Adelaide Youth Orchestras and Elder Conservatorium presents

MAHLER 1







Experience a super-sized combined orchestra of SA's top emerging musicians performing Mahler's epic first symphony and the glorious Mozart Flute Concerto with soloist Alex Byrne.



Keith Crellin OAM | AdYO Artistic Director

Each year, I strive to choose repertoire that will challenge and inspire AdYO's musicians. Tonight's works – co-programmed with Elder Conservatorium's Associate Professor Luke Dollman – give our players the opportunity to perform two contrasting (but equally demanding) pieces of the orchestral repertoire: Mozart's glorious flute concerto and Mahler's epic 'Titan' Symphony.

Though they may seem very different, both works have a key point in common: they were both written by young people. Mozart was just 21 years old when he wrote his second flute concerto – the same age as several of the players you'll see on our stage tonight.

I'm thrilled to welcome Mozart soloist Alex Byrne back to perform this wonderful work with AdYO. As our former principal flute and current Elder Conservatorium student, Alex brings a beautiful tone and energetic expression to this perennially youthful music.

After interval, we are joined by esteemed conductor Luke Dollman and members of the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra for the second of tonight's masterworks.

Mahler's first symphony – written when the composer was just 27 years old – is a colossal work that takes you on a journey through vast landscapes of human emotion. From its pastoral opening to its triumphant finale, this symphony is a testament to the young Mahler's genius - and the perfect work to showcase the energy and skill of our young musicians.

Mahler once said, "What is best in music is not to be found in the notes." Though you'll hear some wonderful notes tonight, I'm sure you'll agree this combined orchestra has undoubtedly found what is best in music – the joy and power of collaboration.

I hope you will all enjoy tonight's performance.



Program

Adelaide Youth Orchestras acknowledges that we rehearse and perform on the traditional land of the Kaurna People and we acknowledge their custodianship of the Adelaide plains. We recognise the importance of their cultural beliefs, heritage and spiritual relationship to country and pay our respect to elders past, and present.

Welcome to Country

Robert Taylor

Flute Concerto No. 2 in D major (1778)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Alex Byrne, flute | Keith Crellin OAM, conductor

- 1. Allegro aperto
- 2. Adagio non troppo
- 3. Rondo: Allegretto

Interval

Drinks are available for sale in the southern bar during interval

Symphony No. 1 in D major (1888)

Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)

Luke Dollman, conductor

- 1. Langsam. Schleppend
- 2. Kräftig Bewegt
- 3. Feierlich Und Gemessen, Ohne Zu Schleppen
- 4. Stürmisch Bewegt

The performance will run approx. 115 minutes (including a 20-minute interval). Please switch off or turn your mobile phone to silent. We ask that you refrain from taking any photographs or video recording at this performance.





Alex Byrne | Guest Artist

Alex Byrne is currently a third year flute student at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide, studying the Classical Performance (Advanced) course under the tutelage of Dr Julia Grenfell, and previously Elizabeth Koch AM. Alex recently passed his casual audition with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra on both the flute and piccolo.

Having graduated from Marryatville High School's Special Interest Music Centre with a merit in SACE solo performance, Alex has experience with a vast array of musical styles and ensembles. He has received numerous awards and scholarships including the Victor Edgeloe Scholarship for Woodwind, the Cowan Family Grant, Robert Brown Grant, and the David Cubbin Medallion.

Alex has experienced successes in the Adelaide Eisteddfods, earning him a spot in the semi-finals of the 5mbs Young Virtuoso competition 2023. He was selected as a member of the Australian Youth Orchestra Camp 2024, and was a member of the Adelaide Youth Orchestra from 2021 – 2023, as well as the Elder Conservatorium Wind Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra.

Luke Dollman | Guest Conductor

Luke Dollman has conducted throughout Europe and Australasia, working with orchestras such as the London Philharmonic, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Helsinki Philharmonic, Monte Carlo Philharmonic, Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, Halle Staatskapelle, Lausanne Sinfonietta, and all professional orchestras in Australia and New Zealand.

In the field of opera he has worked at the Finnish National Opera, Opera Australia, the State Opera of South Australia, and the Netherlands Opera. Luke is a graduate of the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and furthered his studies at the Aspen Festival of Music and Accademia Chigiana. He is Senior Lecturer in Conducting and Deputy Director at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide.

Meet the Orchestra

Mozart Flute Concerto

Violin 1

Adina Lopez
Faye Soetanto
Jude Owens-Fleetwood
Ben Rawlings
Karmen Tang
Victoria Phan
Anson Tang
Ruby Lee
Alana Kennedy
Ying Ying Shu

Violin 2

Luca Shin Gloria Paik Sean Smith Lourdes Pagliarulo Aiya Ishino Gigi Osborne Yan Fan Caitlin Mildren

Viola

Oliver Brown
Tianyuou Jiang
Talia Brennan
Annika Ganesh
Rose Barrett
Isabella McEwin

Cello

Rafael Velasco Lauren Parker Sherry Cheng Chloe Chane Yin Ruben Lopez Jasmin Baker Maiko Fujihara Leo Liu

Double Bass

Ashlea Naglis Daniel Li

Oboe

Jade Elsdon Neal Perkins

Horn

Matilda Chu Peter Webb

Mahler 1

Violin 1

Joaquin Velasco Adina Lopez Jude Owens-Fleetwood Sofia Tortorelli Shannon Whitehead Karmen Tang Victoria Phan Thomas Cheung Ubonwan Hewlett (Lilly) Ben Rawlings Ruby Lee Ludwig Tsoi Ying Ying Shu **Anson Tang** Faye Soetanto Natalie Low **Apollon Velonakis** Alanna Kennedy Chenchen Han Madeleine Nishimoto Louisa Synwoldt Lucas Truong

Violin 2

Javier Goh Isabelle Watson Luca Shin Riki Goble Aiya Ishino Oscar Lo Gigi Osborne Dorothy Nguyen Lourdes Pagliarulo Caitlin Mildren Gloria Paik Jacinta Dela Rosa Lily Burke **Emily Cox** Sean Smith Yan Fan Timothy Suyapto Lara Kim

Viola

Tim Tran
Oliver Brown
Sterling Rieck
Annika Ganesh
Samvel Berberyan
Tahlia Brennan

Isabella McEwin Tianyou Jiang Rose Barrett *Nicola Petrou* Ray Tsang An Schwer Livia Silby

Cello

Masha Pavlenko
Rafael Velasco
Chloe Chane Yin
Lauren Parker
Ruben Lopez
Leo Liu
Sherry Cheng
Jasmin Baker
Maiko Fujihara
Samuel Strelan
Po Wing Wong
Jana Song
Evan Mewett

Double Bass

Allan McBean Ashlea Naglis Greg Perkins Leilani Mellor Soraya Forbes Serena Rangai Daniel Li Matthew Oddie Sam Robinson

Flute

Lauren Borg Lucy Ryan Akane Mears (picc) Aristo Ku (picc) Shixuan Wei

Oboe

Jade Elsdon
Patrick Moorhouse
Neal Perkins
Ulani Rangai (cor)

Clarinet

Daniel Hurst Thom Hopgood Annelie Budgen Hannah Bampton Wytse Gensemer

Bassoon

Angus McBride Chiara Panetta Ethan Li

Trumpet

Will Madden
Henry Bradley
William Bailey
Joe Huang
Peta Morton

Trombone

Adam Draper Vincenzo Panetta Charlie Makaev Oliver Farnan

Tuba

Siân Watt

Horns

Liam McBride
Peter Webb
Matilda Chu
Jesse Timothy
Abigail Sutherland
Anson So
Will Hobbs
Sam Peng*

Harp

Joyce Kwok Cynthia Gunawan

Percussion

lan Wong Mikayla Yap Reuben Elmualim

Timpani

Cameron Edmiston Freddy Ramly-Peck

Italics denote Elder Conservatorium players

^{*} Guest musician

Program notes

Flute Concerto No. 2 in D major (1778) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Mozart was but 20 years old when he was commissioned to write 'three small, easy, brief concertos and some quartets for flute' for Ferdinand de Jean, a retired doctor from the Dutch East-India Company who enjoyed playing the flute. It was a stretching time for the young composer, who was in the midst of a job-hunting trip with his mother, and simultaneously finding himself preoccupied with the lovely soprano Aloysia Weber.

During his time in Mannheim, Mozart became acquainted with some of the orchestra's principal musicians, including flautist Johann Baptist Wendling and oboist Friedrich Ramm, to whom he gifted his oboe concerto. When Wendling introduced Mozart to fellow flautist de Jean, the latter offered Mozart 200 florins for his commission. It was a princely sum which would support the young composer and his mother throughout their subsequent travels, but to his father's despair, Mozart remained uninspired by the opportunity. Instead of creating three new concerti, he composed just one and transposed his earlier oboe concerto for flute.

De Jean was disenchanted – not only did he receive less than he'd asked for, but the pieces were embarrassingly difficult for the amateur performer – and thus Mozart received a mere half of his pay. Mozart's transcribed Flute Concerto in D is, however, enchanting. With characteristic charm and operatic sensibilities, Mozart exploits the flute's virtuosic capacity for ornamentation and remarkable leaps of register. The second movement is a beautiful aria, before the third movement radiates the poise and finesse of the gallant style.

Symphony No. 1 in D major (1888) Gustav Mahler (1860–1911)

Gustav Mahler's childhood in Bohemia had a profound effect on the development of his artistic voice. Growing up as an innkeeper's son in the bustling city of Jihlava, Mahler's formative memories were founded on hearing the strains of street peddlers seeping through his window; the rustic tunes of hurdy-gurdies and klezmer bands interwoven with the march of military bands journeying through the town square – these were sounds that would drift in and out of Mahler's music for his entire compositional life.

His First Symphony is abounding in reflections on these times, both in its musical allusions to the composer's own childhood and its evocative embodiment of youth. Originally conceived as a tone poem in two parts inspired by the adventures and maturation of Albano de Cesara from Jean Paul's novel *Titan*, the first part bore the title '*The Days of Youth, Flowers, and Thorns*'. While the Symphony as we hear it today moved away from its initial literary programme, the work remains a paragon of the emotional ardour of youth and its Romantic entanglement with nature and poetry.

Mahler's annotation at the top of the piece describes the first movement as 'like a sound of nature' – and from the outset a country scene materialises before us, gradually emerging out of a misty European morning. A cuckoo call echoes through the forest. The scene is set for the wayfarer's song, 'I went over the field this morning', derived from Mahler's earlier song cycle.

Mahler's poem describes the sounds of nature as though they're in conversation with the wayfarer, who delights in their beauty yet rues his lack of happiness in comparison. The development of this melody continues to juxtapose the blitheness of nature and the wayfarer's adventurous spirit with the plaintive, existential thoughts of youth.

The second movement enters into the rustic abandon of a ländler – a distinctly Austrian partner-dance that evokes wholesome images of European country parties, replete with lederhosen and yodeling. A solo horn heralds the contrasting *trio* section, which features the ländler's more sophisticated and flirtatious counterpart – the waltz – in all its swooning glory. The ländler brazenly reasserts itself to conclude the movement.

The third and fourth movements bring Mahler back to his programmatic roots, drawing inspiration from works of literature, art and music. While the allusions are unmistakable and were freely acknowledged by the composer himself, they serve to draw the music into previously unattainable realms of emotion and intellect, rather than bowing to one particular narrative. For instance, the third movement begins with a haunting rendition of *Frère Jacques* in the double bass, transposed into a minor mode to render it heartbreakingly ironic.

The movement consequently takes the form of a funeral march, inspired by an 1850 painting by Moritz von Schwind that depicts woodland animals bearing a hunter's coffin in a satirically solemn procession. Mahler wrote of this movement, 'It is true that I received the external inspiration for the third movement from the well-known children's painting [*The Hunter's Funeral*]. Only the mood matters, and out of it—abruptly, like lightning out of a dark cloud—leaps the fourth movement. It is simply the outcry of a deeply wounded heart preceded by that very eerie, ironic, and brooding sultriness of the death march.' In true Mahlerian complexity, the composer lays alongside his ironic reflection on death a more sincere perspective, drawn once again from *Songs of a Wayfarer*: the melody of '*The Two Blue Eyes of My Sweetheart*' speaks to the grief of a lost love.

The fourth movement arrives with a strike of lightening and a flourish of virtuosity in the strings. Initially titled 'From Inferno to Paradise', the final part alludes to a more spiritual, even eternal, experience. Quotations of the Gregorian chant 'Crux fidelis', which also features in Liszt's Dante Symphony, are countered with moments of blissful reprieve – is this a glimpse of paradise through the trees? According to Mahler himself, the storm-and-stress of this movement sees '[our] hero completely abandoned, engaged in a most dreadful battle with all the sorrow of this world.' A chorale of horns ultimately ushers in 'salvation from paradise after the waves of hell', and the symphony closes in triumph.

- Tahlia Williams, 2024

AdYO is proud to provide paid opportunities for young South Australians in their early arts careers, including former AdYO player and communications professional Tahlia Williams.

Violinist Tahlia Williams recently completed a Bachelor of Music (Advanced) with First Class Honours at the Elder Conservatorium, and has an array of experience in solo, orchestral and chamber music.

Recent performance highlights have included 'Handel's Messiah' at St Peter's Cathedral with Adelaide Baroque, 'Concerto Rhapsody' with the Adelaide Hills Chamber Players, 'Ngapa William Cooper' with the Australian Youth Orchestra at Sydney Opera House, and a performance tour to Singapore with Elder Music Lab.

Alongside regular performance engagements, Tahlia is Communications Officer at UKARIA Cultural Centre, teaches violin in the Adelaide Hills, and writes program notes for organisations such as the Australian Youth Orchestra, the Elder Conservatorium of Music and the Adelaide Youth Orchestras.



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Glorious!

1pm, Saturday 22 June | Norwood Concert Hall Junior Strings and South Australian Public Primary Schools (SAPPS) Choir



Winter Symphonies

3pm, Saturday 29 June | Elder Hall

Symphonic Winds, Extension Orchestra, Sinfonia and Percussion Ensemble



Fame & Fable

3pm, Saturday 14 September | Elder Hall

Adelaide Youth Orchestra with soloist Tianyou Ma feat. Stravinsky's Firebird Suite and Paganini Violin Concerto

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ADYO.COM.AU/CONCERTS

Nearly 12 months ago, seven talented AdYO alumni boarded a bus toward some of South Australia's most remote communities.

Alongside director Kate Mawson, these extraordinary young musicians travelled 2,000 kilometres across regional SA, visiting 12 schools and making a huge impact on hundreds of aspiring instrumental music students.

This year, we are doing it again - but we need your help.





