

The Maroondah Symphony Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the support of the Maroondah City Council and Arts Nunawading Inc



Next Concert

Sunday 2nd April 2023

Best of British

Elgar - *Pomp & Circumstance*

Vaughan Williams - *English Folk Song Suite*

Holst - *A Somerset Rhapsody*

Coates - *Dambusters March*

and more

Concert Venue

George Wood Performing Arts Centre

Yarra Valley Grammar, 84- 90 Kalinda Road, Ringwood at 2.30pm

Bookings: www.eticks.com.au/whats-on

Phone Bookings: Eticks 1300 115 117

Enquiries: Elaine 0418 620 479 www.maroondahsymphony.org.au

It would be appreciated if you could refrain from videoing during the concert to avoid disturbing other concert patrons. Thank you!

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Member for Deakin



Conductor: Gyula Cseszkó

Leader: Yoke-Cheng Vaile

Classics from the Movies

Sunday 20th November 2022

2.30pm

George Wood Performing Arts Centre

Yarra Valley Grammar

84-90 Kalinda Road, Ringwood

Maroondah Symphony Orchestra

1st Violin

Yoke-Cheng Vaile *
Michela Scully
Katherine Goodall
Carly Palmer
Sophie Novena
Maddy Stamatescu
Alicia Donnelly
Peta Cope

2nd Violin

Chandlu Nerimodath *
Kirsty Dixon
Gerry Tan
Alex Ladson
Anne Lacey
Arielle Rose
Rebecca Kogios
Ian McDonald

Viola

Gitta Green *
Joella Gould
Paul Watson
Helen Lawrence

Cello

Tim Hyndman *
Beth Marrocco
Charlotte Pool
Amelia Eaton

Double Bass

Michael Taylor *
Hilton Vermaas
Bill Clark

Flute

Melanie Smith *
Melissa Ho
Fiona O'Callaghan

Piccolo

Fiona O'Callaghan

Oboe

Raymond Hoefler *
Meg Bowker
Joppe Drop

Cor Anglais

Joppe Drop

Clarinet

Rosemary Smith *
Lyn McCutcheon

Bassoon

Rob Weiss *
Damon Key

French Horn

David Keeffe *
Sarah Webster
Kim Alford
Cassandra Simpson
Kelly Nielsen

Trumpet

Steve Burns *
Paul Barton
Emily Johnson
Ruth Collins

Trombone

Kenton Smith
Willow Woodman
Ted O'Hare

Timpani

Sue Haylock

Percussion

Allison Summers
Darcy Fynmore
Taysha McFarland

Keyboard

Sarah Webster

*Section Leader

Maroondah Symphony Orchestra

The Maroondah Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1964 and prides itself on providing local access to quality classical music. It presents four concerts a year at the George Wood Performing Arts Centre, Yarra Valley Grammar in Ringwood. The programs are of classical and lighter classical music where talented young musicians as well as professional soloists of repute are featured. Repeat performances can be arranged for charity and other organisations.

The Orchestra is based in Ringwood and is open to musicians ranging from senior secondary students to mature age. Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening at Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood from 7:45pm to 10:00pm.

For information about the Orchestra or prospective players:

Phone: Steve 0419 008 679 or Lyn 0411 087 457 or via the website

www.maroondahsymphony.org.au

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of his contemporaries to provide one. By the time it was completed in 1812, the Napoleonic wars were in full flight. Napoleon's troops had occupied Vienna and, despite his deafness, Beethoven was forced to shelter in a cellar to escape the noise and pain.

The seventh symphony was premiered on 8 Dec 1813 as part of a lengthy benefit concert for Austrian and Bavarian soldiers injured in battle at Hanau against Napoleon two months previously. Regarded by many as the "perfect symphony", the seventh captures the essence of dance rhythms and combines them dramatically.

The famous lyrical second movement, marked faster than usual (*allegretto*), is a masterpiece of graceful and imaginative repetition that nevertheless has a sense of inexorable forward movement. It was used to great effect in the climax to the 2010 film *The King's Speech*. Originally inserted by the film's editor as a placeholder, it was retained essentially unchanged by Alexander Desplat when he was later appointed to write the score.

Adagio for Strings (1936)

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)



American composer Samuel Barber was a child prodigy who is best known for this piece, the *Adagio for Strings*. After completing his first string quartet (opus 11), Barber immediately arranged the second movement for seven string parts (second violins and cellos are divided) and sent it to the legendary Arturo Toscanini who premiered it live on air with his recently formed NBC Symphony Orchestra. It was well-received by the public, partly due to its accessible harmonic language and apparent simplicity. Much of its emotional impact comes from simple techniques borrowed from choral writing at which Barber excelled.

As well as being played at solemn public occasions such as the death of Franklin D Roosevelt and John F Kennedy, it has been used in many films including *Elephant Man* (1980), *Platoon* (1986) and *Lorenzo's Oil* (1992).

Superman March (1978)

John Williams (b.1932)

The hero Superman was brought to life by actor Christopher Reeves in one of the first big-budget superhero movies in 1978. By then well-established as a composer of soundtracks with major successes in *Jaws* and *Star Wars*, John Williams later recalled that he was thrilled to be part of bringing his childhood hero to life. The opening fanfare immediately leads into the march used in the opening titles and the iconic Superman theme.

Robert Weiss



Gyula Cseszkó Conductor

This experienced Conductor, Artistic Director, Music Educator and Adjudicator has had a career hallmarked with excellence for over twenty years, having conducted over forty orchestras and eight choirs. Born of Hungarian-Dutch parents in Adelaide, Gyula studied Viola with John Gould, Glynne Adams and Keith Crellin and received a Master of Music in conducting from Melbourne University in 2003, studying under Professor John Hopkins OBE. He has also studied with conductors Denis Vaughan, Nicholas Braithwaite, Shalom Ronly-Riklis, Carlo Felice Cillario and Carl Crossin OAM.

He founded and was Chief Conductor/Artistic Director of *La Fraternita di Solisti*, his own professional chamber orchestra, for five years. He served as Conductor of the Ballarat Symphony Orchestra, the Melbourne University Biomedical Orchestra (founding Conductor), the Hawthorn U3A Orchestra (for over eleven years), for the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra (on tour in China as Assistant Conductor), the Melbourne University Symphony Orchestra, the Zelman Memorial Symphony Orchestra (Guest Conductor), Melbourne Lawyers and Barrier Reef Orchestras, and Monash Medical Orchestra (the last two years).

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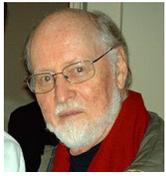
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Raiders March from *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981)

John Williams (b.1932)



John Williams is arguably the most famous of all film composers. He created scores for films such as the *Star Wars* saga, the initial *Harry Potter* films and the *Indiana Jones* series directed by Steven Spielberg, as well as many more. *Raiders of the Lost Ark* tells of Indiana Jones, a 1930s archaeologist looking to beat the Nazis to mystical treasures.

The so-called *Raiders March* is played in full over the final credits and includes themes used throughout all films in the series. The piece starts and ends with Indy's theme that conjures up images of action and bravado. The central more romantic theme represents Marion, Indy's love interest.

Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture (1880)

Pyotor Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)



Russian composer, Tchaikovsky, is best known for his ballets and symphonies. As a young man he had an uneasy relationship with the influential group known as *The Mighty Five* that favoured pure Russian musical style. Nevertheless its founder, Balakirev, acted as a mentor to the young Tchaikovsky and suggested that he write a work based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, providing many details of his expectations. Tchaikovsky readily agreed and wrote what became this 'Fantasy Overture' (but ignored many of Balakirev's requests!). Following an initial luke-warm reception at its 1870 premiere, Tchaikovsky made extensive revisions creating the masterpiece we know today.

The famous love theme has featured in the scores for many TV shows and films such as *Wayne's World*, *Columbo* and even the 1927 *Jazz Singer*, the first "talkie".

Adagio of *Spartacus and Phrygia* from *Spartacus* (1954)

Aram Khachaturian (1903 – 1978)



Khachaturian was born in Armenia in the shadow of the Caucasus mountains and worked all his life in the Soviet Union. His lively music pays homage to the ancient folk music of this oft contested part of the world.

The ballet *Spartacus* is based on the uprising of the slaves in ancient Greece in 70 BC. Spartacus is a rebel slave who leads a revolt against his Roman captors, only to be betrayed. This is the opening Adagio movement from the second of three suites prepared by Khachaturian from the ballet.

It features the famous theme used in the TV Series *The Onedin Line* and the 1994 film *The Hudsucker Proxy* in which Spartacus' lover Phrygia mourns his death.

Finlandia Op. 26 (1899)

Jean Sibelius (1865 – 1957)



By the 1890s, Sibelius was well established as Finland's greatest composer. Finland had been under Russian rule for almost a century and was subject to strict press censorship. In 1899 a group of artists in the Finnish capital, Helsinki, organised a series of so-called 'press celebrations', which, as well as supporting those journalists oppressed by the Russians, served to promote the call for Finland's freedom.

The nationalistic Sibelius was the natural choice to compose music for the stage pageant that was central to the celebrations. As well as a prelude and pieces associated with each scene, he created a stirring piece, *Finland Awakes*, for the grand finale that embodied both the Finn's fierce spirit of resistance and the hope of eventual freedom. Its wildly enthusiastic reception prompted Sibelius to revise it as a standalone piece. Renamed *Finlandia*, it was premiered by the newly formed Helsinki Philharmonic and the performances of *Finlandia* on the orchestra's inaugural European tour catapulted Sibelius to international fame.

Finlandia's main theme was used in the soundtrack for the 1990 film *Die Hard 2*.

INTERVAL (20 minutes)

Overture to *The Force of Destiny* (1869)

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)



Italian composer Verdi is renowned for his operas such as *Aida*, *Rigoletto*, *Il trovatore* and *La traviata*. After becoming established in Italy, Verdi received his first and only commission from Russia for his 22nd opera, *La forza del destino* or *The Force of Destiny*. It tells of two lovers beset by unfortunate events and eventually succumbing to fate. Verdi developed the overture to introduce the opera at its La Scala premiere in 1869. Replete with themes from the opera, it eloquently depicts the conflicting forces that beset the two lovers.

Themes from the overture were used in several films including *La Florette* (1986) as well as the novel TV series *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. (1999-2006).

Symphony No. 7 in A major Op. 92 (2nd Movement - 1812)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)



Beethoven was born in Bonn and later moved to Vienna. He composed nine symphonies and many other masterpieces. The first sketch of what was to become his seventh symphony was started in 1809. Unlike his *Pastoral* symphony (No. 6), the seventh does not represent a particular program or story, despite the attempts of many