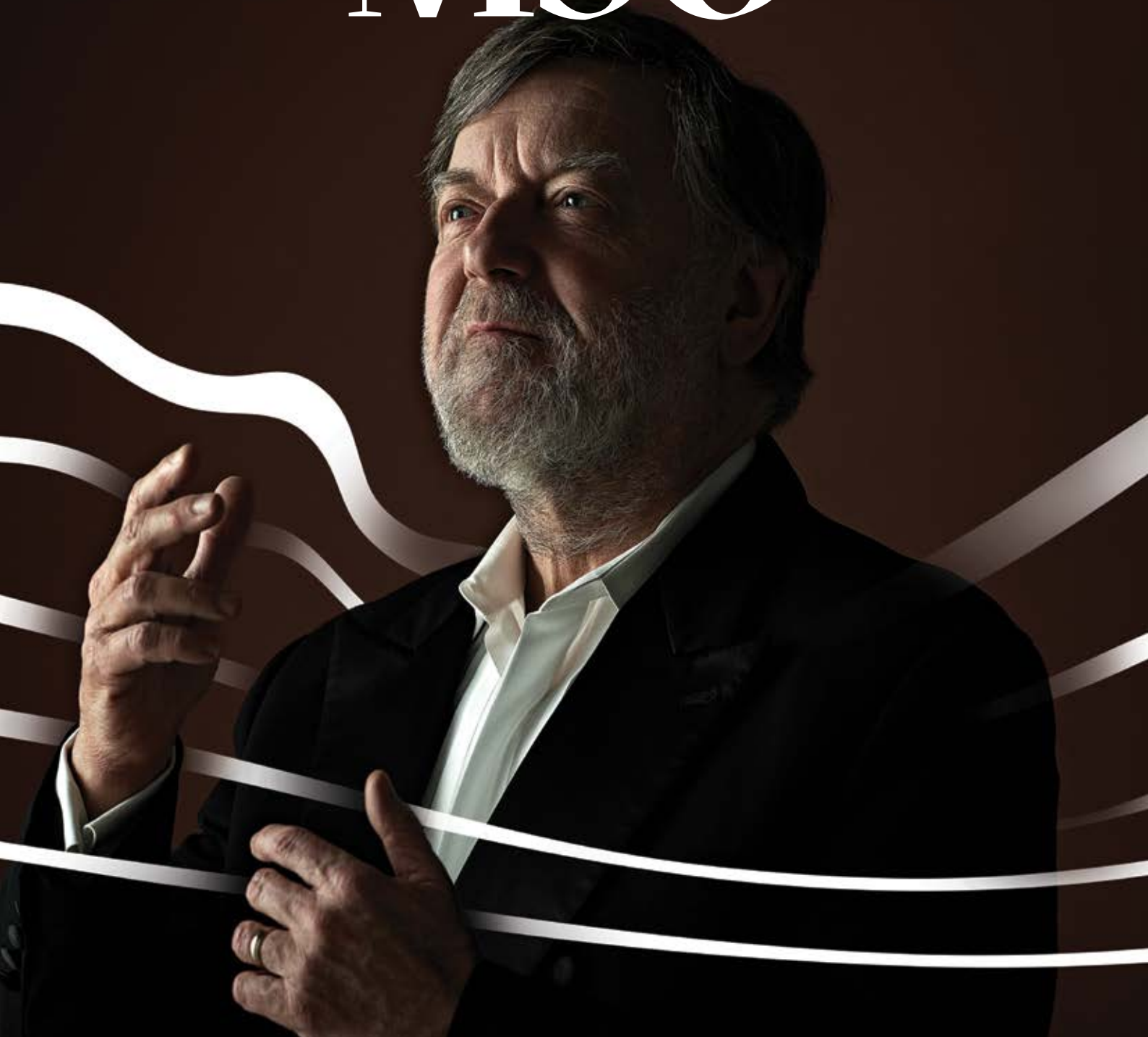


SEASON 2019 MEDIA KIT

MSO



featuring SIR ANDREW DAVIS • LANG LANG • BRIAN COX
VERDI'S REQUIEM • *composer in residence* PAUL DEAN
HANSEL AND GRETEL *and MSO's own* THOMAS HUTCHINSON

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

February



Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire™ in Concert

Friday 1 February / 7.30pm
Saturday 2 February / 1pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Grab your broom and get ready for the tasks ahead! The Triwizard Tournament comes to Hogwarts™ in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire™* in Concert.

Relive the magic of Harry Potter™ soaring across the big screen in high-definition and experience the music of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra performing Patrick Doyle's unforgettable score. Rated: M

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Chinese New Year: East Meets West

Wednesday 13 February / 7.30pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Tan Dun conductor

Hanggai Inner Mongolian rock band

Visionary composer and conductor, Tan Dun returns to Melbourne to celebrate the Year of the Pig.

An annual highlight of the city's Chinese New Year celebrations since 2013, this year Tan Dun has curated a thrilling, yet personal evening of repertoire.

Joining the maestro and the MSO is Hanggai, a troupe of traditional-meets-rock musicians from the steppes of Inner Mongolia via Beijing. Combining traditional instruments like the morin khuur (horsehair fiddle) and tobshuur (two-stringed lute) with a hearty serving of rock bravado, their performance with the MSO will be unlike anything else you'll see all year.

February

Sidney Myer Free Concerts

Sidney Myer Music Bowl

The perfect soundtrack to summer in the city.

Gates open at 4.30pm



Gershwin and Friends

Friday 8 February / 7.30pm

Benjamin Northey conductor
Olivia Chindamo vocalist
Daniel Le piano

Gershwin *Cuban Overture*
Chindamo *Fantaskatto*
Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*
Gershwin *An American in Paris*

Symphony of Seduction

Saturday 16 February / 7.30pm

Tianyi Lu conductor
Christopher Lawrence presenter

Berlioz *Le corsaire*
Satie/Debussy *Gymnopédie*
Debussy *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*
Fauré *Pelléas et Mélisande Suite*
Tchaikovsky *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*

A Symphonic Celebration

Wednesday 20 February / 7.30pm

Benjamin Northey conductor
Veriko Tchumburidze violin
Calvin Bowman organ
Holdsworth Fanfare *
Dvořák *Carnival Overture*
Bruch *Scottish Fantasy*
Dukas *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*
Saint-Saëns *Symphony No.3 Organ*

* *Cybec Young Composer in Residence*

In association with



MSO's Sidney Myer Free concerts are supported by the late Sidney Myer through the Sidney Myer MSO Trust Fund.

March



Kristian Chong

Fantasy and the Firebird

Friday 8 March / 7.30pm
Melbourne Town Hall

Benjamin Northey conductor
Jacqueline Porter soprano
Kristian Chong piano

Grieg *Peer Gynt* (selection)
Rachmaninov *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*
Kats-Chernin *Dance of the Paper Umbrellas*
Rachmaninov *Vocalise*
Stravinsky *Firebird Suite* (1919)

A splendid sunrise, angry trolls and a heartfelt siren song will magic you to the Norwegian mountains in Grieg's beautifully imagined *Peer Gynt* Suite.

Pianist Kristian Chong loves the many imaginative and inspiring ways Rachmaninov transforms the simple Paganini theme in his famous variations.

Revel in Stravinsky's sumptuous score as Prince Ivan and his magical helper, the Firebird, thwart the evil sorceress Kashei. Russian fireworks and poetry complete the concert.



Lu Siqing

Bruch's Violin Concerto

Friday 15 March / 11am
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Sir Andrew Davis conductor
Lu Siqing violin *
MSO Chorus

Berlioz *King Lear Overture*
Bruch Violin Concerto No.1
Borodin *Prince Igor: Polovtsian Dances*

The exhilarating drive of Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances* has thrilled listeners for more than a hundred years, not only in the concert hall, but in many popular culture appearances too. Even without knowing its origins as a scene-stealing fantasy of exotic splendour within an opera, the Dances' delicious vitality and rich orchestral colour is irresistible.

A few years younger than Borodin, Max Bruch was thoroughly schooled in the German tradition through the aesthetic line of Mendelssohn and Brahms.

* Soloist in Residence

March

Season Opening Gala

Sir Andrew Davis and Lu Siqing

Saturday 16 March / 7.30pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Sir Andrew Davis conductor

Lu Siqing violin

MSO Chorus

Borodin *Prince Igor: Polovtsian Dances*

Bruch Violin Concerto No.1

Tchaikovsky Symphony No.6 *Pathétique*

To start his final season as Chief Conductor, there is no more fitting time for Sir Andrew Davis to appear on the podium with the MSO than at our Season Opening Gala.

Lu Siqing joined Sir Andrew and the MSO on a 2018 tour of China, where the Orchestra performed Bruch's Violin Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony, *Pathétique*, to six rapturous standing ovations across the country. Be the first in Australia to see this program performed by two stars, as well as your Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.



Sir Andrew Davis

March



Mahler 10: Letters and Readings

Thursday 21 March / 7.30pm
Saturday 23 March / 2pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne
Friday 22 March / 7.30pm
Costa Hall, Geelong

Sir Andrew Davis conductor

Mahler/Cooke Symphony No.10

Mahler had more challenges than most of us. Grief for a dead daughter, a forced resignation from a treasured post at the Vienna Opera, anti-Semitic attacks, the diagnosis of a potentially fatal heart condition, and the final straw, his wife Alma's infidelity.

His last symphony, which was completed by Deryck Cooke, journeys through a complex and often anguished arc of struggle. Eventually Mahler finds catharsis and a state of grace in his final, radiant notes.



Beethoven, Mozart and Sibelius

Friday 29 March / 7.30pm
Saturday 30 March / 7.30pm
Monday 1 April / 6.30pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Sir Andrew Davis conductor

Alessio Bax piano

Beethoven *Egmont* Overture

Mozart Piano Concerto No.27

Sibelius Symphony No.1

First Prize-winner at both the Leeds and Hamamatsu international piano competitions, Italian pianist Alessio Bax plays Mozart's Piano Concerto No.27 for his MSO debut. Written at the same time as *Don Giovanni*, it shares much of the opera's dark tension and tragedy.

Sibelius' First Symphony was written around the same time as his patriotic *Finlandia*: a time his native Finland was struggling for independence. Rich and romantic, the First Symphony is subtly flavoured with the Finnish folk-inspired melodies that would become quintessential Sibelius.

April



Michael Collins

Michael Collins and Paul Dean: Mozart's Clarinet Concerto

Thursday 4 April / 7.30pm
Melbourne Recital Centre

Friday 5 April / 7.30pm
Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash

Michael Collins director / clarinet

Paul Dean clarinet

Mozart Clarinet Concerto

Dean Clarinet Concerto ^

Beethoven Symphony No.7

Smooth and sexy, the clarinet is known for its dynamic versatility. This concert features the clarinet in two very different concertos performed by two brilliant virtuosi.

Mozart's is a perennial favourite, and is brought to life by internationally-acclaimed soloist Michael Collins.

Collins then takes the conductor's baton while MSO Composer in Residence, Paul Dean steps up as soloist in his own brand-new concerto. The concert ends with Beethoven's exhilarating Seventh Symphony, which Wagner called 'the apotheosis of the dance'.

^ Commissioned by Andrew Johnston and the MSO

Late Masterpieces

Sunday 7 April / 11am
Iwaki Auditorium,
ABC Southbank

Sophie Rowell violin

Matthew Tomkins violin

Christopher Moore viola

David Berlin cello

Philip Arkinstall clarinet

Mozart *Divertimento* for String Trio

Brahms Clarinet Quintet

Start your Sunday with these two pieces, each composed late in their respective composer's career. The clarinet's warm, golden hues inspired Brahms to create music of restful beauty, the result a work of beguiling human warmth and pleasure.

The accompanying string trio composed by Mozart in 1788 extends well beyond the lightweight dimensions suggested by the title *Divertimento*, to become a substantial work of a composer at the height of his powers.

April

Ears Wide Open: Ravel's Mother Goose

Monday 8 April / 6.30pm
Melbourne Recital Centre

Ravel *Ma Mère l'Oye (Mother Goose)*

We know fairy tales are fun, but who knew they made such good music?

Dance with a sleeping maiden, meet an exotic princess, and soar through the air in a magical fairy garden, as you discover the genius of Ravel's orchestration in excerpts from the composer's enchanting *Mother Goose Suite*.

Verdi's Requiem

Thursday 11 April / 7.30pm
Saturday 13 April / 2pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Lawrence Renes conductor
Leah Crocetto soprano
Okka von der Damerau alto
Issachah Savage tenor
Nicholas Brownlee bass
MSO Chorus

Verdi *Messa da Requiem*

Italian opera master Giuseppe Verdi was a 'doubtful believer' so why did a great sceptic leave us a full-blown Requiem?

Rather than consolation at the end of life's struggles, Verdi offers only trepidation about what's ahead. Perhaps only eternal silence... But with nearly 100 musicians, the same amount of choristers and four vocal soloists on stage, it will have you on the edge of your seat. This is music of spectacle, ceremony and sacred devotion.



Leah Crocetto

May

Metropolis New Music Festival

A celebration of some of Australia's – and the world's – finest living composers, Metropolis New Music Festival showcases the MSO's commitment to contemporary symphonic music.



Lior

In 2019, Metropolis – presented in partnership with Melbourne Recital Centre – celebrates the work of Dutch master Louis Andriessen, whose 80th birthday will be celebrated around the world.

Composer Kate Moore studied under Andriessen, and the MSO will perform the world premiere of her Percussion Concerto, written especially for acclaimed percussionist Claire Edwardes.

We will also showcase new works from a host of Australian composers, including MSO's 2018 Young Composer in Residence, Ade Vincent, whose new piece features the versatile Australian artist Lior.

The Metropolis Festival features Australia's most exciting new music ensembles presented by Melbourne Recital Centre, including MSO Ensemble in Residence PLEXUS. Discover music to challenge, stimulate and surprise, as composers engage with life in the 21st Century. The complete program will be announced soon. Purchase a Metropolis subscription for priority access to all the Festival's events.

Metropolis Night One

Thursday 2 May / 7.30pm
Melbourne Recital Centre

Clark Rundell conductor
Ralph van Raat piano
Claire Edwardes percussion

Metropolis Night Two

Saturday 4 May / 7.30pm
Melbourne Recital Centre

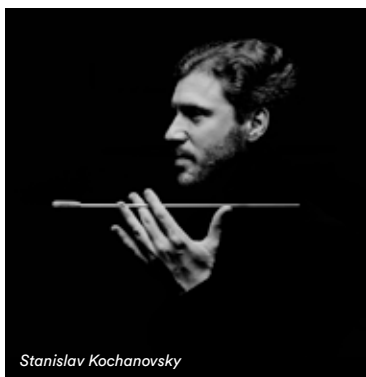
Clark Rundell conductor
Lior vocals

In association with



 MONASH University

May



Stanislav Kochanovsky

Romeo and Juliet

Friday 10 May / 7.30pm
Saturday 11 May / 7.30pm
Monday 13 May / 6.30pm
Hamer Hall,
Arts Centre Melbourne

Stanislav Kochanovsky conductor
Yulianna Avdeeva piano

Mussorgsky *Night on Bald Mountain*
 (original version)

Chopin Piano Concerto No.1

Prokofiev *Romeo and Juliet* (excerpts)

After his memorable debut conducting Rachmaninov with the MSO in 2017, rising Russian maestro Stanislav Kochanovsky returns to transport us to Shakespeare's fabled tale of the star-cross'd lovers, Romeo and Juliet in excerpts from Prokofiev's masterful ballet score. Mussorgsky's *A Night on Bald Mountain*, inspired by a Witches' Sabbath in a story by Gogol, makes for an ominous, eerie curtain-raiser, before Russian pianist Yulianna Avdeeva whisks us away with one of Chopin's finest works.

Ludovic Morlot: A Night at Sea

Thursday 16 May / 7.30pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Friday 17 March / 7.30pm
Costa Hall, Geelong

Ludovic Morlot conductor

Liadov *Enchanted Lake*

Sibelius *Oceanides*

Britten *Peter Grimes: Four Sea Interludes*

Dalbavie *La source d'un regard*

Debussy *La Mer*

French conductor Ludovic Morlot leads the MSO through a series of water-themed works, beginning with Liadov's shimmering *Enchanted Lake*.

Sibelius evokes the dance of sea nymphs in *Oceanides*, while Britten's 'Four Sea Interludes' from *Peter Grimes* make for a stormier affair.

Then there's Marc-André Dalbavie's *La source d'un regard*, a contemporary work balancing shocking moments of brass and percussion with cool, misty atmospheres. All this builds towards Debussy's miraculous aquatic masterpiece: *La Mer*, 'The Sea'.

Christopher Moore directs the MSO: Mozart 29

Wednesday 29 May / 7.30pm
Melbourne Recital Centre

Friday 31 May / 7.30pm
Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash

Christopher Moore director / viola
Stefan Cassomenos piano

Pärt *Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten*

Britten *Rondo Concertante*

Britten *Young Apollo*

Mozart *Symphony No.29*

Not interested in playing first or second fiddle, MSO Principal Violist Chris Moore leads the band in this concert, which begins with Arvo Pärt's haunting *Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten*.

Two of Britten's own works follow, before Mozart's breezy *Symphony No.29*, one of the composer's best-known early symphonic works, concludes the evening.

June

Romance and Rhapsody

Sunday 2 June / 11am
Iwaki Auditorium, ABC Southbank

Christopher Cartlidge viola
Thomas Hutchinson oboe
Philip Arkinstall clarinet
Laurence Matheson piano

Dean New work ^

Bruch 8 Pieces for Clarinet, Viola and Piano

Loeffler Two Rhapsodies for Oboe, Viola and Piano

The new work which MSO's Composer in Residence, Paul Dean provides for this concert is sure to make a memorable impact. Charles Loeffler's Rhapsodies are versions of songs in which Loeffler explores moods inspired by the opulence of French Symbolism, reaching towards the sensuality of Impressionism. Max Bruch, on the other hand, occupies a similar aesthetic world to Brahms. Best known for his colourful works inspired by Scottish and Hebrew melodies, Bruch's Eight Pieces were composed for his clarinettist son.

^ World premiere



BOLÉRO! Slava Grigoryan and the Rhythms of Spain

Friday 7 June / 7.30pm
Melbourne Town Hall

Benjamin Northey conductor
Slava Grigoryan guitar

De Falla *The Three-Cornered Hat Suite No.2 (Three Dances)*

Boccherini / Berio *Ritirata notturno di Madrid*

Ravel *Rapsodie espagnole*

Rodrigo *Concierto de Aranjuez*

Ravel *Boléro*

Celebrated Australian guitarist Slava Grigoryan is the soloist in the mesmerising Aranjuez guitar concerto by Rodrigo. Classical and folk traditions from Andalucía converge in this work, and the cor anglais melody that introduces the beautiful slow movement came to Rodrigo when he was waiting for a tram!

Some of the best Spanish music was written by Frenchmen, and a perfect example is Ravel's *Boléro*, with its erotic, pulsating rhythms sure to hypnotise.

June



Jaime Martín

Mozart's Requiem

Thursday 20 June / 7.30pm
 Saturday 22 June / 2pm
 Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Jaime Martín conductor
 Jacqueline Porter soprano
 Fiona Campbell alto
 Andrew Goodwin tenor
 James Clayton bass
 MSO Chorus
 Ravel *Ma Mère l'Oye (Mother Goose)*
 Mozart Requiem

Deceit, murder and a black-masked stranger. It did really happen: one of the world's greatest composers died writing his own Requiem!

Using Bach and Handel's earlier models of musical grief, and adding new orchestral colours with trombones, bass horn and a continuo section of organ and low strings, to the conventional 18th century orchestral line-up, Mozart creates music that is unique and heartbreaking.

Contrast this epic work with Ravel's charming, nostalgic *Mother Goose* as he captures childhood innocence with beguiling perfection.



Vadim Gluzman

Vadim Gluzman plays Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto

Friday 28 June / 7.30pm
 Saturday 29 June / 7.30pm
 Monday 1 July / 6.30pm
 Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Jakub Hruša conductor
 Vadim Gluzman violin
 Dvořák *The Wood Dove*
 Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto
 Mussorgsky / Ravel *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Brilliant young Czech maestro Jakub Hruša returns to the MSO with Dvořák's subtly-scored orchestral ballad, *The Wood Dove*, based on a Czech legend of infatuation and murder in a rural village.

Ukrainian-born Vadim Gluzman's interpretation of the beloved Tchaikovsky concerto with its fiery virtuosity and wistful poetry is not to be missed.

Ravel was on his own mission when he orchestrated Mussorgsky's *Pictures*, exploring the outermost reaches of instrumental possibilities in his search for new colours and contrasts in this great orchestral showpiece.

July



Kirill Karabits

Rachmaninov 3

Wednesday 3 July / 11am
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Kirill Karabits conductor

Mozart *The Marriage of Figaro*
 Overture

Rachmaninov Symphony No.3

Dynamic Ukrainian conductor Kirill Karabits explores the rich emotional tapestry of Rachmaninov's Third Symphony, composed in 1936 and steeped in recollections of the composer's Russian traditions.

The combination of Russian heritage and modernist exhilaration hints at the symphony's character, which is by turns vivacious, sweetly melancholic, and ultimately ecstatic. Mozart's brilliant overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* sets the concert off with lively brio.



Lang Lang

Lang Lang

Mid-Season Gala

Thursday 4 July / 7.30pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Kirill Karabits conductor

Lang Lang piano *

Mozart *The Marriage of Figaro*
 Overture

Mozart Piano Concerto No.24

Rachmaninov Symphony No.3

The singular piano sensation of the 21st century, Lang Lang couples his virtuosity with a voracious appetite for musical diversity and a charismatic personality that draws listeners deep into his musical world.

For this special performance, Lang Lang shares his love of Mozart, and one of the composer's finest works.

** Lang Lang supported by MSO Life Members, Mr Marc Besen AC and Mrs Eva Besen AO*

July



Last Night of the Proms

Saturday 13 July / 7.30pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Sir Andrew Davis conductor
Lu Siqing violin
MSO Chorus

Prepare yourself for some *Pomp and Circumstance* with the King of the Proms, Sir Andrew Davis!

The MSO's annual celebration of the best of British music, Last Night of the Proms is flag-waving, chorus-rousing music at its finest.

With crowd favourites including Arne's *Rule, Britannia!* and Parry's *Jerusalem*, there's no better way to warm the cockles of your heart.

Joining Sir Andrew on stage will be MSO's Soloist in Residence, Lu Siqing, who will perform one of Saint-Saëns' genuine showpieces, his *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*.

The Rites of Spring

Thursday 18 July / 7.30pm
Saturday 20 July / 2pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Sir Andrew Davis conductor
Australian Girls Choir
National Boys Choir
MSO Chorus

Stravinsky *Perséphone*
Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring*

Paris, the Champs-Élysées theatre, May 29, 1913. A now-legendary riot breaks out amongst the audience

as Diaghilev's *Ballets Russes* unveils its brand new work, *The Rite of Spring*, Nijinsky's tale of human sacrifice with a brutal, elemental score by Igor Stravinsky. Twenty years later, Stravinsky created another 'rite of spring', around the fertility myth about the arrival of Spring. It was the story of *Perséphone*; Goddess of Spring and Queen of the Underworld.

The Rite of Spring and Firebird

Friday 19 July / 7.30pm
Costa Hall, Geelong

Sir Andrew Davis conductor

Ravel *Mother Goose Suite*
Stravinsky *Firebird Suite* (1919)
Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring*

In the early decades of the Twentieth Century, Stravinsky created a series of ballet scores which are among the greatest ever composed. Telling its tale of the liberation of captive souls from evil enchantment, the *Firebird* reaches to a jubilant climax. The *Rite of Spring* delves into a darker, ancient past to create its mesmerising world of barbaric power.

Ears Wide Open: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Tuesday 30 July / 6.30pm
Melbourne Recital Centre

Mendelssohn *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (excerpts)

Journey through the fairy garden with Mendelssohn, and his incidental music to Shakespeare's play about mischievous spirits and finding true love. Explore some of the most beautiful excerpts from Mendelssohn's spellbinding score, including light-footed pixie music, glorious horn chorales, and the well-loved Wedding March.

August



Johannes Moser

Elgar's Cello Concerto

Friday 2 August / 7.30pm
 Saturday 3 August / 7.30pm
 Monday 5 August / 6.30pm
 Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Bertrand de Billy conductor
 Johannes Moser cello

Wagner *Siegfried Idyll*

Elgar Cello Concerto

R. Strauss *Also sprach Zarathustra*

French conductor Bertrand de Billy makes his MSO debut embracing one of Richard Strauss' most ambitious tone poems, *Also sprach Zarathustra*. It's been hijacked by the movies (used in Stanley Kubrick's 1968 movie, *2001: A Space Odyssey*) but Strauss' vision will transport you to the outer reaches of the cosmos – no screens required!

First Prize-winner in the 2002 Tchaikovsky Competition, Johannes Moser has been praised for his flawless take on Elgar's lyrical and much-loved Cello Concerto.



Nikolaj Znaider

Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto

Wednesday 21 August / 11am
 Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Nikolaj Znaider conductor
 Jian Wang cello

Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No.1

Mendelssohn *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (excerpts)

Bristling with all the comic electricity and fairyland charm of Shakespeare's play, Mendelssohn's music to accompany *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was born from a deep affection that stemmed from the composer's childhood.

Saint-Saëns' First Cello Concerto radiates the melodic elegance and soulful passion that the instrument conveys so well, here in the hands of the masterly Jian Wang. This is one of Saint-Saëns' most forthright and engaging works, notable for its unflinching invention and impeccable artistry.

August

Symphonie Fantastique

Thursday 22 August / 7.30pm
 Saturday 24 August / 2pm
 Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Friday 23 August / 7.30pm
 Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash

Nikolaj Znaider conductor
 Jian Wang cello

Mendelssohn *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (excerpts)

Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No.1

Berlioz *Symphonie fantastique*

Musical enchantment from Mendelssohn's ethereal music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* sets the scene for Saint-Saëns' captivating Cello Concerto No.1. Soloist Jian Wang played it for his orchestral debut with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra when he was just 11 years old.

Nikolaj Znaider, one of the most recent big-name violinists to take up the baton, unleashes a frenzy of emotions in Berlioz's fantastical symphony which Leonard Bernstein once described as 'the first psychedelic musical trip.'

Ears Wide Open: L'Italiana in Algeri

Monday 26 August / 6.30pm
 Melbourne Recital Centre

Rossini *L'Italiana in Algeri* Overture

It starts with hushed pizzicato strings, and a lyrical oboe solo. Then a bright and cheery *allegro* begins; the orchestra prancing to the sound of twittering woodwinds and cymbal crashes. That famous theme appears next: first in the oboe, next as a duet between the piccolo and bassoon. Come, join the fun, and see how Rossini puts the orchestra to good use in this brilliant opera overture.



Viktoria Mullova

James Gaffigan and Viktoria Mullova

Friday 30 August / 7.30pm
 Saturday 31 August / 7.30pm
 Monday 2 September / 6.30pm
 Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

James Gaffigan conductor
 Viktoria Mullova violin

Janáček *Jealousy*

Sibelius Violin Concerto

Dvořák Symphony No.8

Russian violinist Viktoria Mullova captured international attention when she won the Sibelius and Tchaikovsky competitions in the early 1980s.

The Sibelius Concerto's vast opening movement is mirrored in the still beauty of the melancholic, slow movement before its firework-fuelled finale. Dvořák's Eighth Symphony is his most rustic and idyllic, written in the seclusion of beautiful Bohemian countryside with his beloved folk roots at its heart.

September

Classical Masterpieces: The Genius of Mozart

Friday 13 September / 7.30pm
Melbourne Town Hall

Benjamin Northey conductor
Thomas Hutchinson oboe
Prokofiev Classical Symphony
R. Strauss Oboe Concerto
Mozart Symphony No.40

MSO oboist Thomas Hutchinson revels in the famous concerto that Richard Strauss dreamt up as the US army rolled into his Bavarian town in 1945.

This charming, nostalgic work looks back to simpler times, says Thomas. *"Inspired more by his youth and his hero Mozart, this fresh and vital work is a joy for audiences and musicians alike."*

And what better way to conclude the evening than with one of Mozart's most-loved works!

Pianos and Percussion

Sunday 15 September / 11am
Iwaki Auditorium, ABC Southbank

John Arcaro timpani
Robert Cossom percussion
Louisa Breen piano
Leigh Harrold piano

Bartók Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion
Bernstein *Symphonic Dances* from *West Side Story* for Two Pianos and Percussion

These two works of dynamic energy take their inspiration from very different sources. Bartók's studies of the densely-coloured folk music of Eastern Europe inspired him to enrich his harmonic palette to create music of alluring sensuality and gripping rhythmic *élan*.

For Bernstein, these qualities emerged from his feeling for Latin American music, and his own passionate response to the eternal love story that inspired his great musical.



Mozart and Elgar: An Evening of Variations

Thursday 19 September / 7.30pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Friday 20 September / 7.30pm
Costa Hall, Geelong

Ryan Wigglesworth conductor / piano
Paul Lewis piano

Mozart Piano Concerto No.10 for two pianos
Wigglesworth *Mozart Variations* ^ *
Elgar *Enigma Variations*

Friends from the UK take to the stage to share music across two keyboards. Acclaimed British pianist Paul Lewis and conductor/composer Ryan Wigglesworth create an almost operatic dialogue in Mozart's brilliant double concerto.

Elgar dedicated his splendid *Enigma Variations* 'to my friends pictured within', adding initials to each variation and in some cases wittily suggesting the dedicatee's personality. He never divulged the origin of his mysterious theme, and some have said that it's not a melody at all but simply friendship itself.

^ Australian premiere

* MSO commission

For more information, please contact MSO Publicity on (03) 8646 1106 or publicity@mso.com.au

September



Dale Barltrop and Ray Chen: Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto

Thursday 26 September / 7.30pm
Melbourne Recital Centre

Friday 27 September / 7.30pm
Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash

Dale Barltrop director / violin

Ray Chen violin

Rossini *L'Italiana in Algeri* Overture

Mendelssohn Violin Concerto

Vivaldi Concerto for 2 Violins in A minor

Schubert Symphony No.3

Ray Chen is Australia's golden boy of the violin, winning hearts around the world thanks to his incredible skill and charming stage presence. Chen joins the MSO for Mendelssohn's famous Violin Concerto, which follows Rossini's sparkling overture to his opera *The Italian Girl in Algiers*. Chen then teams up with one of the Orchestra's favourite sons, concertmaster Dale Barltrop in a concerto for two violins by Vivaldi, before Schubert's vibrant Third Symphony, with its dizzying tarantella finale.

November

Drama in the Town Hall: Tchaikovsky and Brahms

Friday 1 November / 7.30pm
Melbourne Town Hall

Benjamin Northey conductor
Daniel de Borah piano

Brahms Piano Concerto No.1
Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4

Australian pianist Daniel de Borah embraces Brahms' epic D minor concerto. *"It marries great drama and heroic struggle with moments of extreme intimacy. The slow movement is one of mankind's sublime creations."*

Tchaikovsky unburdened his soul in his Fourth Symphony like a poet in verse. Heart on sleeve, everything grows out of the fateful opening fanfares and the glorious waltz melody in the first movement. Does he resign to his fate or fight it to the end? Listen closely to the festive finale.

Ghost Stories

Sunday 3 November / 11am
Iwaki Auditorium, ABC Southbank

Greta Bradman soprano
Monica Curro violin
David Berlin cello
Stefan Cassomenos piano
Shostakovich *Seven Romances*
Stanhope *Lorca Songs*
Beethoven Piano Trio *Ghost*

A certain ghostly sensibility inhabits this program, with its wintry themes. But the concert is rich as well in the profundity of Shostakovich's sparse eloquence and the lyricism of Paul Stanhope's *Lorca* settings. It's the second movement, melancholy and stationary, that gives Beethoven's Piano Trio its attention-grabbing nickname, but the piece as a whole is loaded with gorgeous melodic invention. and uplifting rhythmic vitality.

Star Wars: Return of the Jedi™ in Concert

Friday 8 November / 7.30pm
Saturday 9 November / 1pm
Plenary, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

"I am a Jedi, like my father before me..."

In the spectacular, climactic sixth episode of the original *Star Wars* saga, Darth Vader readies the second Death Star to unleash the final blow to the Rebel Alliance. Experience the scope and grandeur of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* live in concert as John Williams' epic score comes to life courtesy of your MSO.

Rated: PG

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November



Brian Cox

A Symphonic Universe

Saturday 16 November / 7.30pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Daniel Harding conductor

Brian Cox OBE presenter

Jack Liebeck violin

Who knew science could sound so beautiful?

One of the world's pre-eminent physicists, Professor Brian Cox, takes to the stage for the first time with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in this special event. Be whisked through space and time as Professor Cox takes you through the human struggle against our finite existence in an infinite universe.

Joining them on stage will be conductor Daniel Harding, to lead the Orchestra through some of classical music's most universal repertoire.

November



Piers Lane plays Beethoven

Friday 22 November / 7.30pm
Saturday 23 November / 7.30pm
Monday 25 November / 6.30pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Sir Andrew Davis conductor

Piers Lane piano

MSO Chorus

Ed Frazier Davis New work *

Beethoven Piano Concerto No.1

Vaughan Williams Symphony No.5

Piers Lane is one of Australia's finest pianists. Hear him perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.1: a youthful work for the composer, but with plenty of punch and personality.

Seeing him dance through the joyous final movement will prove a memorable experience. Then to the broad, open musical landscapes of Vaughan Williams and his evocative Fifth Symphony, dedicated to another great symphonist, Jean Sibelius.

* *World premiere*

Hansel and Gretel in Concert

Thursday 28 November / 7.30pm
Saturday 30 November / 2pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Sir Andrew Davis conductor

Elizabeth DeShong Hansel

Laura Wilde Gretel

Humperdinck *Hänsel und Gretel*

Do you believe in magic? Many of us remember hiding under the bedcovers gripped by the scary story of Hansel and Gretel, the wicked witch and her oversized gingerbread oven.

Grimm's famous fairy tale is richly re-imagined in Engelbert Humperdinck's operatic version. His beautiful score glows with human warmth and spirituality in numbers like the Evening Prayer sung by the children as they fall asleep in the forest. A fitting farewell to Sir Andrew Davis' fairytale time with the MSO.

December

Sir Andrew's Messiah

Saturday 7 December / 7pm
Sunday 8 December / 5pm
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Sir Andrew Davis conductor
Siobhan Stagg soprano
Catherine Wyn-Rogers mezzo-soprano
Topi Lehtipuu tenor
James Clayton bass
MSO Chorus

Handel / Davis *Messiah*

"When I was a child I was a boy soprano in our local church choir and so I got to know Handel's Messiah firsthand. As an adult I toyed with the idea of a reorchestration for many years and I started my version in December 2009. I finished it in October 2010 and premiered it later that year in Toronto.

"My sole aim was to clothe the work with all the colours available from a modern orchestra; as a result I have used such instruments as alto flute, oboe d'amore, harp and some percussion including marimba and even sleigh bells!

"I'm very proud of it, and I'm extremely happy that it will be the last thing we do together in my official role as Chief Conductor of the MSO. Not that this is the last time you'll see me here!"

Sir Andrew Davis

Messiah

Friday 13 December / 7.30pm
Costa Hall, Geelong

Warren Trevelyan-Jones conductor
Sally-Anne Russell alto
Robert MacFarlane tenor
Jeremy Kleeman bass
MSO Chorus

Handel *Messiah*

Since its triumphant premiere in Dublin in 1742, *Messiah* has remained Handel's most frequently performed work and is the perfect way to celebrate the festive season.

MSO Chorus Master, Warren Trevelyan-Jones leads the entire Orchestra – as well as his beloved choristers – through this instantly-recognisable piece. Come celebrate with this annual tradition.



MSO Chorus