

September 2019 Newsletter of the



BLUE MOUNTAINS

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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 15th SEPTEMBER at 3:00pm**

This is our popular annual concert where student musicians perform with the orchestra.

WA MOZART (1756-1791): It seems appropriate that for a student concert we will perform two of Mozart's early works. **Sinfonia No 8 in D-major K48** was composed while the Mozart family was visiting Vienna in 1768 and the young Mozart was just 12 years old. The symphony has four movements; Allegro, Andante, Menuetto & Trio and Allegro. The orchestra will be joined by Colin Mallen and Shayne Bray on horns.

Exsultate, Jubilate K165 was written for a quick deadline in January 1773 when Mozart was 16 years old and in Milan for the performance of his opera, *Lulio Silla*. The piece was written for the then famous castrato, Venanzio Rauzzini, whose technical expertise Mozart greatly admired. Mozart revised the work in 1780. Year 12 Student, Leila Harris, will sing the Alleluia from this well-known work. Leila sang the movement at the recent ensemble concert.

Joseph HAYDN (1732-1809): Jeremy Spickmans has performed on his cello at the last two student concerts. Now in Year 6, he joins us again, this time to perform Haydn's **Cello Concerto No 1 in C-major**. Haydn composed this 3-movement concerto in 1761, dedicating it to his good friend and pupil, Josef Franz Weigl, who was the lead cellist in Prince Nicholas Esterhazy's orchestra. Although sketches of the opening movement were in Haydn's notebook, the completed piece was lost until discovered in a Prague museum in 1961. It was performed in 1962 by the Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Sir Charles Mackerras. It was soon recorded by Jacqueline du Pre and has since been recorded by many leading cellists. Jeremy will perform the first movement, Moderato.

Manuel de FALLA (1876-1946): **Danse Espagnol** is part of an intermezzo from de Falla's opera, *La Vida Breve*, premiered in April 1913. The hour-long opera is now rarely performed but the intermezzo piece has remained in the popular repertoire. In 1926, Fritz Kreisler arranged it for violin and piano. It is Kreisler's

arrangement for the solo violin that Year 11 student and orchestra member, Sel Hardaker, will perform. Sel performed a solo with piano accompaniment at the recent ensemble concert.

Edward ELGAR (1857-1934): In 1900, German cellist, Carl Fuchs, asked Elgar to write a cello concerto. Elgar agreed, but it was 19 years before it came to fruition. In 1918, Elgar had a tonsillectomy (at the age of 61) and upon awakening from the anaesthetic, asked for a pencil and paper, then jotted down the melody that became the main theme for his **Cello Concerto Opus 85**. It is a sombre, contemplative work, reflecting the mood of the UK at the end of World War I. It was Elgar's last notable composition. The premiere performance was a disaster (in Elgar's words) as the concerto was under-rehearsed, so as a result, it was not popular until recorded by Jacqueline du Pre in 1961. The concerto is in four movements, the first being an Adagio-Moderato, the movement that will be performed. Year 12 student, Hannah Kolos, will be the cello soloist, with guest clarinettist, Bronwyn Kirkpatrick. Hannah performed Max Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* at the 2015 student concert when she was in Year 8.

César FRANCK (1822-1890): Although a prolific composer, **Panis Angelicus** remains one of Franck's highly popular works. It is his setting of the last two stanzas of *Sacris Solemnis* composed by Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) and set to music by many composers from the Renaissance to modern times. Meaning "bread of angels", Franck wrote the motet in 1884 to include in his 1872 composition, *Mass for three voices Opus 12*. It has been recorded hundreds of times and is regularly performed world-wide. The Orpheus performance will feature Tom Weaver as soloist. Tom performed at last year's ensemble concert.

As has been programmed in other student concerts, an ensemble of string players under the tutelage of Elizabeth and Julie Cooney, will perform three works for strings.

Leroy ANDERSON (1908-1975): Leroy Anderson wrote many short orchestral pieces including the popular *Blue Tango*, *The Typewriter*, *Sleigh Ride* and *The Syncopated Clock*. He wrote many film and television scores and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The student orchestra will perform his **Plink Plank Plunk**, a 1954 composition for pizzicato strings and sandpaper. The players will use their hands on the instruments to emulate sandpaper.

Johannes PACHELBEL (1653-1706): Originally written for three violins and double bass, Pachelbel's **Canon in D** has since been arranged for a variety of instruments and organ. Its year of composition is not known, but it was not commercially published until 1919. It did not enjoy popularity until the release of a 1968 recording by a French orchestra that played it much more slowly than it had been previously. It is now a popular piece played at weddings and functions.

Astor PIAZZOLLA (1921-1992): Wanting to break away from his classical style of tango, Astor Piazzolla composed **Libertango** in Spain in 1974. Spanish lyrics were added to the music in 1990 and since then the song (combined with the instrumental piece) has been recorded by over many combinations of instruments and remains popular in the dance repertoire.

Colin Semmler and Julie Cooney



2019 CONCERT DATES

Sunday September 15th

Sunday December 1st

Blue Mountains Hospital Auxiliary benefit concert: Sunday November 3rd