

COBAR

 **BIG SKYTOUR**



COBAR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM | MONDAY 30 JUNE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Sydney Youth Orchestras acknowledges and gives respect to the Pilaarrkiyalu, Nhiilyikiyalu, Karulkiyalu and Galiyargiyatr people of Wangaaypuwan Country, the Traditional Custodians of the unceded land on which we perform today, and their connections to land, water, and community.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present, the original storytellers of these lands where we create music today. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and honour the continuation of the oldest music practice in the world.

Always Was, Always Will Be.

SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS PRESENT

SYO BIG SKY ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR

James Pensini



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georgia.wilson@syo.com.au

PROGRAM

Source

**Masae IKEGAWA & Graham
HILGENDORF**

Arr. Andrew Howes

With Cobar High School Taiko Ensemble

**Emu in the Sky – Premiere
Jessica WELLS**

**Feet in the Sand, Heart in the Bush – Premiere
Andrew HOWES**

in celebration of 100 years of Royal Far West

With Cobar Community Choir

Pictures at an Exhibition

Modest MUSSORGSKY

Arr. Ravel

SOURCE

Masae IKEGAWA & Graham HILGENDORF

Arr. Andrew Howes

Commissioned especially for a performance at the Cobar Sound Chapel in 2024, **'Source'** is an original taiko composition that honours the vital role of water in the Cobar region, Ngiyampaa country.

The piece opens with delicate, bird-like sounds, evoking the image of birds gathering at a local water source, such as Cobar's Newey Reservoir, an essential and life-sustaining place in this semi-arid landscape. As the music progresses, it builds into powerful, energetic taiko rhythms that reflect the dynamic movement of water.

The composition also pays tribute to Cobar's unique water history. In earlier days, water was transported into town by train and distributed to properties via open dugout pipes. The Silver Tank, now transformed into the Cobar Sound Chapel, was one of the first permanent water sources in the area, and stands as a symbol of pioneering, perseverance and people.

'Source' was commissioned by Cobar High School and made possible through the generous support of **Aurelia Metals**.

The orchestral arrangement by Andrew Howes was supported by SYO's Big Sky Tour Orchestra outreach program.

SOURCE

Masae IKEGAWA & Graham HILGENDORF

Arr. Andrew Howes

Masae Ikegawa is a Japanese-born taiko performer, teacher, and co-founder of YuNiOn. Beginning her taiko journey at age 5 in Marugame City, she later performed with Manno Daiko in Japan and toured the USA. Since moving to Australia in 1999, Masae has performed internationally with TaikOz and studied traditional taiko styles with master drummers in Japan. Her work blends traditional Japanese music with contemporary expression, and she is widely respected as both a dynamic performer and engaging teacher, known for her motto “play together with fun and energy”.

Graham Hilgendorf is an Australian percussionist, composer, and co-founder of YuNiOn. He holds a Bachelor of Music (Performance) from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Graham was a founding member of B’tutta and performed with TaikOz for 18 years. He has toured extensively across Australia, Asia, and the USA. His work blends jazz, taiko, and world percussion into dynamic, cross-genre performances. He has composed and directed large-scale works, including ‘Shifting Sand’. Graham is a passionate educator, delivering workshops and school residencies nationwide. He is known for his energetic teaching style and love of rhythm and collaboration.

I hear various types of rain – the sound of rain hitting a roof, the sound when a shower has just started and you so hope it will turn into a downpour, and the blessed sound of rain hitting hot dusty ground in a drought.

Kay Stingemore, Curator at the Cobar Museum

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Hosted by Matthew Coorey, Tempo speaks with some of the biggest names in orchestral music, exploring their journey from youth orchestra to world stage. The podcast series also features questions from SYO musicians.

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