

SPELLBINDING MELODIES

6 + 7 MAR 2020

CONCERT HALL, QPAC

QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA











## **WELCOME**

I'm delighted to welcome you to this concert which takes us on a journey through some of the most spellbinding orchestral music.

The program begins by conjuring up the magical world of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* by French composer Paul Dukas. Those familiar with the 1940 Walt Disney film *Fantasia* will be able to picture a young Mickey Mouse as he desperately tries to stop an army of brooms flooding his master's castle. It's a perfect example of music's ability to tell a story and remains Dukas' greatest masterpiece.

We are all in for a real treat to hear Stefan Dohr, Principal Horn of the Berlin Philharmonic, perform the lyrical first horn concerto by Richard Strauss. Stefan is a true master of this most difficult of instruments and it's a privilege to have him join us. Our program concludes with Camille Saint-Saëns' Symphony No.3 (better known as the Organ Symphony). It is most famous for Nigel Westlake's reference of it in his score to the movie *Babe*. Brisbane organist Andrej Kouznetsov joins us to bring the wonderful and majestic QPAC organ to life.

Those joining us for our evening concert will be treated to the Queensland premiere of *Pingvellir* from Cathy Milliken's *Earth Plays*. Milliken has a wonderful gift for creating textures, seeking to find new and unexpected sounds from the instruments of the orchestra.

There is much to enjoy! I sincerely hope that you are moved, engaged and uplifted by this wonderful music. Thank you so much for joining us.

## Benjamin Northey

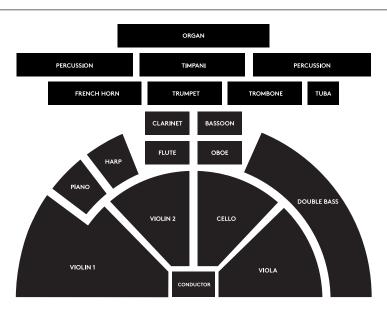
Conductor

PROGRAM		
FRI 6 MAR		
Dukas	The Sorcerer's Apprentice	12′
R. Strauss	Concerto No.1 in E flat for Horn and Orchestra, Op. 11	15′
Saint-Saëns	Symphony No.3 in C minor, Op.78 (Organ Symphony)	36′
SAT 7 MAR		
Dukas	The Sorcerer's Apprentice	12′
C. Milliken	Earth Plays, mvt.1 Þingvellir	13′
R. Strauss	Concerto No.1 in E flat for Horn and Orchestra, Op.11	15′
INTERVAL		20'
Saint-Saëns	Symphony No.3 in C minor, Op.78 (Organ Symphony)	36′
	FRI 6 MAR Dukas R. Strauss Saint-Saëns  SAT 7 MAR Dukas C. Milliken R. Strauss	FRI 6 MAR Dukas The Sorcerer's Apprentice R. Strauss Concerto No.1 in E flat for Horn and Orchestra, Op. 11 Saint-Saëns Symphony No.3 in C minor, Op.78 (Organ Symphony)  SAT 7 MAR Dukas The Sorcerer's Apprentice C. Milliken Earth Plays, mvt.1 Pingvellir R. Strauss Concerto No.1 in E flat for Horn and Orchestra, Op.11  INTERVAL Saint-Saëns Symphony No.3 in C minor, Op.78

Queensland Symphony Orchestra acknowledges the traditional custodians of Australia. We acknowledge the cultural diversity of Elders, both past and recent, and the significant contributions that Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made to Queensland and Australia.

To ensure an enjoyable concert experience for everyone, please remember to turn off your mobile phones and all other electronic devices. Please muffle coughs and refrain from talking during the performance.

## IF YOU'RE NEW TO THE ORCHESTRA



## WHO SITS WHERE

Orchestras sit in sections based on types of instruments. There are four main sections in the symphony orchestra (strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion) and sometimes a keyboard section.

### **STRINGS**

These instruments produce sound by bowing or plucking stretched strings.

First/Second Violin

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Harp

### WOODWIND

Wind instruments produce sound by being blown into.

Flute/Piccolo

Clarinet / E-flat Clarinet / Bass Clarinet

Oboe/Cor Analais

Bassoon/Contrabassoon

### KEYBOARD

Keyboard instruments are played by pressing keys.

Piano

Celeste

# Adagio

a slow musical tempo.

The following terms appear in bold in the listening guide that follows.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS** 

Allegro

a fast, quick and bright musical tempo.

**Andante** 

a moderately slow musical tempo.

Arpeggio

a chord which is broken up and played in a rising or falling order.

**Cantilenas** 

a vocal or instrumental passage carrying the melody in a composition.

Concerto

an orchestral work which features a solo instrumentalist.

Obbligato

a musical line that is integral to the performance.

Ritornello

a short instrumental refrain or interlude in a vocal work.

Rondo

a piece of music where a statement at the beginning of the piece

keeps returning.

Scherzo

a short composition or sometimes a movement in a larger work such as a symphony (most commonly the third movement) which contains a contrasting section. It is usually fast-paced and

playful and sometimes contains elements of surprise.

Tone-poem

a piece of music based on a descriptive theme.

Tutti

an Italian word literally meaning 'all'. In a musical context, it refers

to the whole orchestra as opposed to the soloist.

### Tuba

Trumpet

**PERCUSSION** 

French Horn

**BRASS** 

These instruments create sound by being struck or, for the harp, plucked or strummed. Some instruments just make a sound; others play particular next solution.

Brass players create sound by vibrating their lips. When this vibration is pushed through large

brass tubes, it can create significant noise.

Trombone/Bass Trombone

play particular notes.

Timpani, Bass drum, Snare drum, Cymbals,

Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Tam-tam, Triangle, Sleigh Bells

## LISTENING GUIDE

## Paul Dukas (1865–1935)

## The Sorcerer's Apprentice

In 1894, Dukas wrote: 'The question of the pictorial in music has been much discussed, but the study of its potential for the comic has, on the contrary, been left almost completely in the shade.' He concluded that 'nothing, in the category of human feelings, is a stranger to music'. As if to prove his point, in 1897 he produced one of the great comic masterpieces of music: *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, which enjoyed instant popularity and was the vehicle for one of Walt Disney's most memorable cartoons.

Dukas' reputation as a composer rests largely on this piece and the very few others that survived his self-critical purges. Indeed, after 1912 he composed practically nothing, concentrating instead on teaching a generation of composers that included Messiaen and Duruflé, and producing sophisticated musical commentary.

In this work, Dukas returns to an early love, the poetry of Goethe. The ballad, written a century earlier, is essentially a fable of the misuse of partially understood power. The apprentice, left alone by his master, enchants a broom, endowing it with limbs to draw water from the well. Not knowing the spell to stop the broom, the apprentice chops it in half but now has two creatures inexorably filling the house with water. The sorcerer returns in time to set things right with a short, emphatic spell.

Dukas begins mysteriously, with a gradual crystallisation of short motifs into themes. The comically lumbering bassoon, the washes of sound suggesting inundation, and the sorcerer's magisterial intervention are sheer orchestral magic.

Gordon Kerry © 2013

# Cathy Milliken

# Earth Plays

## I. Þingvellir

Reflecting the synergies of human beings drawn together and their resulting rituals, proclamations of law, drama and song, legends and dreamtime, led me to also ponder the places where sounds, music, and words can be imagined to have left acoustic imprints – or "written in stone" as the saying goes. What information or knowledge is embedded in the stones that for centuries has witnessed human endeavour, achievement, and culture? What acoustic recollections are etched in stone like the coding of a phonograph? What signs or messages could possibly be recognised, imagined, re-interpreted? The composition, *Earth Plays - Pingvellir* for orchestra, seeks to revive the acoustic echoes of the law gatherings at AlÞing, Þingvellir in Iceland. It is the first of a series of four compositions for Orchestra entitled *Earth Plays I-IV*.

Set in Þingvellir, Iceland, around 1000 AD, the scene for the first work of Earth Plays I-IV is the beginnings of the first European Parliament. One must envisage the sounds of horses and carts travelling overland for sometimes more than three weeks, bringing the chieftains and their families to Pingvellir each summer as they head down the final chasm past the Oxana Falls to the Law stone and their allotted places for encampment. Setting up camp, this was a time also for trading meeting, matchmaking and for being engaged in the most important of all discourses – for the reading of the law books and deliberation on matters and interpretation of law and simple basic laws concerning their society, its needs and how to live together. Pingvellir is also geographically interesting, being the site of the meeting of the tectonic earth plates – you can see the folds of pressed earth etched in the rock face and feel the silent forces beneath. However, what fired my imagination was exactly the aforementioned calling out of the laws. There was a main caller and against the acoustically favourable backdrop of sheer rock face, other callers stood subsequently repeating the laws down the line to the waiting populace. The law callers called from memory – it must have been quite a performance.

Cathy Milliken

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## LISTENING GUIDE

# Richard Strauss (1864–1949)

Concerto No.1 in E flat for Horn and Orchestra, Op.11

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante
- III. Allegro

Richard Strauss is associated with marvellous writing for the French Horn. Think of the great horn themes in the **tone poems** Don Juan and Ein Heldenleben, or the opening of the 1913 opera Der Rosenkavalier. Horn **concertos** virtually book-end his career – this first, written when Strauss was not yet out of his teens; a second written nearly 60 years later, in Strauss' sunset period of creativity.

Strauss' father, Franz, was a professional horn player – he had played under Wagner in some of the first performances of the latter's works – and the 14-year-old Strauss had written a song *Ein Alphorn hör' ich schallen* with horn **obbligato**, and an Introduction, Theme and Variations for horn and piano, both works dedicated to 'his beloved Papa'. This concerto of 1883 was written, however, not for 'Papa', but for Oscar Franz, a member of the Royal Saxon Orchestra in Dresden, and the first performance was given in March 1885 by Gustav Leinhos with the Meiningen Orchestra, under Hans von Bülow. Strauss wrote to his father that Leinhos had 'a colossal sureness' – a welcome quality in a horn player – and a tone very like Papa's own.

The music shows the influence of growing up in Franz Strauss' household. Franz was a musical conservative. He disliked Wagner's music, and was aghast at the amount of percussion his son Richard later used in his first tone poems. It would be some years before Richard fell under Wagner's spell, and so this concerto reflects the influence of household favourites, Schumann and Brahms, particularly in the character of the music and its orchestration.

The work is built around what Strauss biographer Norman Del Mar calls *Naturmotive*, that is, themes which arise from the natural disposition of the valveless horn – around common **arpeggios** that arise from the overtone series. It is curious, however, that Strauss inserts notes into these themes that would make such themes *unplayable* on the natural horn (you need an instrument with valves), a characteristic of Strauss' horn themes throughout his later career.

As Del Mar says, 'The opening fanfare, delivered at the outset by the solo horn and before the orchestral **ritornello**, not only serves as a framework enclosing the two long and free **cantilenas** which comprise the first movement, but, transformed into 6/8 rhythm, constitutes the principal **Rondo** subject of the Finale.' There is also a secondary horn-type motive which appears in the opening tutti and is repeatedly worked into the music. It forms the chief means of linking the **Andante** to the Finale. In the **Andante** it is the basis of the triplet accompaniment figure.

The work is in three short movements which follow one another without a break. The unity and concision of the writing, abandonment of sonata form for the first and third movements, flow of melody and the Rondo's references to the opening movement, make this one of the most ambitious, original and successful of Strauss' early works.

Symphony Australia © 1999



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## LISTENING GUIDE

# Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921)

Symphony No.3 in C minor, Op.78 (Organ Symphony)

- I. Adagio Allegro moderato Poco adagio
- II. Allegro moderato Presto Maestoso Allegro

Saint-Saëns was something of an Anglophile. So, it was a happy coincidence that when he was making plans for another symphony the Royal Philharmonic Society invited him to perform as both conductor and pianist at one of its London concerts. As the non-profit Society could not afford the requested fee of £40, they suggested £30, plus a formal commission to write the Third Symphony under the Society's auspices.

Saint-Saëns agreed and immediately began work on the symphony, saying to the Society: 'It will be terrifying, I warn you.' And he wasn't wrong. Considering the Society's financial state at the time, the prospect of an outsize orchestra complete with organ and multiple pianists must have struck fear into the heart of at least the Treasurer.

The Symphony is in two parts, but still more or less uses the traditional four movements. The first part consists of an *Allegro* and *Adagio*, corresponding to conventional first and second movements, and the second part is a **scherzo** and finale merged into one. The use of the organ was inspired by Liszt's symphonic poem *Hunnenschlacht* (Battle of the Huns) and the published version of the *Organ* Symphony is dedicated 'to the memory of Franz Liszt', who had died shortly after the premiere.

That premiere occurred on 19 May 1886 in St James's Hall, London, with the composer conducting as well as appearing as soloist in his own Fourth Piano Concerto. On the whole, the reception was excellent, and afterwards, the great admirer of British royalty was introduced to the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII). A Paris premiere, the following year, was a great success and prompted Charles Gounod to proclaim, 'There goes the French Beethoven.' The *Organ* Symphony was to remain Saint-Saëns' supreme achievement and it is still one of his most frequently performed works. In recent years it has achieved a certain popular success, following its quotation in the soundtracks for the movies *Babe* and *Babe*: *Pig in the City*.

The 'first movement' develops through a kind of Lisztian transformation of themes, whereby the thematic material appears in a series of varying guises rather than being developed in a strictly classical sense. After the 'first movement' has led without pause into the 'second', the organ enters, surprisingly discreetly, as an accompaniment to the mystical main theme, marked *Poco adagio*. The scherzo ('third movement') begins the second half of the piece, and much of its thematic material derives – albeit vastly transformed – from the preceding *Adagio*. From here Saint-Saëns introduces all the fireworks he can. The tempo increases to *Presto*, the orchestration becomes more vibrant and new themes are superimposed over the existing ones, before the organ almost lunges into the finale.

This concluding section is a good example of the differing value-judgements which Saint-Saëns' music invites. The climax builds through fanfares, four-hand piano figures, loud organ chords and extensive fugal writing, carrying the work through to its triumphant conclusion. Depending on one's viewpoint, Saint-Saëns either demonstrates his unrivalled compositional virtuosity, or simply goes over the top. However, no one can doubt that the *Organ* Symphony has demonstrated its enduring appeal.

Abridged from a note by Martin Buzacott Symphony Australia © 1998



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## **ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES**



## Benjamin Northey Conductor

Australian conductor Benjamin Northey is the Chief Conductor of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and the Principal Conductor in Residence of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Previously Resident Guest Conductor of the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra (2002-2006) and Principal Conductor of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra (2007-2010), Limelight Magazine named him Australian Artist of the Year in 2018.

Northey also appears regularly as a guest conductor with all major Australian symphony orchestras, Opera Australia (Turandot, L'elisir d'amore, Don Giovanni, Così fan tutte, Carmen), New Zealand Opera (Sweeney Todd) and State Opera South Australia (La sonnambula, L'elisir d'amore, Les contes d'Hoffmann). His international appearances include concerts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, the Malaysian Philharmonic and the New Zealand Symphony, Auckland Philharmonia and Christchurch Symphony Orchestras.

With a progressive and diverse approach to repertoire, he has collaborated with a broad range of artists including Maxim Vengerov, Julian Rachlin, Karen Gomyo, Piers Lane, Alban Gerhardt, Johannes Moser, Amy Dickson, Slava Grigoryan & Marc-André Hamelin as well as popular artists Tim Minchin, KD Lang, Kate Miller-Heidke, Barry Humphries, Kurt Elling, James Morrison and Tori Amos.

Northey is highly active in the performance of Australian orchestral music having premiered numerous major new works by Brett Dean, Peter Sculthorpe, Elena Kats-Chernin, Matthew Hindson and many others. An Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, his awards include the prestigious 2010 Melbourne Prize Outstanding Musician's Award and the 2002 Brian Stacey Memorial Scholarship as well as multiple awards and nominations for his numerous recordings with ABC Classics.

2019 highlights included *La bohème* for Opera Australia and returns to the Hong Kong Philharmonic, New Zealand Symphony, Christchurch Symphony and all six state symphony orchestras.



Stefan Dohr French Horn

Proclaimed by the New York Chronicle as the "king of his instrument", Stefan Dohr is widely regarded as one of the world's greatest horn players.

In addition to being Principal Horn of the Berlin Philharmonic, Stefan has collaborated as a soloist with the world's leading conductors and orchestras.

As well as performing the great Classical and Romantic works for horn, Stefan Dohr is continually expanding his instrument's repertoire-commissioning and premiering new pieces by today's foremost composers.

Season 19/20 sees the world-premiere of a new horn concerto by Grawemeyer Award winner Hans Abrahamsen with the Berliner Philharmoniker under Paavo Järvi, co-commissioned by NHK Symphony Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Seattle Symphony Orchestra and Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra.

A prolific chamber musician, Stefan is a permanent member of the Ensemble Wien-Berlin, Berliner Philharmoniker Chamber Music Society, and the Philharmonisches Oktett Berlin. He has performed alongside prominent artists such as Maurizio Pollini, lan Bostridge, Lars Vogt, Kolja Blacher, Guy Braunstein, Mark Padmore, and Kirill Gerstein.

Stefan's extensive discography includes 'The Yellow Shark' with Ensemble Modern and Frank Zappa (Barking Pumpkin Records); Schumann's 'Konzertstück' for Four Horns and Orchestra with Pagyo Järvi and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen (RCA Red Label); Toshio Hosokawa's horn concerto 'Moment of Blossoming' with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (Naxos); Music for horn and piano by Franz and Richard Strauss with Markus Becker (Campanella Musica); the Complete Mozart Horn Concertos with Camerata Schulz: and Weber's Concerting for Horn and Orchestra with the Münchner Rundfunkorchester (both on the Camerata label).

Stefan has been Principal Horn of the Berlin Philharmonic since 1993. A passionate teacher, Stefan is a Visiting Professor at the Royal College of Music, the Sibelius Academy, and a permanent faculty member at the Herbert von Karajan Academy and the Hochschule für Musik 'Hanns Eisler' in Berlin.

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## **ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES**

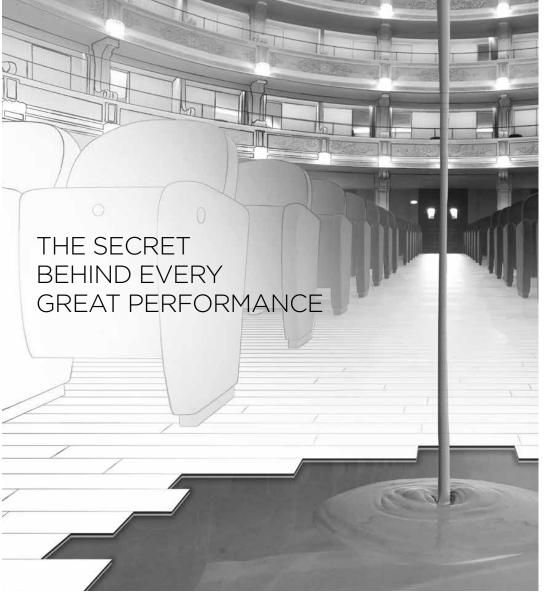


# **Andrej Kouznetsov** Organ

Andrej Kouznetsov studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with Philip Swanton. While a student there he won several awards, including that of first place in the open section of the Sydney Organ Competition. During this time, he was Organ Scholar at the University of Sydney, and at St James', King Street, where he was subsequently appointed Organist.

Relocating to the United Kingdom in 2010, Andrej spent a year as Organ Scholar at Salisbury Cathedral, where he was also Director of the Cathedral Chamber Choir. Following this, he was appointed Organ Scholar at Westminster Abbey in London, where he regularly accompanied and conducted the Abbey's world-renowned choir, gave numerous recitals, and took part in high-profile events attended by Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family. Whilst based in London, Andrej studied with Birmingham City Organist, Thomas Trotter.

Andrej is currently Assistant Director of Music at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane, where he plays the organ for Cathedral services, assists with the training of the boy choristers, and directs the Johannine Voices, a chamber choir he founded in 2015. He is also Director of Music at St John's College in the University of Queensland. Andrej was recently admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.



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We caught up with the remarkable Dr Desmond B. Misso Esq., a wonderful supporter of Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

### WHY DO YOU SUPPORT QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA?

Classical music is one of my main joys in life. In the early years I would play my vinyl recordings of concerti and opera ballet. Later I was able to start attending Queensland Symphony Orchestra concerts in the City Hall. To see our musicians transform all those notes into dynamic thrilling sounds was a very uplifting experience and I continue to look forward to each concert.

### WHY IS PHILANTHROPY IMPORTANT?

Once I started travelling and experiencing opera and ballet overseas and realised government subsidies made the art forms more accessible and allowed wonderful productions to be mounted. I felt I needed to contribute to our companies to assist in maintaining our high musical standards.

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THOSE CONSIDERING SUPPORTING **QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA?**

Please do not hesitate in providing support to Queensland Symphony Orchestra. As you watch our musicians bring those notes to life you have a more intimate and rewarding connection with the players. You start appreciating the members as if they're family and if a player is absent you have a concern about their wellbeing. In addition to this personal growth with the company, the management very warmly draws you closer to the musicians by hosting various functions and giving you the opportunity to get to know the musicians that we love.

20 PROGRAM | MUSICAL SORCERY PROGRAM | MUSICAL SORCERY 21









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### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The Queensland Performing Arts Trust is a statutory body of the State of Queensland and is partially funded by the Queensland Government

The Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

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QPAC respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Lands across Queensland and pays respect to their ancestors who came before them and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Patrons are advised that the Performing Arts Centre has EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES, a FIRE ALARM system and EXIT passageways. In case of an alert, patrons should remain calm, look for the closest EXIT sign in GREEN, listen to and comply with directions given by the inhouse trained attendants and move in an orderly fashion to the open spaces outside the Centre.

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# THE PEASANT PRINCE —

SAT 21 MAR 9.30AM & 11AM

QSO Studio, ABC Building

Conductor **Brett Kelly Bryan Probets** Presenter

An interactive family concert based on Li Cunxin's best-selling children's book. Inspire young imaginations with beautiful music, enthralling storytelling and big-screen projections.



## **MOZART'S JUPITER**

FRI 3 APR 11AM SAT 4 APR 7.30PM Concert Hall, QPAC

Conductor Alexandre Bloch Soprano Emma Pearson

Symphony No.41 in C, K.551 (Jupiter) Mozart **Britten** Les Illuminations

Schubert Symphony, D.759 in B minor (Unfinished)\*

\*Saturday performance only



# OPERA GALA -

FRI 24 APR 7.30PM SUN 26 APR 11.30AM Concert Hall, QPAC

Conductor Giovanni Reggioli Emma Pearson Soprano Mezzo-Soprano Bronwyn Douglas\* Andrew Goodwin Tenor **Baritone** James Clayton

\*Friday performance only

Expect glamour and drama in this tribute to some of opera's finest composers - Mozart, Verdi, Rossini and more.

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### HAVE YOUR SAY

We love to hear from our audience. What did you think of the concert? What was your favourite piece? Who do you want to hear more of? Let us know!

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