

December 2022 Newsletter of the

ORPHEUS STRINGS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Management Office Bearers

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 (does not apply to Seniors Card holders), children free with supervising adult. All concerts commence at 3:00pm.



SUNDAY 4th December at 3:00pm

Audience members are invited to remain after the concert for our end-of-year refreshments. There will be no afternoon tea served at the concert.

Program

Felix MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847): Between the ages of 12 and 14 years, Mendelssohn composed 13 symphonies. His **Symphony No 2 in D-major** is the second of the 13, composed in 1821 when he was 12 years old. These symphonies were influenced by and written as a tribute to Haydn and Mozart as well as JC and CPE Bach. The symphony opens with a bright Allegro movement, followed by an Andante and concluding with a lively Allegro Vivace.

John RUTTER (1945): Over the centuries, several English composers have either arranged British folk melodies or entwined them into their compositions. *Suite for Strings* is John Rutter's 1971 arrangement of four British melodies; *A-Roving*, *I have a bonnet trimmed with blue*, *Dashing away with the smoothing iron* and *O waly waly* (also known as *The water is wide*) being central to the collection and featuring solo violin and cello. This arrangement was played at the funeral of US President Gerald Ford in 2007, at the request of his family. The suite showcases Rutter's ability to create evocative and inspiring settings of existing melodies.

Michael PATTERSON: Michael Patterson is a Queensland composer, educator, violinist and violist. He has composed several works for students as well as arranging the string accompaniments for performers appearing on the television series, *The Voice*. After hearing his recent composition, *Double Bass Concertino* (written for the double bass player of the Camerata Orchestra) performed in Brisbane, Joanna Cooney has transcribed the piece for tuba and will perform it at our concert.

Christopher TIN (1976): American composer, Christopher Tin, is a world-renowned composer of mainly film and video game music. He is greatly influenced by world music, as is the case with *Baba Yetu* (Our Father), commissioned for a 2011 video game titled *Civilisation IV*; the first video game theme to win a Grammy award. The piece is an arrangement for strings of the Swahili adaption of *The Lord's Prayer* and has been performed in world-wide concert venues.

Martin O'DONNELL (1955) and **Michael SALVATORI** (1954): Martin and Michael are both successful US composers who have collaborated on various projects including music for films and television. In 1999, they were commissioned to compose a theme for the video game series, *Halo*. The commissioner stipulated that he needed the music quickly and it had to sound ancient and mysterious. The result was *The Halo*, composed in three days. The "ancientness" comes from the opening theme, written in the style of a Gregorian chant, then develops into mediaeval rhythms. The composers have combined the music from the different *Halo* games into *Halo Suite*. It has won several awards and is the best-selling video soundtrack of all time.

Rune Tonsgaard SORENSEN (1983): **Shine you no more** is a reel, composed for the Danish String Quartet in 2017 by Rune Sorensen; composer, educator, violinist with the Danish String Quartet and presently concertmaster of the Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra. The inspiration for the piece came from his listening to a song written in 1596 by English composer, John Dowland (1562-1626) who, for some time, was composer at the Danish court under King Christian IV. Dowland's chord progressions are the foundation for the reel. The title is a quote from the original song.

Colin Semmler and Julie Cooney



Hospital Concert

Thank you to all our Orpheus followers who attended the recent hospital concert.
Just on \$2000 was raised for the auxiliary.



2023 Concert Dates

At the time of this newsletter, the concert dates for 2023 have not been confirmed but will be printed on the program at the December concert.