

NOTATIONS

Autumn 2018



Canberra Symphony
Orchestra



Don't miss... Symphony in the Park, Killer Queen Symphony.

Pack your picnics and get ready to rock the night away as the Canberra Symphony Orchestra takes to the stage with the Killer Queen Experience tribute band. After last year's success of the Symphony in the Park BABBA concert, we have teamed up with conductor George Ellis again to produce an entirely new show, created especially for Canberra's Enlighten Festival and Canberra Day celebrations. A special thanks to the ACT Government for making this event possible. Symphony in the Park is a free event for all ages.

Sunday 11 March, 2018
Stage 88, Commonwealth Park, 7.30pm

more info: cso.org.au/event/symphony-in-the-park-cso-killer-queen-symphony/

In this edition

Symphony in the Park
Review: ActewAGL Llewellyn One
From the CEO
Upcoming events
Education, Community and CSO
in the Regions
Rediscovering Music
Strings in the Salon 2018
Music by the River, Queanbeyan
CSO survey





Review:

ActewAGL Llewellyn Series One, 21 & 22 March 2018

By Richard Gate

ActewAGL Llewellyn One, by the Canberra Symphony Orchestra was both challenging and instructive, containing, as it did, four works which are rarely, if ever, heard. After the concert, the audience must have felt it had had an educational experience.

The first work, Carl Vine's *Microsymphony*, was a good deal longer than its title would suggest. Written over thirty years ago, it is obviously a product of technical skill and hard thinking. It is heavily scored for a large orchestra and somewhat pessimistic in its relentlessly harsh musical message. It is a great tribute to the orchestra that it was able to give such excellent performance of such a difficult and almost impenetrable work. Full marks to the conductor, too, for his clear and unflamboyant direction.

The second work on the program was Prokofiev's *Second Piano Concerto*. This work requires great virtuosity on the part of the pianist and the orchestra.

The soloist, Tamara-Anna Cislowska, fully met the demands of the solo part and gave a musical and technically assured performance, particularly in the long passages where the orchestras was silent. The orchestral accompaniment was well-high perfect and, as is often the case in Canberra, the solo winds and brass were first class.

Music of a completely different kind was offered by Kats-Chernin's *Alexander Rag*. This was a melodious work which was reminiscent of the music that Cole Porter and others wrote for films in the 1930s. It was very well played by the orchestra; the audience, now in a more relaxed mood, obviously enjoyed it. Whether music of this kind deserves a place in a symphonic program is a topic that could well be debated. The composer was in the audience and received a round of applause.

When it appeared in 1945, just after the war, Shostakovich's *Ninth Symphony* was a disappointment to his admirers and a boon to his detractors who claimed it was worthless trash. Both sides in the debate were expecting something in the nature of

a victory symphony and not the comparatively light-hearted work which the composer offered them. The symphony has never recovered from its initial reception and is rarely heard on concert programs.

Heard now, more than 70 years after its composition and apart from all political considerations, the symphony emerges as a most enjoyable, well-orchestrated and professionally composed work. In the second movement it shows rare depth of feeling. Only in the last movement can be heard the trivial elements which many critics complain of in Shostakovich's work.

Throughout the concert, the Australian conductor Dane Lam revealed himself as an excellent musician, setting sensible tempi and balancing the choirs of the orchestra very well and never letting it play to loudly. The first violins sounded somewhat scrappy in the Shostakovich symphony. He is now conductor of the Symphony Orchestra in Xi'an, China, the headquarters of the entombed warriors. He would be very welcome again in Canberra.



From the CEO

A belated welcome to the CSO's 2018 Season! In years' past, the Shell Prom concert would have taken place in mid-February and we would be gearing up now for the first in the ActewAGL Llewellyn Series. In 2018 the Prom concludes, rather than opens the season, and with the introduction of five concerts in the ActewAGL Llewellyn Series, the first is already behind us!

Have you given us your feedback yet? The CSO is running a survey to collect your thoughts and ideas. We value your suggestions and would love to know what you see as the CSO's role in the community and the music you want to hear. Please go to our website before 18 March to have your say – and we have some pretty exciting prizes that will be drawn on 19 March.

For those believe variety is the spice of life, on Sunday 11 March we are thrilled to be working with the ACT Government on Symphony in the Park as part of the Canberra Day and Enlighten Festival. Pack your picnic and join us at Stage 88 for this free night event featuring the CSO and the Killer Queen Experience as we bring you the best of Queen in concert.

Back to the concert hall for your second ActewAGL Llewellyn Series concert. This will be a great melding of the wisdom of

experience with the exuberance of youth as revered maestro Johannes Fritzschn leads the CSO featuring the stellar young star Phoebe Russell on double bass. Fresh from her work with the Berlin Philharmonic, Phoebe has returned home to Australia and we are delighted to feature her talents in this intriguing program on 2 and 3 May. Want to know more about Phoebe before the concert? Come to her Recital on Sunday afternoon 29 April at 3pm in the Wesley Music Centre Church. Tickets are available through CSO Direct or at door.

Then we move to the National Portrait Gallery for the first in our 2018 Australian Series presented by Singapore Airlines on Thursday 17 May. If you, your child or grandchild plays the saxophone, you won't want to miss this concert which features the 14-piece Sax Orchestra from the Sydney Conservatory of Music. Starting at 6:30pm, it's one hour of innovative Australian music and you can also go in to the National Photographic Portrait Prize exhibition if you wish. The Australian Series is unique to the CSO and NPG - so expect the unexpected and be part of a world-premiere audience!

This is just the beginning of a mighty year for the CSO and we look forward to sharing it with you here, there and everywhere.

Sarah Kimball

Upcoming Events

Recital Two, Phoebe Russell (Double Bass)

Sunday 29 April, 2018
Wesley Music Centre, 3.00pm

BOTTESINI: Introduzione e Bolero
BRAHMS: Cello Sonata No. 1 in E minor, op. 38
GLIÉRE: Intermezzo and Tarantella

ActewAGL Llewellyn Two

Wednesday 2 May
Thursday 3 May, 2018
Llewellyn Hall, ANU, 7.30pm
Pre-concert talk 6.45pm

Johannes Fritzschn Conductor
Phoebe Russell Double Bass
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis
VAÑHAL: Double Bass Concerto in D major
STANHOPE: Morning Star
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 2 in D major, op. 36

Portraits at an Exhibition

Thursday 17 May, 2018
Gordon Darling Hall, NPG, 6.30-7.30pm
Presented by Singapore Airlines

NPG Exhibition: National Photographic Portrait Prize

SCM Saxophone Orchestra
Michael Duke Conductor

BRENTON BROADSTOCK: Aurora Australis (1988, new arrangement commissioned 2017)
MATTHEW ORLOVICH: Concertino for saxophone and saxophone orchestra (new commission 2017-18)
KATIA BEUGEAIS: First Light at Uluru (2015)
ELENA KATS-CHERNIN: Anna Magdalena's Notebook
GABRIELLA VICI: Prelude, Idyll and Fugue
NATALIE WILLIAMS: New work

More info

For more information about upcoming CSO events, visit:

cso.org.au/events/





Education, Community and CSO in the Regions

Announcing Music in My Schools and Ginninderry—inspiring a new way of living and a new generation of musicians

The CSO is excited to announce Music in MY School, a program developed by CSO Education to provide inspiring and meaningful live classical music experiences to school students in the ACT and regions.

Initially commencing in Belconnen and Yass Valley, this pilot year of innovative music education is supported by Ginninderry Development. The CSO is incredibly excited about this partnership which will deliver 45-minute concerts with an educational narrator. The concerts will be programmed for different ages and stages of development and will be supported by teaching material which school teachers can use before and after the concert experience.

Music in MY School offers Ginninderry the opportunity to further develop their already established partnership with Kingsford Smith School. Paul Branson, Principal said “We are very grateful for the support we have been receiving from Ginninderry, from

the SPARK program to the Open Space Planning project, arts based activities and now this wonderful music ed program”.

Ginninderry is committed to development that is integrated into the community. “We’re proud to be working with CSO to give these opportunities to Canberra’s young budding musicians, and we hope to continue our partnership into the future.”- Community and Cultural Planning Manager, Susan Davis.

Ginninderry is unique within our region as it extends over the ACT and NSW borders. The region is being developed as a joint venture between the ACT Government and Riverview Developments Pty Ltd.

The CSO is committed to seeing its innovative music education programs reach new audiences and our partnership with likeminded businesses ensures that the programs reach students in need. Programs such as these are costly and they would not be possible without the support of visionary partners.

Regional Focus

Regional engagement and impact are all part of CSO’s vision in 2018. Last weekend, the CSO travelled across the border to perform in Queanbeyan for the Music by the River, a collaboration between Icon Water, the CSO and the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council. This is the second year that the CSO has performed for friends in Queanbeyan and it’s surrounds. Icon Water

supported this event in 2017, it’s inaugural year, and this year they have committed to supporting Music by the River in 2019 also. This partnership is an important example of what can happen when the arts, business and government collaborate!

As with Ginninderry, Icon Water has generously embraced the pilot year of CSO Education’s Music in MY Schools program, by providing funding for it’s rollout in the Queanbeyan region, alongside Belconnen and Yass Valley.

Good things to come!

CSO Partnerships and Philanthropy are working together in 2018, developing creative events and activities that will explore new ways for people to support the CSO.

Our vision is to make the CSO more accessible to wider audiences through our programs both on the main stage and through music education, ensembles, community and regional activity. We will be asking you to help us achieve great things—because we know life is better with music.

If you want to chat about how you can support the CSO call the office on 02 6247 9191 and ask for Tim or Frances

Think of your favourite piece of music and how it makes you feel. Now imagine not even being able to recognise it; what has happened? This can happen with permanent hearing loss and is a reality for some people.

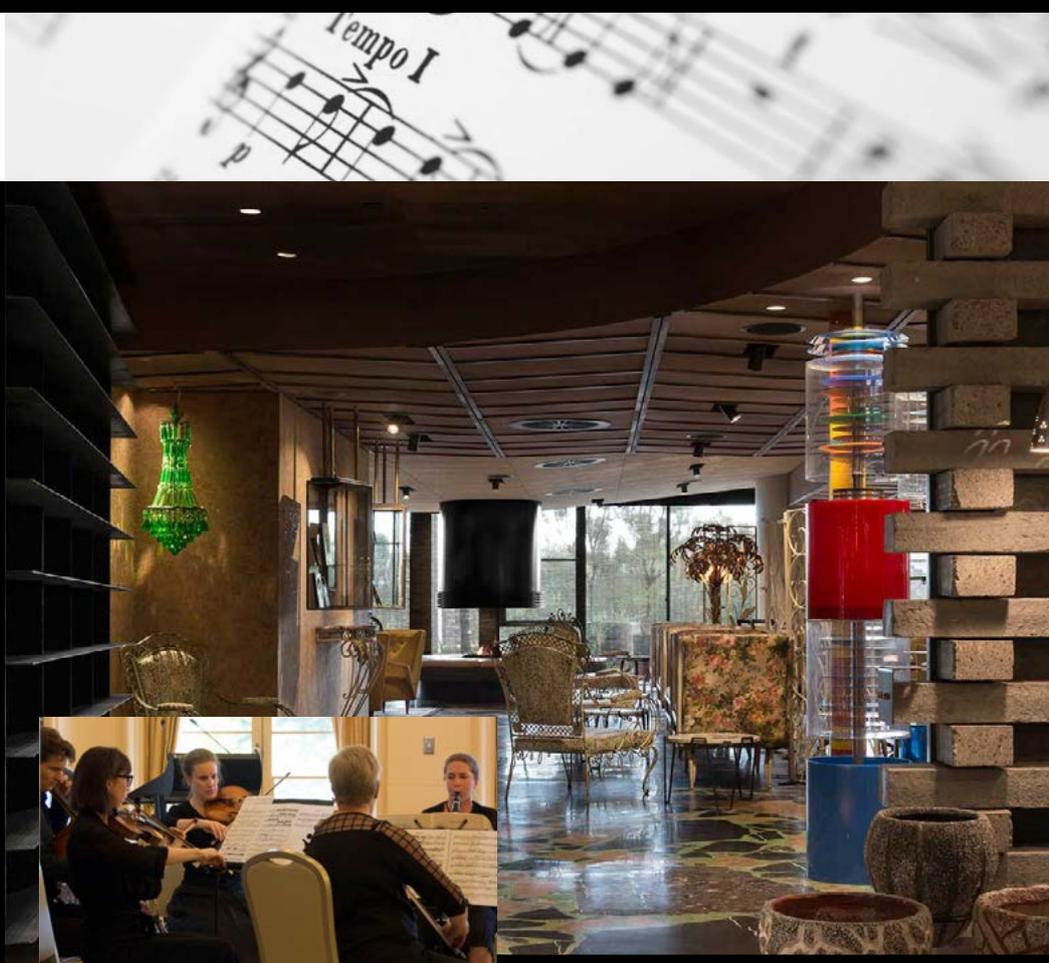
Rediscovering Music

Since its inception in 2013, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra's (CSO's) Rediscovering Music has been ground breaking and unique. Adults with hearing loss have benefited from the Rediscovering Music, a series of chamber music concerts with a music rehabilitation focus. Music often sounds distorted when listening through a hearing aid or Cochlear Implant and these sessions help patrons make sense of this new sound and enjoy music again – 'rediscovering music'. Concerts are organised and emceed by Kristen Sutcliffe, bassoonist in CSO and an audiologist with Australian Hearing who regularly works with both children and adults with hearing loss.

The Rediscovering Music concerts have explored every section of the orchestra through to jazz and African drumming. Many patrons have reported that they have started to listen to, and enjoy, music once again after the skills and confidence gained through this program. As their confidence has increased, many patrons have been given the chance to attend CSO fully symphony orchestra concerts, Meet the Music sessions and rehearsals.

In our Discovering Music program children with permanent hearing loss have had the opportunity to undertake workshops and hear concerts with members of the CSO. We have just completed a 'Music and Dance' workshop for very young children with hearing loss for World Hearing Day on 3 March 2018.

more info: cso.org.au/events/



CSO musicians Barbara-Jane Gilby (violin), Pip Thompson (violin), Lucy Carrigy-Ryan (viola), Sam Payne (cello), and Eloise Fisher (clarinet).

Strings in the Salon 2018

Much of the world's finest chamber music compositions were written not for the concert stage but for smaller, more intimate venues. Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, music became an integral part of the salon experience, which also included discourse on philosophical or political matters of the day, and acted as a venue for cultural and social leisure time. The CSO has joined with Hotel Hotel to create a 21st Century Salon experience, combining chamber music performed by CSO musicians with a high quality dining experience (philosophical discussions at the table are optional!). Attendees are treated to an afternoon in the stylish Monster Bar, enjoying conversation with friends new and old, and the opportunity to connect with musicians on a more personal level.

This year, the Strings in the Salon concerts present a range of chamber music repertoire, with enticing menus to match. The 2018 Strings in the Salon season began on Sunday 25 February with a performance of Brahms' Clarinet Quintet, a late masterpiece of the composer, performed with finesse and artistry by the quintet led by CSO Concertmaster, Barbara-Jane Gilby, along

with CSO musicians Pip Thompson, Lucy Carrigy-Ryan, Sam Payne, and Eloise Fisher. Though Brahms himself apparently retained the tastes of his humble Hamburg upbringing, being known to slurp down sardines straight from the tin for breakfast, the diners at Hotel Hotel enjoyed a delectable dish of pulled lamb shoulder with pistachio and pomegranate, followed by a strawberry-rhubarb cheesecake.

The second concert, to take place on Sunday, 27 May, will be a harp showcase, with Meriel Owen and Tegan Peemoeller joining together to form the inimitable Harp Ninja duo. This will be followed by a return of the CSO concertmaster in trios for Flute, Viola, and Harp, on Sunday 22 July, 2018. The final concert of the year, on Sunday 16 September, will include musicians from the CSO's new Kingsland Resident Artist program—a chance for the public to meet some of the newly selected Residents in an intimate setting. All three of these upcoming programs will allow you to enjoy superb chamber music with a glass of champagne in hand and fine food on the table.

Bookings must be made in advance

more info: cso.org.au/event/strings-in-the-salon-autumn-2/



Photos courtesy Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council



Music by the River, Queanbeyan

The banks of the Queanbeyan river were filled with music, dance, and cheer on 3 March as the CSO took part in Music by the River for a second year.

Pre concert entertainment featured the Yukkumbruk Ngunnawal Traditional Dancers, whose name means 'Crow', made up of five proud Ngunnawal women who have a strong connection to the region and the Queanbeyan River. Also, Dean Freeman an accomplished Didgeridoo player warmed the crowd. Dean works closely with the community to share the importance of the land and the connection to his people.

Mayor of Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council Tim Overall welcomed concertmaster Barbara Jane Gilby who lead the orchestra. The music performed no doubt brought back memories for the audience, in what was a celebration of popular classical works now heard in cinema, radio, and of course TV commercials.

Interval provided a glimpse of the Queanbeyan Multicultural Festival with a vibrant performance from Subsdance Dance Studio—a mix of Latin, Jamaican and Brazilian entertainment.

Great food and drink, live music and dance and a strong community spirit made this event magical.

A very special thank you to Icon Water and Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council for their continued support. This partnership is crucial in taking the CSO into the region and is an important case study in how the arts, government and business can collaborate on great cultural events. We are delighted that Icon Water will once again support the CSO at Music by the River in 2019.

Thank you also to 2CC's Tim Shaw for being a true champion of the CSO and for being such an informative and entertaining master of ceremonies.





WE NEED YOU!

{We want to know what you think}

Participate in our 8 minute survey and go into the draw to win prizes from our valued partners.

- 👉 A night in Hotel Hotel's Creative Room with complimentary mini bar and breakfast.
- 👉 Lunch for 2 in style at Lerida Estate Winery, with a BMW from Rolfe Classic BMW for 2 nights.
- 👉 3 x CSO hampers including Lerida Estate wine, CSO tickets and much more.
- 👉 5 x family Shell Prom tickets.

Don't miss this chance to have your say , go to

cso.org.au/survey

Drawn Monday 19 March. More info, terms and conditions online at cso.org.au