

November 2019 Newsletter of the

ORPHEUS STRINGS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

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President: Elizabeth Cooney

Treasurer: Therese Underwood

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. All concerts commence at 3:00pm.



Thank you to all our regular Orpheus concert attendees who supported the recent hospital benefit concert. With entry, raffle and donations \$2500 was raised. The auxiliary supports the hospital by purchasing equipment that is not automatically provided by the state government.



PROGRAMME FOR ORPHEUS STRINGS ORCHESTRA CONCERT SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER at 3:00pm

All audience members are invited to remain after the concert to partake in our annual end-of-year celebration with food and beverages.

Leroy ANDERSON (1908-1975): The orchestra played Leroy Anderson's *Plink Plank Plunk* at the hospital benefit concert. This time, as it is near to Christmas, we will play his 1948 composition, **Sleigh Ride**, premiered by the Boston Pops orchestra under the direction of Arthur Fiedler (1894-1979) for whom Leroy Anderson was music arranger. Although the music depicts a horse-drawn sleigh, Anderson said he was inspired to write the work while sweltering through a heat wave. It has become a popular Christmas song since Mitchell Parish added words in 1950.

In keeping with the rise in popularity of tango music and dancing this year in the Blue Mountains, the orchestra will perform Leroy Anderson's 1951 composition, **Blue Tango**. This piece was recorded by three different orchestras in 1951/52. Anderson's own recording reached Number One on the American Billboard Chart, retaining the position for 15 weeks. It was the first million seller for an instrumental recording. This amazed the composer as he did not consider it to be in the genre of popular music, but rather a "classical" tone poem. Mitchell Parish also added words to this composition.

Robert DAVIDSON (1965): Robert Davidson is a renowned Australian composer, double bass player, singer and educator, currently senior lecturer in composition at the University of Queensland. Many of his compositions focus on the intersection of music and spoken language. His compositions have been performed internationally and he has had many commissions, including **Elegy** for the Australian Youth Orchestra in 2000. The piece is in 7/8 time that alternates the metre of the bars of quavers throughout, as in 3,3,2 then 2,2,3. A steady rhythm is established with the dynamics increasing as the piece progresses.

Joaquin RODRIGO (1901-1999): Rodrigo is today mainly remembered for his *Concerto Aranjuez* for guitar and orchestra. His 1929 composition, **Dos miniature Andaluzas** remained amongst his personal papers until discovered after his death. It premiered in Spain in November 1999. The piece is subtitled *Preludio and Danza*, with both these sections reflecting Andalusian melancholy and dance rhythms. The opening slow section features a quartet as well as solo violin and cello passages. The dance section contrasts the metre of 3 and 2 to intensify the rhythmic vitality.

JS BACH (1685-1750): The **Double concerto in D-minor for two violins, strings and continuo** (generally known as *Double violin concerto*) is one of JS Bach's most famous works and considered one of the best examples of string music from the late Baroque period. The manuscript was undated, but it was probably written between 1717 and 1723. The concerto is in three movements, Vivace, Largo and Adagio and features subtle and expressive relationships between the two violins. Typical of Bach's work of the time, it features fugal and contrapuntal passages. The soloists will be Sam Harding and Elizabeth Cooney, whose contribution to the orchestra this year has been greatly appreciated by Julie Cooney, the orchestra and regular audience members.

Colin Semmler and Julie Cooney



PRIZES

The limited-edition print raffled at the September concert was won by Margaret Brown. Thank you to the artist, Donald McLean, for this generous donation.

The main prize at the December concert raffle will be a large Christmas Hamper. All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to drought relief through the Country Women's Association. The CWA has a direct donation system through their rural branches, ensuring every dollar raised goes directly to farming families in need of financial support.



2020 CONCERT DATES

March 29

June 21

September 13

December 12

Blue Mountains Hospital Auxiliary benefit concert: Sunday November 1 (to be confirmed)