

18 JULY | 2026



WINTER SCHOOL



13-18 JUL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Sydney Youth Orchestras acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we work, rehearse, gather and perform; the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We pay our respect to Elders past and present, the original storytellers of these lands where we learn and 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.

WELCOME



Welcome to the 2026 SYO Winter School Concerts! Today, three exceptional concerts will be staged, celebrating the hard work and dedication exhibited by over 300 talented young musicians, along with their tutors, conductors, and you, their loyal supporters, over the last five days.

Sydney Youth Orchestras (SYO) continues to be a vibrant hub where young musicians connect with each other and music to create extraordinary experiences. As the largest instrumental music program of its kind in Australia, SYO is committed to growing and thriving, ensuring every child has access to a music education.

Stay updated on all our activities by visiting syo.com.au and following Sydney Youth Orchestras on Facebook and Instagram. Don't forget to invite friends, family, and community members to join our weekly or holiday programs.

Enjoy today's performances, which showcase an astounding breadth and depth of repertoire. Thank you for your continued support of SYO.

Mia Patoulios
CEO

A NOTE FROM JAMES

Today's concerts are an effervescent culmination of the hard work and commitment of these young musicians and their conductors over the past five days.



As Australia's largest instrumental music program of its type, SYO strives to foster an environment for musical communities to develop and thrive.

Performance opportunities such as today, are an example of the excellence that is possible when young people, with a shared passion, have a space to come together and transform their lives through music, sharing the results with you, our loyal supporters.

A huge thank you also to all of our loyal donors and sponsors. Your generosity makes concerts like this possible. Thank you all for your support of SYO and the future of orchestral music.

James Pensini
Head of Orchestral Training and Artistic Programming
Conductor of The Peter Seymour Orchestra



CONCERT

CONCERT 1

Yellow String Orchestra

Conductor - Sandi Oh

Orchestral Explorers

Conductor - Phillipa Knight

HSC Solo

Orange String Orchestra

Conductor - Alina Belshaw



CONCERT

CONCERT 2

Winter Symphony Orchestra

Conductor - Chris Hayles

HSC Solo

Pink String Orchestra

Conductor - Niamh Armstrong

Winter Chamber String Orchestra

Conductor - Martyn Hentschel



CONCERT

CONCERT 3

Winter Symphony Orchestra

Conductor - Chris Hayles

HSC Solo

Blue Band Orchestra

Conductor - Megan Lipworth

Red Band Orchestra

Conductor - Sophie Unsen

OUR DONORS

On behalf of the young musicians, staff and Board of Sydney Youth Orchestras, we would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals, companies and foundations for their support and generosity in championing the future of orchestral music in Australia.

\$100,000+

The Howarth Foundation

\$50,000+

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SYO Excellence Patron

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Alex Oh
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DONATIONS



Sydney Youth Orchestras is a not-for-profit organisation that relies on the generosity of our supporters to run our programs.

Please consider donating by following the QR code, or contact Georgia Wilson, Head of Development to discuss making a gift:
georgia.wilson@syo.com.au.

Thank you.



<https://syo.com.au/support/>

OUR PEOPLE

The success and vibrancy of SYO would not be possible without our team of talented, passionate and hardworking staff. We thank you all for your continued dedication and commitment to the development of young musicians and for your part in building a thriving, musical community.

* SYO Alumni

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Deputy Chair

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Alina Belshaw

Dr Sada Muramatsu

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Accompanist - Strings

Szu-Yu Chen

The.SYO Orchestral Training Assistants

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Natalie Liu

Orchestral Musicianship Teachers

Alina Belshaw

Adele Cummings

Emma Ritchie

Carla Trott

Alana Thorne*

Barry Walmsley

Jeffrey Willey

SPECIAL THANKS

SYO would like to thank our tutors, mentors, families, volunteers, collaborators, and The Sydney String Centre for their continuous and dedicated contributions.

OUR PARTNERS

We wish to thank each of our supporters for their continued involvement and contribution toward the future of SYO and the next generation of young musicians.

TAFE^{NSW}



Sydney Youth Orchestras
is supported by the
NSW Government
through Create NSW.

END OF WORK

**FRESH
TEES**
PRINTSHOP

COMING UP AT SYO



Symphonic Encounters

Tailored for primary and secondary schools, SYO Symphonic Encounters is a unique experience, where hundreds of students interactively experience live orchestral music like never before.

29 - 30 July, 2026

Visit: syo.com.au



SYO Symbiosis

Step into the intimate world of chamber music where The Sydney Youth Orchestra's finest musicians collaborate to create new and exciting takes on Chamber repertoire.

1 August, 2026

Visit: syo.com.au



Big Orchestral Day Out: Wollongong

Join The Symphonic Wind Orchestra as they travel down the coast to Wollongong, staging an afternoon of fine music you won't want to miss.

5 September, 2026

Visit: syo.com.au



SYMPHONIC ENCOUNTERS



LEARNING FOR
GOOD

SYMPHONIC ENCOUNTERS

A CLASSROOM LIKE NO OTHER

SYO Symphonic Encounters is a unique experience, where hundreds of students interact with live orchestral music like never before!



July 29th & 30th 2026



Sydney Conservatorium of Music



\$30 - supervising teachers attend free!



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- Primary School session
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syo.com.au



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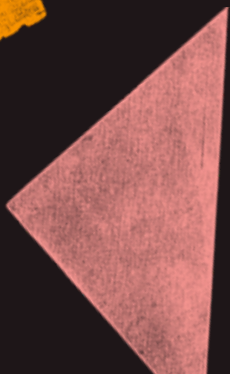
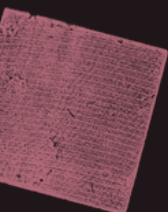
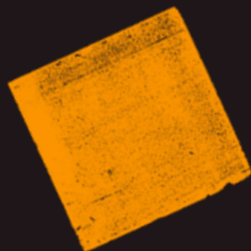
Hosted by Matthew Coorey, Tempo speaks with some of the biggest names in orchestral music, exploring their journey from youth orchestra to world stage. The podcast series also features questions from SYO musicians.

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syo.com.au