

## September 2025 Newsletter of the



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**[www.orpheusstrings.org](http://www.orpheusstrings.org)**

Orpheus Concerts are held at Wentworth Falls School of Arts, corner Great Western Highway and Adele Street, Wentworth Falls.

Admission at the door is \$20 full, \$15 pensioners (does not apply to Seniors Card holders), children free with supervising adult. All concerts commence at 3:00pm. Admission price includes afternoon tea.

**This is the annual student concert featuring student musicians as soloists and the Orpheus Student Orchestra.**



**SUNDAY 21st September at 3:00pm**

### **Program**

**Edward ELGAR** (1857-1934): Originally titled of *Love's Greeting*, Elgar composed **Salut D'Amour** late in 1888, as a musical answer to a love poem that his friend, Alice, had written for him. The musical dedication resulted in their marriage shortly after. Elgar submitted three arrangements to a publishing company that bought them for two guineas. This was officially Elgar's first published composition. It was not financially successful for the publishing company until they changed the title to *Salut D'Amour*, after which it became an international success. This charming, romantic piece will be played by conservatorium student, Sel Hardaker from Wentworth Falls. Sel has appeared previously as a soloist. For several years, he was a permanent member of the orchestra while attending Blue Mountains Grammar School.

**Camille SAINT-SAËNS** (1835-1921): Saint-Saëns composed his **Cello Concerto in A-minor Opus 33** for the French cellist and composer, Auguste Tolbecque (1830-1919) in 1872. Saint-Saëns broke with the convention of writing in three movements, instead constructing the work with one movement in three distinct sections. The soloist is always in the dramatic musical foreground but the orchestra does have important sections in the structure, particularly at the opening of the second "movement." Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff considered this to be the greatest of all cello concertos ever written. The cellist performing the technically demanding work will be Jeremy Kolos from Faulconbridge, who appeared

with Orpheus when still in Primary School. Jeremy's sister, Hannah, has appeared as a cellist in previous student concerts.

The orchestra will combine with selected members of the Student Orchestra to perform:-

**Edward ELGAR:** Elgar premiered his *Enigma Variations Opus 36* in 1899, with the 9<sup>th</sup> movement, **Nimrod**, becoming the best known and most popular. It was named after Nimrod the Hunter, as described in Genesis of the Old Testament.

**Dimitri SHOSTAKOVICH** (1906-1975): In the late 1950s, a close friend of Shostakovich, Levon Atovmyan (1901-1973), arranged eight pieces from Shostakovich's ballet, theatre and film music, into a collection he titled *Suite for Variety Orchestra*. His instructions were that the movements could be played in any order and not necessarily all in the one performance. The orchestra will play **Waltz No 2**, one of his most recognisable pieces, made popular by André Rieu in recent years. The arrangement is by USA arranger, Paul Lavender.

**Joseph HAYDN** (1732-1809): Haydn composed his **Symphony No 104 in D-major** in 1795. It was the final of his twelve *London Symphonies*, and possibly as it was played at Haydn's farewell performance in London, was given the nickname, *London Symphony*. The orchestra will play the final movement, *Spiritoso*, based on a Croatia folk song. The arrangement is by USA musician and arranger, Jim Palmer.

**Michael PATTERSON** (1980): Sydney-born Michael Patterson is a Brisbane-based multi-instrumentalist, composer and teacher as well as founding member of the Black Square String Quartet. The orchestra will perform his short composition, **The Mystic**. The piece has a robust 6/8 dance feel, contrasting with delicate pizzicato textures.

The Student Orchestra will perform two works:-

**Gustav HOLST** (1874-1934): **In the Bleak Midwinter** was a poem written by Christina Rossetti, set to music by Holst and published in the 1906 *English Hymnal*. The orchestra will play an arrangement for students by USA composer, Katie O'Hara LaBrie.

**Tour of Ireland** features a set of three traditional Irish melodies, **The Wren**, **Kerry Polka** and **The Wind that Shakes the Barley**. These are arranged by USA music educator, Caryn Wiegand Neidhold, who specialises in arranging orchestral pieces for students.

The orchestra acknowledges the Blue Mountains City Council through their community assistance grants.

Colin Semmler and Julie Cooney



## 2025 Concert Dates

September 21, December 7

