

June 2022 Newsletter of the

ORPHEUS STRINGS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

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www.orpheusstrings.org

The Orpheus Strings Orchestra performs in 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 and conclude at about 5:00.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Please be aware that the \$10 concert admission price is for Pension Card holders only.



ORPHEUS STRINGS ORCHESTRA CONCERT SUNDAY 19 June at 3:00pm

Ralph VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958): **The Fantasia on a theme by Thomas Tallis** for Double String Orchestra and Quartet was first performed in 1910, then revised in 1913 and again in 1919. The opening theme is heard at the beginning of *Phrygian*, a hymn by Thomas Tallis (c1505-1585) from Psalter 1567, discovered by Vaughan Williams when he was researching for the 1906 edition of the English Hymnal. The use of the double orchestra with quartet in antiphonal groups produces a great variety of sound textures, exuding peace and serenity. The *Fantasia* concludes with fragments of the original Thomas Tallis melodies. Musicologists agree that this work was Vaughan Williams' first masterpiece, bringing him international fame. It reflects what we generally accept as typical of his compositional style.

Luigi CHERUBINI (1760-1842): Florence-born Cherubini was a child prodigy who had music lessons from his harpsichordist father, before eventually entering the Paris Conservatoire as a teacher, and later director. By the age of 13 years, he had composed several sacred works. He continued to compose in that genre, as well as adding several operas to his repertoire. His **Sonatas I and II for Horn and String Orchestra** date from 1804. The First Sonata is a short lyrical Larghetto, easing into the longer Second Sonata that opens with strings. This movement is an energetic Allegro moderato and includes, for the French horn, cadenza-like passages, chromatic runs, fanfares, syncopated rhythms and large intervals. There is evident interplay between the horn and strings. The hornist will be Robert

Johnson, retired principal horn with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Western Australian Symphony Orchestra and Opera Australia Orchestra.

Edvard GRIEG (1843-1907): **The Holberg Suite (In Holberg's Time) Opus 40** was Grieg's contribution to the 200th anniversary in 1884, of the birth of the Norwegian author and playwright, Ludvig Holberg (1684-1754.) Grieg and Holberg were born in Bergen, Norway. Originally a piano piece, the work is made up of five 18th century dance movements; Praeludium, Saraband, Gavotte, Air and Rigaudon. The beautiful Air is sometimes performed and broadcast separately. The Rigaudon, featuring solo violin, viola and orchestra, brings the work to a lively conclusion. Grieg arranged the work for strings in 1885, adapting formal principles of composition from an earlier period to create this charming, popular composition.

Stephen LALOR (1962): Australian composer, conductor and Churchill Fellow, Stephen Lalor, has had world-wide performances of his many compositions. He studied at various music institutions, including the Tchaikovsky Conservatorium in Kiev where he undertook post graduate studies in composition and conducting. He gained his PhD in composition from Sydney University. He composed **Flying** as a piece for piano trio in 1997, arranging it for string quartet/orchestra in 2012. The title accurately reflects the tempo at which the piece is played. This piece has attracted positive reviews from Australian media critics whenever it has been performed. As one critic wrote, "It seems to lift us high above the clouds, gifting us a feeling of weightlessness." The piece opens with a highly syncopated motif that is played by all instruments. Lalor continues to introduce vibrant rhythms with a variety of textures and expressive techniques using a wide dynamic range.

John RUTTER (1945): John Rutter posed the question, "How can a composer respond to a global tragedy?" The answer? "I suppose by writing music." In March this year, Rutter attended a service in his old school chapel where the choir sang a Ukrainian prayer. This motivated him to set it to his own music. Within a few days, **A Ukrainian Prayer** was composed and performed by 300 choristers in St Mary Magdalene Church, Wandsworth. "I hope the meaning will resound in people's hearts. Good Lord, protect Ukraine. Give her strength, courage, faith and hope."

Colin Semmler and Julie Cooney



2022 Concert Dates

June 19, September 11 (Student Concert), December 4.

Hospital Benefit Concert: November 6