



# ROMEO & JULIET

BOWE & MCEL

# PROJECT

A creative compositional and educational initiative of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

**Thursday 1 and Friday 2 November at 7pm**  
**Stalls Foyer, Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne**

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For never was a story of more woe



Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

# R&J

Part oratorio, part hip hop opera, part music theatre piece, the free foyer performance you will experience tonight is the outcome of a month of intensive workshops with 35 high school students from Footscray City College and Huntingtower School, and ten members of one of Melbourne's most exciting young urban ensembles, the Massive Hip Hop Choir.

The project has involved an in-depth exploration of the ongoing influence in music, text and theatre of one of the most iconic works of Western culture, and has been led by Berlin-based Australian composer Catherine Milliken, German

vocalist Michael Schiefel, and a team of MSO musicians and guest performers.

Much has relied on the participants' immediate and personal responses to these themes of young love, generational conflict and feuding between families. By engaging creatively and collaboratively in the project, the performers have cleverly weaved together a series of original compositions.

Three key scenes form the basic structure of this contemporary and powerful tribute to the story of *Romeo and Juliet*: Act 2, Scene 2 (The Balcony Scene); Act 3, Scene 3 (The fight in which

Mercutio is killed) and Act 3, Scene 5 (Juliet is informed she is to be married to Paris). These have been book-ended with our own take on the prologue and the play's ending.

**The Romeo & Juliet Project** is a creative compositional and educational initiative of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and was devised to generate meaningful new relationships with young Melbourne-based artists aged 15 to 25 years, their schools and communities. A key aim of the project was to link back to our core season programming, and offer these young artists access not only to an all-star team of musicians, but to the Orchestra as a whole. You can read more about **The Romeo & Juliet Project** by visiting [mso.com.au/RandJ](http://mso.com.au/RandJ) where we have uploaded posts, photos and videos which document our

creative journey over the past four weeks.

The MSO would like to thank Huntingtower School, Footscray City College and the Massive Hip Hop Choir for participating in this project. Special thanks to Lynley Bramble, Paul Dooley, Liss Gabb and Mary Quinsacara for their assistance with coordinating rehearsals and other logistics in relation to this program. Thanks also to Arts Centre Melbourne for supporting the Massive Hip Hop Choir's involvement and to Goethe Institute in Munich for subsidising Michael Schiefel's airfare.

## CREATIVE TEAM

### **Catherine Milliken**

creative director

### **Michael Schiefel**

vocal specialist

### **Lina Andonovska**

project assistant

## MSO MUSICIANS

### **Roger Young**

violin

### **Geoffrey Dodd**

oboe\*

### **Damien Eckersley**

double bass

### **John Arcaro**

percussion

### **Leah Scholes**

percussion\*

\* denotes guest artist



# Participating Artists

## FOOTSCRAY CITY COLLEGE

Roma Bond  
Matilda Colebrook  
Madelene Curran  
Hannah Johnston  
Isabelle Sturmey  
Gretta Damnic  
Lachlan Doyle  
Timothy Hai  
Declan Himmelreich-  
Beaumont  
Bridget Jones  
Isabella Little  
Paris O'Rourke  
Leo Palmer  
Lucky Pereira  
Grace Gangl  
James McKenna  
Amy Nguyen  
Reid Sargent  
Hannah Sprattling

## HUNTINGTOWER SCHOOL

Daniel Gates  
Daniel Nieborski  
Marcus Ozga  
Nathanael Schokman  
Simon Song  
Georgia Thompson  
Alan Tong  
Alysha Trainor  
Phillip Chen  
Julia Hackett  
Abbi Rowland  
Katherine Rozycki  
Naomi Tang-Yamaoka  
Jade Tsai  
Amogh Ananth  
Selina Lin

## MASSIVE HIP HOP CHOIR

Josephine Inia  
Paul Milleson  
Maza Komba  
Jamie Napa'a  
Lina Lonja  
Carl Sevita  
Ileini Kaban  
Akimera Burckhardt- Bedeau  
Phillip Pandongan  
Gabs Collie

Good night! parting is such sweet sorrow,  
that I shall say good night till it be morrow.

For more information on the MSO's Education programs, please phone (03) 9626 1198 or email [education@mso.com.au](mailto:education@mso.com.au)