, keyboard harp.

Three South American Tangos

Carlos GARDEL (1890-1935): Born in France but taken to Argentina by his mother when a baby, Carlos Gardel began composing, singing and acting while a teenager. He is now remembered for his many 3-minute tangos, including **Por Una Cabeza**, written as a song in 1935 with lyrics by Alfredo Le Pera (1900-1935). The title is a horse racing term meaning “by a head” and the song compares the addiction to horse racing as equal to the addiction to love. Some musicologists claim that the B-section of the piece was inspired by Mozart’s *Rondo for violin and orchestra*. The piece has been used in several movies, including *Schindler’s List* (1993), *True Lies* (1994) *Easy Virtue* (2008) and most memorably as the tango danced by Al Pacino and Gabrielle Anwar in *The Scent of a Woman* (1992). Gardel also had a connection with Argentinian tango composer, Astor Piazzolla, when they both appeared in a 1930s movie. Gardel sold thousands of recordings in his short life, which ended when the plane in which he was travelling with Alfredo Le Pera and other musicians, collided with another plane on the runway of an airport in Colombia.

Gerardo Matos RODRIGUEZ (1897-1948): Known as Matos or Becho, Uruguayan composer, Rodriguez, was a prolific composer of tangos, most of which are no longer frequently heard. His first composition, **La Comparsita** (translated as “The little parade”) is an exception. Since its publication in 1916, it has been arranged and recorded hundreds of times. It was originally written as a piano solo but came to prominence when arranged for orchestra in the 1931 film, *Luces de Buenos Aires*, starring Carlos Gardel.

Angel VILLOLDO (1861-1919): Angel Villoldo is considered a pioneer composer of Argentinian tango, publishing works under five different pen-names. He was an accomplished guitarist and it was for that instrument he wrote his ever-popular **El Choclo** in 1903. He also composed a tango, *Cantar eterno*, that was recorded by Carlos Gardel in 1917. *El Choclo* (Spanish for “The corn cob”) was the nickname of an Argentinian nightclub proprietor who promoted tango performance. In the early 1950s, English words were set to the melody, the resulting song being featured in the 1955 movie, *Kiss of Fire*.

Colin Semmler and Julie Cooney



2019 CONCERT DATES

Sunday June 23rd
Sunday September 15th
Sunday December 1st

Ensemble Concert Sunday August 18th
Hospital Concert Sunday November 3rd