

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA NATIONAL MUSIC CAMP 2024

ADELAIDE / TARNDANYA

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT 2

SATURDAY 13 JANUARY, 7pm ELDER HALL UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE









WELCOME TO

AYO NATIONAL MUSIC CAMP

Welcome to the AYO's 2024 Summer Concert Series. These concerts are not only the culmination of a fortnight of intense collaboration between 250 students and 50 world leading artists. They are also a showcase of the next generation of Australia's finest thinkers, musicians and leaders. Thank you to our visiting conductors and teaching artists. Your generosity and care continue to inspire generations of Australian musicians. These concerts, thanks to you, are the soundtrack of our country's future and that future is exceptionally bright.

I personally love our Summer Concert Series as it is an opportunity to revisit well-known musical favourites and discover brilliant gems. This year I can't decide what I am more excited to hear our young people tackle: Lutosławski's Concerto for Orchestra (a familiar but challenging favourite) or Melody Eötvös' *Meraki*. One thing is for sure, the raw energy of the AYO is second to none. Whether you are a new addition to our AYO family or a longstanding member, thank you for coming along this journey with us and I hope you enjoy!

Kimbali Harding CEO

Australian Youth Orchestra acknowledges the Kaurna people, the Traditional Custodians of the Adelaide Plains and the land on which the orchestras have rehearsed and performed during this program. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and recognise and respect their enduring connection to land, waters and culture.

CONDUCTOR

ARIEL ZUCKERMANN

Conductor Ariel Zuckermann is a musical free spirit and explorer of artistic boundaries. His knowledge of repertoire spanning all musical periods is reflected in ingenious and compelling programmes. His technical and musical standards, coupled with irrepressible creativity, energy and humanity, act as a magnet for orchestras, soloists and audiences alike.



Since 2015 he has been music director of the renowned Israel Chamber Orchestra. From this position he actively shapes and influences the Israeli music scene and its cultural policy. In 2020, he was appointed principal conductor of the Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt - a position he had already held until 2013. Ariel Zuckermann also enjoys close and regular collaboration with the Poznan Philharmonic Orchestra.

Originally a professional flautist, Ariel Zuckermann began his conducting career in 2001. Since then he has conducted the London Symphony Orchestra, the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, the Tonkünstler Orchester, the Riga Sinfonietta, the Bayerisches Staatsorchester, the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover, the Sinfonieorchester Basel, the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, the KBS Radio Orchestra Seoul, the Bremen Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra, the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Ozech Philharmonic Orchestra, the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, the WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, the Orquesta Filarmónica de Gran Canaria, the Haydn Orchestra Bolzano, the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, the Taipei Symphony Orchestra, the Zurich, Basel and Stuttgart Chamber Orchestras and Camerata Salzburg. He made his opera debut at the Gärtnerplatztheater in Munich. Many of his concerts and projects have been recorded.

CONDUCTOR

TOBY THATCHER

Toby Thatcher is an Australian/British conductor. He is Artistic Director of digital contemporary sonic-arts startup Zeitgeist, founder & Artistic Director of the 19th-century-specialist performance ensemble the Nineteenth Circle & Assistant Conductor to the Orchestre national d'Île-de-France.

In the 2023-24 season he will debut with Orchestre National d'Île-de-France, Ensemble Musikfabrik, Ensemble Synaesthesis, the Kodály Philharmonia Debrecen, and the Southbank Sinfonia, and will return to Ensemble Modern, the Slovenian Philharmonic and the Australian Youth Orchestra. He will also be a Guest Assistant Conductor to the Orchestre National de Lyon.

Between 2018-19, Toby was mentored by Hungarian composer/conductor Peter Eötvös. He has been a prize-winner & finalist at five international competitions, including the Georg Solti International Conducting

Competition with the hr Sinfonie Orchester

Frankfurt, the Princess Astrid
Competition with the Trondheim
Symfoniorkester, and the

International Competition of Young Conductors Lovro von Matačić with the Croatian Radio Orchestra.

He has been the Assistant Conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra & Orchestre National de France, and Guest Assistant Conductor to the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Toby has worked with ensembles internationally including Orchestre National de France, Ensemble

Intercontemporain, Ensemble Modern, Slovenian Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester Basel, Panon Philharmonic, Auckland Philharmonia, Queensland Symphony Orchestra & Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR

SOPHIE ROWELL

Recently appointed as the Artistic Director of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, violinist Sophie Rowell has had an extensive performing career as a soloist, chamber musician and principal orchestral violinist both in Australia and abroad most recently as the co-concertmaster of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra,

After winning the ABC Young Performer's Award in 2000, Sophie founded the Tankstream Quartet which won string quartet competitions in Cremona and Osaka.

Having studied in Germany with the Alban Berg Quartet the quartet moved back to Australia in 2006 when they were appointed as the Australian String Quartet. During the six seasons of their tenure, the ASQ performed and recorded at chamber music festivals all over the world.

Sophie has played in principal violin positions with orchestras including the Scottish and Mahler Chamber Orchestras, and the Vancouver, Sydney, Adelaide and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras.

Sophie studied with Beryl Kimber in her hometown of Adelaide, then with Alice Waten in Sydney. She is the Head of Chamber Music (Strings) at the Australian National Academy of Music.



ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

SLAVA GRIGORYAN

Regarded as a wizard of the guitar, Slava has forged a prolific reputation as a classical quitar virtuoso. Collaborations have played a huge part in Grigoryan's career, most notable of these are in the trio with legendary USA guitarist Ralph Towner and Austrian guitarist Wolfgang Muthspiel and the duo with brother Leonard Grigoryan. He has received 4 ARIA awards and an incredible 24 ARIA Award nominations. His international touring schedule has seen him perform throughout Europe. Asia, and the USA, as well as more exotic performances in Brazil, South Africa, India and the Middle East, Slava is the Artistic Director of the

Adelaide Guitar Festival, a position he has held since 2010.

ED LE BROCQ

Ed Le Brocq is a musical adventurer, teacher, writer, broadcaster and transgender man. He was born on the White Cliffs of

Dover and began playing music when he was six years old. He studied viola in Manchester, Berlin and London, and played professionally in the UK and Hong Kong. After a decade of performances throughout Asia, including for the Hong Kong Handover in 1997, Ed decided on a new path, literally, and travelled by bicycle from England to Hong Kong, with only a violin for company. The journey took him a year and went

through Europe, Iran, Pakistan, India and China. The trip was eventually chronicled in Cadence, Ed's first book and a national bestseller.

After immigrating to Australia in 2003, and after a character-building year scrubbing dishes in St Kilda, Ed eventually began broadcasting with ABC Classic FM. He spent many years hosting the cult hit breakfast programme and doing things like cycling to the source of the Ganges in his spare time.

After more than a decade in the ABC studios, Ed decided he needed to get out and about again and applied for a job teaching cello to street children and orphans at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul. Eddie's second book Danger Music is about this turbulent, life-changing year, where he survived the threat of bombs, kidnappings, beginner string players and hormone-charged teenagers. It was during this year that Ed finally accepted the man within and began his transition from female to male. Emma became Ed just before his fiftieth birthday. Better late than never.

Ed's fourth book: Whole Notes – Life Lessons in Music, was released in October 2021.



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ORCHESTRAL CONCERT 2

Saturday 13 January, 7pm Elder Hall, University of Adelaide

Bishop Orchestra - Toby Thatcher, Conductor

LIGETI Concert Românesc

Brislan Chamber Orchestra - Sophie Rowell, Director

Melody EÖTVÖS Meraki SUK Serenade for Strings

Interval

Alexander Orchestra - Ariel Zuckermann, Conductor

ENESCU Romanian Rhapsody No.1 LUTOSŁAWSKI Concerto for Orchestra

BRISLAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

DIRECTOR: SOPHIE ROWELL

Violin 1

Teresa Yang / Concertmaster

Olivia Kowalik

Adina Lopez

Katherine Ma

Najia Hanna

Leonard Tang

Honami Yum

John Choi

Flinor Warwick

Violin 2

Ingram Fan / Principal

Lily Song

Kristelle Jaimes

Daniel Bian

Autumn Lee

Yemaya Maitri

Audrey Jarvis

Chiyo Brown

Sophie Szabo

Mia Baivucago

Viola

Hanna Wallace / Principal Daniela Edwards Alexander Monro Emma Wang Lisa Bongpipat Oliver Brown Tom Protat

Cello

Isaac Davis / Principal

Maggie Wang

Mahalia Shelton

Milo Duval

Rowan Parr

Marcus Tyler

Double Bass

Alyssa Deacon / Principal

Emma Meixner

Ava Loke

James Arthur



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Hannah Tyrrell

Luke Hammer

Natasha Paran

Eric Kim

Candice Buchanan

Connie Liu

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Carina Weder

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Samuel de Kroon

Cello

Joshua Jones / Principal

Jamie Wallace

William Thorpe

Clara Moloney

Mercedes Hohenlohe

Stirling Hall

Disa Smart

Andv Lin

Finlay Labuschagne

Double Bass

Luca Arcaro / Principal Maddison Furlan Michael McNamara Charlotte Scanlan Alexandra Thompson Grace Reynolds Greg Perkins QiQi Lu



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CONDUCTOR: ARIEL ZUCKERMANN

Flute

Alex Byrne Kara Thorpe Tina Gu Isabeau Hansen

Oboe

Phoebe Xu Mirabelle Chen Alex Tsang Tok Rei

Clarinet

Lewis Blanchard Justin Wang Freya Parr Hugo Anaya Partida

Bassoon/Contrabassoon

Hayden Burge Sara Mau Dylan Roberts Lola Schuele

Horn

Lucy Smith Emma John Alec Berg Tom Allen Bridget Darby Madeleine Gough

Trumpet

Jade Park Harry James Matilda Dearden Tom Lim

Trombone

Harrison Steele-Holmes Cooper Rands Nicholas Lord

Bass Trombone

Jordan Mattinson

Tuba

Jack Gawith

Timpani

Buddy Lovett

Percussion

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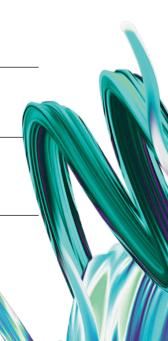
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Piano/Keyboard

Sebastian Coyne Sarah Chick

Conducting Fellow

Luke Severn



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Ezra Uxó Williams / Concertmaster

Sophia Jones

Beverly Kwan

Jonah Spriggs

Sharon 7hao

Helena Kozdra

Morgan Ip

Emily Thompson

Fric Dao

Holly Edgarian-Sutton

Alyssa Wong

Emma Masterman

Hana Yusoff

Stevie Maston

Violin 2

Haneulle Lovell / Principal

Angel Gilbert

Kaito Deed

Natalie Kendy

Alina Yuan

Alexander Chieng

Adel Kalnoki

Anika Collins

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Oscar Wu

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Allan McBean

Harry Young

Sophia Buchanan



BISHOP ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR: TOBY THATCHER

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Oboe

Tina Gallo Gahyun Lee

Clarinet

Josephine Daniel James Skelton

Bassoon/Contrabassoon

Bailey Ireland Ruby Bron

Horn

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Elizabeth Dawson Matthew Hyam

Timpani

Leah Columbine

Percussion

William Elvin



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Composition

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Conducting Fellows

Luke Severn Elena Katahanas



CONCERT ROMÂNESC

György Ligeti (1923-2006)

A vivid memory for Ligeti was when musicians playing violin and bagpipes intruded into his family's courtyard. One of them disguised as a goat, with a horned mask and cloaked in goatskin. "Diabolical." "Wild." This is how Ligeti recalled this frenzy.

Concert Românesc, or "Romanian Concerto", explores folk music from its namesake, Romania. In many respects, it is an illustration of Ligeti's childhood atmosphere, growing up in now-Romanian Transylvania.

A chaotic spirit is rife in the piece. In the second movement, a swirl of brazen woodwind lines (featuring a defiant piccolo), sprightly solo violin responses, and rampant percussion flourishes fuse into a lively dance.

An altered rawness is exhibited in the slower third movement, in which two horns appear upon a thin string texture; the horns forego their conventional valved fingerings, only playing notes of the untempered instrument. The effect is of vivid earthiness with this deviation from the distilled and synthetic tuning system that today's pianos and orchestras heavily rely on. Again, a childhood memory is vivified – a three year-old Ligeti standing before the Carpathian Mountains, absorbing the reposes of an alphorn. In the concerto, the two horns are in dialogue – one horn projecting guiding remarks, the other horn answering. For much of the movement, the replying horn plays at a lower volume, eliciting the echoes which unfold across the vast, mountainous space. However, the soundscape here transcends the mechanical confines of mere sonic reflection. Here, the exchange between the horns is protean, temperamental, the horns are blooming.

It seems that this striving for an unmilled soundscape was sensed by others - the *Concert Românesc* was banned from performance by the Soviet government after a single rehearsal in Budapest. The reason? Ligeti's modernist predilections - the piece transgressed the conventions of the time. It was not until 1971 when the piece was performed publicly, in Wisconsin, USA.

Despite such roadblocks, the peculiar ideas heard in this concerto become crucial for Ligeti's modernist experiments in the 1980's and 1990's. The eccentric horn writing becomes a hallmark in his 1982 Trio, and 1988 Hamburg Concerto. The fervour of the solo violin in Concert Românesc foreshadows the garish protagonism he realized in his 1992 Violin Concerto. Concert Românesc, though often labelled as a relatively conservative node in Ligeti's corpus, is a capsule of raw energy, anticipating his expansive career.



Melody Eötvös (born 1984)

Imagine a word that encapsulates doing something with soul, creativity and love, a word that describes the transcendental and all-consuming experience of putting something of yourself into the task at hand. The Greek term *meraki* does just that – a word charged with cultural context and untranslatable into English. While *meraki* is often used in relation to domestic tasks, perhaps done as an act of hospitality for family and friends, Melody Eötvös expands upon this concept and draws a parallel to her experience of composition. She writes, "As a composer I've been through so many different stages of growth, and no matter what kind of changes or evolutions result from this growth there is always a part of myself that manifests in the work. [...] I believe this word *Meraki* is a beautiful term that aptly captures this phenomenon."

Melody Eötvös is an Australian-American composer and Lecturer in Composition, Aural Studies and Orchestration at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, where she is also Director of the New Music Studio. Eötvös cites the influence of philosophical, biological, environmental and ancient themes on her works, which have recently included commissions for Synergy Percussion, the Stradbroke Chamber Music Festival and Arcadia Winds. She sustains an association with AYO, which has included tutoring the composition program in 2019.

We discover the soul of Melody Eötvös in *Meraki*. Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra for the Tarrawarra Festival in 2021, this work conveys the love and ardour of its composer through solos which rise out of the woven texture. The solo cellist is the first to interject the

eerie opening texture with a folk-like motif – is this the kernel of Eötvös' soul? – which we listen out for in its iterations throughout the work. While the piece finds its drama in the sonority of its instrumentation, this is juxtaposed with jagged, rhythmic commentary that drives faster tempi. Although there may not be a word for *meraki* in English, Eötvös' music is surely translation enough.

SERENADE FOR STRINGS

Josef Suk (1874-1935)

Andant e con moto Allegro ma non troppo e grazioso Adagio Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo presto

Suk's Serenade for Strings ranks with those of Dvořák and Tchaikovsky among the finest examples of writing for string orchestra. Seventy-five years after Suk's death, it is time to acknowledge Suk's status as a leading figure of the Czech musical scene of his day. Suk performed actively as violinist in the renowned Czech Quartet from its formation in 1893 until his retirement. From 1922, Suk returned to the conservatory as composition lecturer, teaching students who were to become important contributors to Czech music in the following generation, including the composer Bohuslav Martinů and pianist Rudolf Firkušný.

Born into a musical family in Křečovice in what today is The Czech Republic, Suk was taught the violin, piano and organ from an early age by his father - the local choral director. Suk entered the Prague Conservatory at age eleven, and studied violin with Antonín Bennewitz and composition with Dvořák, with whom he developed a strong relationship. Indeed, in 1898, Suk married Dvořák's eldest daughter Otilie.

The Serenade for Strings, composed shortly after graduating from the conservatory, was in the Romantic idiom akin to the music of his mentor Dvořák, and Brahms. Dvořák said to the 18 year-old Suk, "It's summertime now, so go and make something lively for a change, to compensate for all those pomposities in minor." This work has a summertime feel and, with its emphasis on melody, is characteristic of a typical serenade. The first complete premiere was at the Prague Conservatory in February 1895, conducted by Bennewitz.

In the first movement, the ardent melody is passed primarily between the violins and celli whose interweaving parts are urged forward by a simple accompaniment in the violas and basses. The violin and cello solos herald

the transition into the final statement of the opening theme that eventually fades away to a delicate ending. The lilting music of the second movement features unexpected fresh outbursts against a gentle, shimmering accompaniment that concludes with a unison pizzicato. The adagio is the longest movement and captures the essence of lyrical Romantic slow movements, with a Slavic flavour. The finale embodies the effervescent heart of the young Suk, which after a compulsive start slows to a pause as if to regain its breath before its final dash to the finish.

ROMANIAN RHAPSODY

NO.1

George Enescu (1881-1955)

"I have a penny and wish to spend it on a drink," sings the solo clarinet, with a sigh, at the opening of Enescu's Romanian Rhapsody No. 1.

Much like a modern-day medley, the *rhapsody* emerged in the 19th century as a form of composition that sewed together a string of folk songs into a single piece. As well as celebrating a culture's musical tradition, this medium served to preserve songs from an oral tradition and present them to a new audience.

In a similar vein to Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsodies*, Enescu brings Romanian song and dance traditions into the Classical repertory with his two Romanian Rhapsodies. The Rhapsody No. 1 opens with the aforementioned traditional drinking song, before breaking into a swaggering *horă*¹ led by the violins and harps. Enescu orchestrates the work insightfully to imitate traditional instruments – the orchestra becomes a *tarauf*² with harps for dulcimers and oboe for a shepherd's shawm, while the violins take on the role of folk fiddlers.

The sârbă³ shyly enters the frame with a charming interpolation, gradually gaining confidence and segueing into the solo viola's reprise of the horă. The folk song Mugur-Mugurel⁴ provides a solemn contrast to the flair of the dances; the rustic, weighty song sending a plea to the Romanian countryside. The birds soon respond with the Ciocârlia⁵ in a tumultuous display of woodwind virtuosity.

The suite of songs and dances continue to swirl around each other in ever-more dazzling circles, and each time they are embellished with new nuances and orchestral textures. The trilling violins are underpinned by arresting rolls in the snare drum while the ornamental solo violin betrays Enescu's own finesse on the violin. The shimmer and sashay continue to seduce until the final patriotic declaration.

- ¹ A type of Romanian circle dance
- ² A Romanian folk band
- ³ A circle dance with a lopsided rhythm
- ⁴ Sprout, you little sprout
- ⁵ Skylark, a filigreed Romanian tune

CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA

Witold Lutosławski (1913-1994)

It's hard to believe that Witold Lutosławski's monumental Concerto for Orchestra began its life as a piece of Polish folk music. Written soon after the devastation of the Nazi occupation of Poland, the Concerto was a chance for the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra to celebrate its survival.

"Lively and majestic". With this instruction the cellos take up an athletic melody which launches into the strings and woodwind, the persistent strokes of the timpani underscoring this dialogue. A chromatic melody in the strings leads to a chaotic middle section marked by apocalyptic brass chorales. As the celeste pings mechanically, icy fingers drag across a frosted window in the Polish winter.

The unsettling second movement creates an atmosphere of nervousness - picture a mouse scampering in the darkened corner of an abandoned hut. The upper strings alternate between skittering runs and percussive melodies, as woodwinds and xylophone interject with impish wit. The middle section erupts with an angry, fanfare-like melody from the trumpets, interrupted by furious blasts from the strings and percussion. A sweet flute melody dissipates this controlled chaos, leading to a whispersoft postlude reminiscent of the unsettled opening: lower strings and percussion rustle to an uncertain conclusion.

The third movement. Out of silence, a lurching zombie hand moves in the corner of your vision. You finally exhale as the cor anglais brings sunshine – you're out of danger. The next sounds are harsh yet familiar, before a melody, almost of ghosts, in the first violins brings memories of the fear of before.

What could possibly happen now?

The violas answer with a grumble.

You stumble through a forbidding landscape as the orchestra fights to reach its final melodic destination. The journey is hard, and it's a battle to keep yourself upright on the ice as the string players bounce their bows. You remember the warmth of a fire with the delicate tones of a string quartet, but the rattling icicles of harp and percussion remind you of your bleak surrounds.

Haunting woodwind and brass melodies are scratched by skeletal string chords. Are those animals in the distance, you wonder, as flutes and clarinets twitter in your ears? But it's not long before you're caught in a dense blizzard as the orchestra erupts in shuddering outbursts. A sarcastic coda brings your gruelling journey to a screeching halt – you're left wondering, what was that at all about?

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From humble beginnings in 1948 to these performances, the Australian Youth Orchestra has a rich history spanning almost 76 years. From the first music camp in Point Lonsdale to the stages of concert halls around the world, we've been devoted to providing exceptional education and training opportunities for Australia's most talented young

musicians.

For decades, our work and successes have been made possible through the generosity of our donor community. Your support ensures we can engage the finest conductors and tutors and continue providing life-changing experiences for participants across the country.

Thank you for your support and for helping AYO play its part in transforming lives for 76 years.

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Dorothy Fraser Scholarship Fund
Hunt Family Memorial Fund
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