



Strathfield Symphony
Orchestra of the Inner West

Music Director – Sadaharu Muramatsu

Rebels with a Cause



20 June 7pm / 21 June 2.30pm

Bruce Lane Outgoing President

A warm welcome to John Trezise, our new President who, with his wealth of management experience, is well placed to take this wonderful Orchestra forward on its journey. The Orchestra has come a long way during the last decade, improving remarkably in its playing and conducting standards. An interesting and challenging repertoire has attracted many fine players.

Much of this happened as the result of a strategy implemented by a small group including previous President Chris Elenor, Laura Jamieson and Concertmaster Paul Pokorny. Only Paul remains on the Committee. Laura's contribution, which includes communications, online and social media and program design and production has been enormous and she will be missed.

We have also improved our situation financially and have been able to buy music stands, chairs and various instruments to improve our experience – and yours.

So the Orchestra is in great shape after 46 years, with a very bright future. And you, our faithful audience, have joined us in this musical journey, through sometimes unfamiliar but I hope always interesting territory. Thank you.



The Sydney String Centre

Orchestral Stringed Instruments and Accessories for all Players

- Violins ▪ Violas ▪ Cellos ▪ Double Basses ▪ Sheet Music
- Accessories ▪ Repairs & Restorations ▪ Musical Giftware

WWW.VIOLINS.COM.AU
314 High Street Chatswood NSW 2067
Phone: 1300 VIOLINS

Program

Overture to Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss II
(1825 - 1899)

Guest Conductor: Hong Zhi Gao

Concertino in E-flat major, Op. 26

Carl Maria von Weber
(1786 - 1826)

Guest Conductor: Hong Zhi Gao

Soloist: Regina Lucena Tam - clarinet

Interval

Symphony No. 7 in D minor

(Op. 70)
Antonín Dvořák
(1841 - 1904)

Conductor: Sadaharu Muramatsu

- I. Allegro maestoso
- II. Poco adagio in F major
- III. Scherzo: Vivace – Poco meno mosso
- IV. Finale: Allegro

Running time 10-10-interval-40

Overture to Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss II
(1825 - 1899)

The comic Operetta from which this overture is taken was first performed in April, 1874. The libretto for the work was based on a German farce and a French vaudeville play and the music is said to have taken only 6 weeks to write.

Like his father before him, Strauss II was known as Vienna's "Waltz King". He was largely responsible for the popularity of the waltz during Vienna's "golden age" – a period in which Vienna embodied the sophistication, wealth and power of an imperial capital.

Strauss II is most familiar to audiences through waltzes and polkas such as *The Blue Danube* and *The Emperor Waltz*, and unsurprisingly *Die Fledermaus* also features many dances. The overture perfectly captures the spirit of the entire score, including the rhythms of dances like the polka and the galop or can can.

Concertino in E-flat major (Op.26)

Carl Maria von Weber
(1786 - 1826)

It was in 1811 that Weber first heard and befriended Heinrich Bärmann, a renowned German clarinetist. Inspired by Bärmann's virtuosity and flexibility on the then recently developed 10 key clarinet, Weber wrote the *Concertino*, which was premiered in the same year.

After hearing the *Concertino* at its premiere, King Maximilian II of Bavaria commissioned two full-length clarinet concertos. These three works, together with a quintet and a duo concertante, went on to form part of the core repertoire for the solo clarinet, ensuring that clarinetists have been familiar with Weber's name ever since. A musical prodigy from childhood and a masterful early Romantic composer Weber is best remembered for his operas.

The *Concertino* is written in a simple theme and variation structure. The clarinet line is filled with characteristic gestures such as large leaps, trills and rapid note passages.

Strathfield Symphony

Orchestra of the Inner West

appreciates the support of



STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

Symphony No 7 in D minor (Op.70)

Antonín Dvořák
(1841 - 1904)

Dvořák grew up near Prague, the son of a butcher who expected his son to follow him into the trade. Proving musically talented, his adolescence opened with lessons on music theory and the violin, moved through organ and singing lessons and ended with his membership in Karel Komzák's Prague orchestra as a violist starting in 1858. It was through this orchestra that Dvořák became familiar with the father of Czech nationalistic music, Bedřich Smetana, when Smetana took over as chief conductor in 1866.

Although Dvořák wrote music throughout his career, it was not until after his successes in the Austrian State Prize for Composition competitions for 1874 and 1877 that his music became widely known. Brahms (who was a judge at the competition) was able to arrange for his publisher to take on Dvořák, and it was the *Slavonic Dances*, published via this arrangement in 1878, that saw Dvořák's music performed across France, England and the United States for the first time.

The 7th Symphony found its beginnings in the enthusiastic reception of Dvořák's Stabat Mater in London in 1883. As well as seeing the beginning of a series of performances across England and the United States, Dvořák was invited to visit Britain and subsequently made a member of the London Philharmonic Society. It was through this connection that the commission for the 7th Symphony came.

After hearing Brahms' new third symphony, which he greatly admired, Dvořák was inspired by the unification of the Czech people in writing the first of his three great symphonic masterpieces, which inspired our concert theme today.

The symphony is a darker, more serious work than any of his other symphonies. Dvořák finished the work in 1885, having used the opportunity of his growing success and relative financial stability to compose a work that did not rely on associations with folk dances and melodies that were easy on the ear (although these are still present), taking the depth of Brahms' work as a model for its success instead.

Listen for the dark opening theme of the first movement, followed by the introduction of a lighter second theme that evokes dancing before the movement ends on a despondent note.

The second movement opens in a more stately manner, with a gentle melody for clarinet which is followed by a second, more passionate theme for flutes. Violins mark a descent to a stormy middle section but the movement ends gently once again, with a soothing close.

The third movement features dances in triple time, recalling the *Slavonic Dances*. The fourth, beginning with a threatening introduction, eventually introduces a new theme that tries to lift the symphony out of its dark mood.

Regina Lucena Tam

Clarinet

Regina Lucena-Tam, Filipino clarinetist, obtained her Bachelor of Music, Major in Clarinet from St. Scholastica's College, Manila, Philippines with Distinction in Academic Excellence. She later pursued her Master of Arts in performance at the Elisabeth University of Music in Hiroshima, Japan with Prof. Tadayoshi Takeda, under a full scholarship. One of the leading clarinet players in the Philippines prior to moving to Australia, Regina held posts in top orchestras in her home country. She was the former Principal Clarinet of the Manila Symphony Orchestra, and was the Assistant Principal Clarinet of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. Regina was also active in the concert scene as a chamber player and soloist. A finalist at the Asahi Beer Competition for Foreign Students in Japan she was also National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) winner in 1992 and 1995.

Based in Sydney since 2004, Regina took lessons with Deborah de Graaff who was her mentor. She started teaching clarinet in primary schools and has been the principal clarinet of the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra since 2011. Regina is also a member of Five Play, a woodwind quintet based in Sydney.



Hong Zhi Gao

Guest Conductor

Hong Zhi (David) Gao graduated from Harbin Normal University Music College, China, and is currently completing a Master of Music (Conducting) at Sydney Excelsia College under Dr. Sadaharu Muramatsu.

Hong Zhi Gao has conducted the Wesley Institute Choir (now Excelsia College Choir) and Tian Guo Yue Tuan (Celestial) Concert band. He worked as assistant conductor of Rockdale Opera Company for its production of "The Merry Widow" in 2014 (featuring Strathfield Symphony Orchestra). He has also worked as assistant conductor for the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra, the Sydney Sakura Choir and the Willoughby Symphony Choir.

Hong Zhi Gao began his career as a music teacher in China and currently plays trombone with Strathfield Symphony Orchestra. He started his professional conducting career in 2012. He is due to complete his Master of Music (Conducting) in July, 2015.



Sadaharu Muramatsu

Music Director

Sadaharu Muramatsu (“Sada”) is the Music Director of Strathfield Symphony Orchestra. He is also the Choirmaster of Willoughby Symphony Choir, lecturer of Conducting at Excelsia College (formerly Wesley Institute), and Choirmaster of Sydney Sakura Choir.

In Sydney, Sada has conducted the Penrith Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Camerata, Rockdale Opera Company, Eastern Sydney Chamber Choir, Kammerklang Chamber Orchestra and many other groups. His experience in Europe includes conducting the Budapest Operettszínház in a performance broadcast by Hungarian National Broadcasting Corporation (MTV). He also conducted numerous concerts in Japan including prestigious Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra and Central Aichi Symphony Orchestra. Sada has appeared in TV, radio, and newspapers including BBC, Channel 9, SBS radio and many media programmes.

Sada completed a Masters of Music in Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK. He was granted a fellowship to study conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney under the Japanese Government Overseas Study Program for Artists. Sada resides in Australia with a Distinguished Talent visa granted for his achievements by the Australian Government.

His outstanding accomplishments include an Honorary Doctorate in Music from his alumnus Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, UK (2011); second prize in the Vienna Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival with the Wesley Institute Choir in the Golden Hall, Musikverein, Austria (2011); finalist and awarded Special Prize of the Jury at the Emmerich Kalman International Conductor’s Competition at the Budapest Operetta Theatre, Hungary (2007); semi-finalist in the 2nd Bartok Bela International Opera-Conducting Competition in Romania (2007); Mortimer Furber Prize for Conducting in Manchester, UK (2005); and first prize at the ISIS Conducting Competition in Cambridge, UK (2001).

Sada studied conducting under Imre Pallo, Kurt Masur, Sir Mark Elder CBE, Gianandrea Noseda, Christian Mandeal, Hirofumi Misawa and Kazuki Sawa.

www.sadaharu.net



Paul Pokorny Concertmaster

violin with the Balmain Sinfonia and has played with the Solar Chamber Orchestra, Bourbaki Ensemble and Orchestra 143. Paul is a keen chamber musician, and is first violin with the Opus Four String Quartet and the Strathfield String Quartet and is concertmaster for occasional event orchestras.

In addition to performing freelance function work for many years Paul has been an active orchestral leader and player for many of Sydney's musical societies. Paul also enjoys singing and playing piano.



Paul Pokorny is the Concertmaster of the Strathfield Symphony and has also appeared as soloist. He has played in many of the amateur and freelance orchestras in Sydney including Concertmaster of the North Shore Youth Orchestra, Lane Cove Symphony, Northern Chamber Orchestra, Warringah Symphony, Encore Kammerorchester, the Sydney Serenade, the Sydney Occasional Orchestra, Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra and Sydney Contemporary Orchestra. He is also Principal

Strathfield Symphony Orchestra

Strathfield Symphony Orchestra is a community orchestra based in the inner west Sydney suburb of Strathfield. The orchestra is comprised of approximately 50 players. It rehearses most Monday nights and gives four performances a year, plus a special concert for seniors in Senior Citizen's Week. The orchestra aims to promote music-making in the community, to provide exciting and enjoyable concert programs, to nurture young talent, and to showcase the works of Australian composers.



The Orchestra

Violin 1

Paul Pokorny**
Dorothy Sercombe^
Steven Davies
Sarah Haddad
Beatrice Mui
Chantal Nguyen
Hannah Nunn
Hanako Ward
Petroc Wilton

Violin 2

Philip Hazell*
Garth Andrews
Clifton Chan
Jaclyn Fletcher
Rosslyn Irvine
Rohini Mulford
Alana Pretty
Faye Tan
Julianne Tonini

Viola

Danielle Norton*
Emma Barnett
Timothy Darmanto
Andrew Heike
Laura Jamieson
Harriet O'Donnell

Cello

Alicea Gedz*
Fiona Bergin
Vanessa Chalker
Craig Giles
Bruce Lane
Jane Parkin Kullmann
Danni Yi Ding

Double Bass

Vince Angeloni
Robert Budniak
Andrew Finlayson
Hannah James
Elsen Price

Flute

Lyndon Swasbrook*
Rebecca Brown

Oboe

Adele Haythornthwaite*
Peter Vickery

Clarinet

Regina Lucena-Tam*
Kate Sweeny
Rebecca Cox

Bassoon

John Fletcher*
Alex Thorburn

French Horn

Neil O'Donnell*
Luke Midena
John Trezise
Amanda Whitfield

Trumpet

Graham Munro*
David Young

Trombone

Lindsay Smartt*
Erwin Da Silva Gruener
Chris Ng

Timpani

Steven Machamer*

Percussion

Sadaharu Muramatsu

* Principal

** Concertmaster

^ Deputy Concertmaster



Strathfield Symphony

Orchestra of the Inner West

Committee

President — John Trezise
Vice President & Publicity — Harriet O'Donnell
Vice President & Technology — Craig Giles
Treasurer — Andrew Heike
Secretary — Philip Hazell
Librarian — Alicea Gedz
Music Director — Sadaharu Muramatsu
Concertmaster — Paul Pokorny
Stage Manager — Neil O'Donnell
Members — Sarah Haddad,
Jane Parkin Kullmann, Dorothy Sercombe,
Alex Thorburn.

Life Members

Christine Edwards	Vincent Leonard
Bellissario Hernandez	Margaret Shirley
Marie Hodsdon	Chris Elenor
Geoff Widmer	Laura Jamieson
Shirley	Bruce Lane
Mahableshwarwalla	

Thanks To

Poster Design — Jonathan Yang
Program Notes — Jeremias Zylberberg
Program Design — Laura Jamieson
Photos — Luke Potter Photography
Rehearsal Catering — Danielle Norton
Concert Catering — Richard Sercombe
Front of House — Shirley Mahableshwarwalla,
Lorraine Fernandez, Charlotte Lewis



Strathfield Symphony
Orchestra of the Inner West

Sanctity and Frenzy

Music Director – Sadaharu Muramatsu

Stravinsky – Petrushka

Mozart – Requiem

Featuring Excelsia College Choir

12 September 7pm / 13 September 2.30pm

www.strathfieldsymphony.org.au
1300 306 776

Adult \$30
Concession \$20
(Under 5 free)
Family \$80

Strathfield Town Hall
Cnr Redmyre & Homebush Rds,
Strathfield



Strathfield Symphony
Orchestra of the Inner West

www.strathfieldsymphony.org.au