

SYDNEY
INTERNATIONAL
COMPOSERS
CONCERTS
2023

CONTEMPORARY STRING QUARTETS

7:30 PM, April 14, 2023

TLC Theatre
Sydney Australia

SCOC NO.17



Sydney
Contemporary
Orchestra



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Sydney International Composers Concerts 2023!

This year we will be presenting four video recording concerts with the newest and freshest modern music by contemporary composers from countries and regions around the world.

These composers will contribute their innovative and original musical ideas to our audiences in Sydney giving us an opportunity to challenge and refresh our ideologies.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those composers - for their creative work, efforts, and contributions.

I would also like to give my sincere thanks to our wonderful musicians - for their dedication and interpretation of the music.

Special thanks to our Management Committee, without their voluntary dedication all of these great events could not be possible.

Brian Chatpo Koo
Artistic Director
Sydney Contemporary Orchestra



SDYNEY INTERNATIONAL COMPOSERS CONCERTS 2023

The Sydney International Composers Concerts 2023 is a festival of new music. It is an annual event, designed to engage with and foster the local music scene through interactive festival activities led by professional musicians and composers from Australian and around the world.

The festival consists of two parts:

1. 4 video recording concerts
2. 9 open rehearsals

The video recording concerts will be hosted by the musicians of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, experts in modern music:

1. Contemporary String Quartets
2. Contemporary Orchestral Music (I)
3. Contemporary Piano Music
4. Contemporary Orchestral Music (III)

The open rehearsals will provide opportunities for composers, musicians, and audiences to meet each other to share ideas, and observe how the musical ideas originated and developed, in order to stimulate composers' creativity and innovation.



PROGRAM

Contemporary String Quartets 2023

Friday, April 14, 2023 7:30 pm

TLC Theatre
Sydney Australia



Passaggio No.4

by Massimo Malavasi (Italy)
(world premiere)

Movimenti Instrecciati

by Andrea Montalbano (Italy)
(world premiere)

String Quartet No.2

by Brain Field (USA)
(world premiere)

Midnight Refrains

by Lawrence Kramer (USA)
(World premiere)

Psyche in Memory of my Father

by Michalis Andronikou (Canada/Greek)
(World premiere)

Luo Jiang Yuan - A bit blue

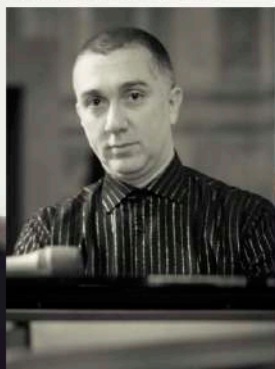
by Yangfan Xu (USA)
(World premiere)

La unit de la mer

by Stefano Penazzi (Italy)
(world premiere)

String Quartet No.4

by Brian Chatpo Koo (Australia)
(world premiere)



Paesaggio No. 4 op.43 (per quartetto d'archi)

Massimo Malavasi (Italy)



Massimo Malavasi (Italy)

Alongside a very productive compositional activity, he has had an equally intense concert, didactic, musical arranger, and choir director activity.

He has received rewards and distinctions in Italy and international composition competitions.

With the formation of the group Armonya Nova he has recorded the cd "Armonya Nova Gospel".

Among his compositions: the "Regina Nivis" Mass, The Christmas Oratory "The Stone and the Light" and the Oratory of Passion for soli, choir and orchestra, the operas "Other Lives" and "Fragments", the musicals "Look", "Gramigna's Lover", "The Saint of Arra", "The Canterville Ghost", "The Angel of Hell's Kitchen", "Nix". NIX had an Equity Showcase production at Planet Connections Theatre Festivity in NYC, and was nominated for 8 Outstanding Awards, including Outstanding Production, Outstanding Music & Lyrics and Outstanding Book of a Musical; a concert for piano and orchestra, studies and sonatas for piano and for chamber music formation.

Since 2001, Massimo has been Director of "La Ghirlandèina" choir in Modena. The group specializes in recovering folk songs in their dialect, has recorded two CDs of traditional music and given more than 400 concerts.

He is the author of the book for piano method "Four Little Hands" published by Ricordi.

Paesaggio No.4

The composition "Paesaggio N°4" is part of a series of pieces entitled "Paesaggi" (landscapes). During this cycle not only real and physical natural environments are described, a bit like it would be for film music or documentaries, but also different emotional and sound suggestions, as well as rhythmic and harmonic, are explored. The language has abandoned the twentieth-century avant-garde to move on to a fusion of other experiences of the last century and of the contemporary, such as jazz and other genres of popular extraction. These short pieces, usually between 5 and 6 minutes, are concentrated in them an exploratory path, as if a single suggestion were never enough, so this evolves within it into something unexplored and unpredictable.



Brian T. Field (USA)

String Quartet No. 2

Sydney International Composers Concerts 2023

CONTEMPORARY STRING QUARTETS 2023

7:30 p.m. April 14 2023

TLC Theatre
Sydney Australia



Brian Field (USA)

Dr. Brian Field's music is an eclectic fusion of lyricism and driving rhythm that brings together elements of post-romanticism, minimalism and jazz. He has received a host of awards, including the RMN Classical recording prize, the Benenti Foundation recording prize; First Prize, Briar Cliff Choral Music Competition; and First Prize, Victor Herbert ASCAP Young Composers' Contest among many others.

Dr. Field began his musical endeavors at age eight with the study of piano, and began his first serious compositional efforts at sixteen, earning his undergraduate degree in music and English literature from Connecticut College, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa. At Connecticut, he studied composition with Noel Zahler, piano with the Polish pedagogue Zosia Jazinovich, organ with John Anthony, and harpsichord/figured-bass realization with Linda Skernick.

Devoting himself to composition, Dr. Field continued his musical studies at the Juilliard School in New York City where he was awarded his Master of Music degree. At Juilliard he was a student of Milton Babbitt. From Juilliard, Dr. Field attended Columbia University, earning his Doctorate. At Columbia, he was a President's Fellow and studied composition with George Edwards and Mario Davidovsky.

Dr. Field's musical works include music for television and stage; solo acoustic, chamber, ballet, choral, electroacoustic and orchestral works. His compositions have been performed throughout the United States and internationally and are recorded on RMN Classical, Parma Recordings and Ablaze Records.

String Quartet No.2

Each of the four movements of String Quartet II focuses on a particular affect, that is expanded and developed.

In the first movement, the focus is on a honky-tonk/jazzy theme in a straight-forward 2/4 time that is subsequently manipulated through syncopation and changing meters.

The second movement begins with a pizzicato "spark," that flickers and quickly spreads, growing more complicated. The rhythmic motif builds to a climax which eventually becomes more controlled, and finally fades.

The third movement is a brief, subdued and more sentimental piece that becomes rhapsodic before returning to its inward opening style.

The finale—a bit of a companion to the second movement with its pizzicato opening—features a fast-moving, dancing triple and duple rhythm across the strings. It begins very playfully, becomes hushed towards the middle, and finally concludes in a roaring, raucous fashion.



Michalis Andronikou (Canada/Greece)

Psyche for string quartet

Sydney International Composers Concerts 2023

CONTEMPORARY STRING QUARTETS

7:30 p.m. April 14 2023

TLC Theatre
Sydney Australia



Michalis Andronikou (Canada/Greece)

Michalis Andronikou is a composer and musicologist currently residing in Calgary, AB. He holds a PhD in composition from the University of Calgary. He received his Bachelor's and Integrated Master's degrees in musicology from the Department of Music Studies, University of

Athens, Greece. He has a Diploma in Classical Guitar, Clarinet and Music Theory from the Trinity College and the Royal Academy of Music, and a Diploma in Byzantine Music from the Argyroupolis Municipal Conservatory. Michalis gained credentials in Harmony, Counterpoint, Fugue, and Music Composition (with Theodore Antoniou) from the Hellenic Conservatory. Moreover, he has studied Greek folk instruments such as lute, tampoúra and bouzouki.

Michalis has composed music for small and large ensembles, theatre plays, art exhibits, movies, and songs. Seven CDs with his works have been released since 2003, and his scores are published by the Canadian Palliser Music Publishing, the Bulgarian Balkanota, the Italian Da Vinci Edition, the English Trübcher Music Editions, and the American Alea Publishing & Recording.

Michalis is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre, a member of the Canadian League of Composers, a theory examiner of the Royal Conservatory of Music, a member of the Greek Composers Union, and a member of the Center of Cypriot Composers.

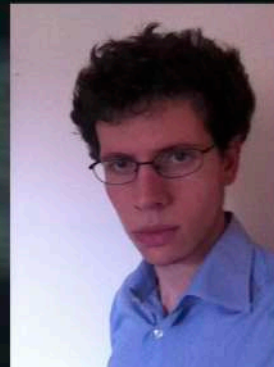
Psyche

Program note

"Psyche" is a work inspired by the myths related to Greek goddess of the soul. It is dedicated to the memory of my father.

La nuit de la mer Pour Quatuor à cordes

Stefano Penazzi (Italy)



CONTEMPORARY PIANO MUSIC
Sydney International Composers Concerts 2023

April 14, 2023
TLC Theatre Sydney Australia



Stefano Paolo Penazzi (Italy)

Stefano Paolo Penazzi was born in Verona on the 26th of September of 1988.

He joined the conservatory of Verona in 2005 with M° Nicola Straffellini in the main composition class. After classical study in relation of engineering university, he moved in Padua since 2012 under the teachings of M° Giovanni Bonato. In this period, several pieces have been performed as Agnus Dei for chorus and organ and Morchia for ensemble. In 2013, after graduation, he moved in Verona Conservatory in which he won the first prize in the Banco Popolare composition competition with Parafrenie, for ensemble. In 2014 in Teatro Romano of Verona conducted by Andrea Battistoni a piece for string orchestra and solo flute has been performed: Nostos. In 2015 he attempted a masterclass with M° Alberto Colla and several lessons that had a great influence on his style and aesthetic.

In 2019 he graduated in composition with top ranking classification. In September 2019 the Quartetto Manfredi perform the litania for string quartet. In 2021 the piece 'skyrocket rondo' for orchestra will take place in Juvenilia summer festival in Verona. In 2021 he has resulted finalist in the Eduardas Balsys contemporary composition music contest in Lithuania in the chamber music section.

la nuit de la mer

The peace suggests the overwhelming sensation occurring at the composer in observing the sea at night. In particular waves and the dark impenetrable colour of the water, full of dangers and unknown. But, in a zoom out perspective the moon would appear, reflecting with cold glimmering lights on the agitated horizon, to flat it in an ethereal mystery.

Sydney International Composers Concerts 2023 CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER MUSIC

Andrea Montalbano (Italy)
Movimenti intrecciati
for string quartet

7:30 p.m. April 14 2023
TLC Theatre
Sydney Australia



Andrea Montalbano (Italy)

Andrea Montalbano (Italy, 1990) started to study the clarinet at 12 and graduated with honors at the Conservatory "A. Scontrino" of Trapani in 2009, in the clarinet class of M^oGiancarlo Lumetta. Andrea attended masterclasses with Paolo Ravaglia, Richard Stoltzman, Andre Kerver, Calogero Palermo. In June 2011 Andrea has qualified as clarinet teacher at the Conservatory of music "G. B. Martini" in Bologna and during the same period has started his composition activity, writing the first works.

In 2014 Andrea studied music composition for movie at Civic Music School "C. Abbado" in Milan with Franco Piersanti and Sergio Miceli. Andrea attended composition masterclasses with Prof. Joel Hoffman ("UPBEAT" International Summer Music School – Croatia, 2015) and with Sidney Corbett and Alessio Elia (Master class in composition promoted by "She lives", music association – Budapest, 2018).

As clarinet player, Andrea is active in classical, jazz and contemporary music, and collaborated with many composers and musicians to play premieres ("Essere e tempo", by Mario Ruffini, at the Uffizi library in Florence, video in "Aristofane in Blue" by Maurizio Pisati at the Oscar Theatre in Milan, "I giorni della liberta" at the Comunale Theatre in Bologna, etc...).

Andrea's compositions have been awarded in national and international composer competitions, and have been performed in many events and festivals: Winner in the category Classical/Operatic composition of The Artist Forum International Music Competition 2021; Composer Cum Laude and Best Work for Piano Trio at the Cum Laude Music Awards III Edition (2020-2021); Musica per archi 2016, 2017 and 2018 (KLK New Music) – Lviv

(Ukraine); Winner at InterContinental Music Award 2021 in the category "Pangea - classic"; MUSLAB 2014 (Muestra Internacional de Musica Electroacustica); Sounds by the Sea 2014 (St. Pete Beach, Florida); ICMC 2013 – listening room (International Computer Music Conference); Emufest 2013 (International Electroacoustic Music Festival) and more.

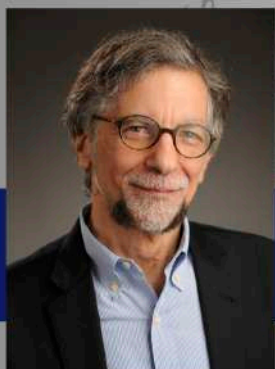
His work "Mirage" (for string quartet) is published by Beethoven - edizioni musicali, and "Su Monte Mario" (for mixed choir), with text by Giosue Carducci, was recorded by Coro Volante, conducted by Brett Scott, and published on "New Choral Voices, vol. 3" by Ablaze Records.

Andrea is clarinet teacher in the Middle School since 2014.

Movimenti intrecciati

"Movimenti intrecciati" is a composition for string quartet with a duration of 7 minutes, written in the summer of 2018. As the title suggests, this work is a continuous intertwined sounds and rhythmic variations between the parts, with a structure repeated and expanded obsessively.

This work will be performed in Sydney International Composers Concerts 2023, Contemporary Chamber Music on April 14, 2023.



Lawrence Kramer (USA) **MIDNIGHT REFRAINS**
Sydney International Composers Concerts 2023
CONTEMPORARY STRING QUARTETS

April 14, 2023
TLC Theatre
Sydney Australia



Lawrence Kramer (USA)

Lawrence Kramer (b. 1946) grew up in Philadelphia and New York and was educated at the University of Pennsylvania and at Yale. A prizewinning composer whose works have been performed throughout the United States and Europe, he holds the position of Distinguished Professor of English and Music at Fordham University.

Kramer studied composition privately when, while still in college, he spent three years as the producer of programs featuring contemporary classical music on public radio. He began writing music during the decade of the 1980s but as a composer he is a true late bloomer: most of the work in his catalog has been composed since 2006, when he turned sixty. His turn to composition came after more than fifteen years of intensive work in musicology for which he is independently renowned. (His 2016 book *The Thought of Music* won the ASCAP Foundation Virgil Thomson Award for Outstanding Music Criticism.)

Kramer's vocal and chamber music has won competitions sponsored by Composers Concordance, Hartford Opera Theater, Ensemble for These Times, The Arc Festival, and The Composer's Voice. Especially prominent in his catalog are works for voice (seventeen song cycles and numerous standalone songs) and for strings (eight string quartets, a string sextet, two string trios, and music for solo strings with and without piano).

Performances in recent years include, among numerous others, *Nietzsche Fragments* for baritone, violin, and piano (New York, 2015); *Erat Hora* (song cycle for soprano, baritone, and piano; New York, 2016); "Trefoil" for String Trio (Stockholm, 2017); "Wingspan" for String Sextet (New York, 2017); *Three Nocturnes* for Viola and Piano (Cambridge, UK, 2018); *Part Songs* for mixed chorus (New York, 2019); *String Quartet no. 8, Reflections and Memories* (Montecassiano, Italy, 2020, via Zoom); a

response to the Covid19 pandemic, "Outcry and Elegy" for Unaccompanied Violin (New York, 2021, via Zoom); and *Ecospheres* for Baritone and Chamber Ensemble (New York, live, 2022).

Midnight Refrains"

"Midnight Refrains" is a contemplative work "set" at the hour traditionally reserved for deep, somewhat melancholy thought. The title points to both a form and a feeling.

A refrain may simply be a melody, usually a simple or catchy one, that returns several times in the course of a piece of music. In poetry, a refrain is a line or two, usually the first or the last, that returns in every stanza, sometimes with small variations. The key thing about these refrains is that their repetition changes their meaning. Similarity in sound becomes

the measure of difference in sense. For Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, in their book

A Thousand Plateaus, the refrain is an auditory gesture brings order to the free flow of events, which, however, can never be wholly be tamed. Music arises from the oscillation between flows and refrains.

The music of "Midnight Refrains" shares all these qualities. It is based on recurrent phrases, three of them to my ears although yours may hear more, that change in meaning each time they return. As they jostle each other and evolve, the refrains oscillate with the free flow of the music around them. True to its contemplative nature, the music seeks out a condition of concentration and simplification, a poise of mind amid the whirl of events. Two lines from T. S. Eliot's poem "Little Gidding"--they kept occurring to me as I was writing this piece--evoke the feeling sought for: "A condition of complete simplicity / (Costing not less than everything)."

罗江怨

Luo Jiang Yuan - *A bit blue*
for String Quartet

Yangfan Xu (USA)



CONTEMPORARY CHAMBE MUSIC
Sydney International Composers Concerts 2023

April 14, 2023
TLC Theatre Sydney Australia



Yangfan Xu (ISA)

Yangfan Xu (b. 1998) holds a deep passion and love for cats. Whenever she hears a string player glissando in the upper registers, she can't help but think of a cat's meow. In addition to her feline obsession, Xu is a Chinese-born US-based composer who comes from a musical family in Lanzhou, Gansu province, with a spoiled cat who eats better than everyone else.

She studied musicology at Middle School affiliated to the Central Conservatory Of Music in China for 3 years. Xu began her compositional study in 2014. For her bachelor's degree in music, she majored in composition at the San Francisco Conservatory Of Music with Mason Bates. Xu earned her master's degree in music at the Juilliard School majoring in composition with Robert Beaser. She is a current DMA student at the New England Conservatory of Music and she studies composition with Kati Agocs. She has also worked with composer Phillip Lasser, Changyuan Liu, Xiaofu Zhang, Ping Jin, Michel Merlet and so on.

She has worked with professional groups such as Friction Quartet, Choral Chameleon, Keyed Kontraptions and Ravel Virtual Studios. Xu was awarded the 1st Prize of the 2020 Hausmann Quartet Quarantine Composition Competition. She is the winner of the Society for New Music's 2021 Israel/Pellman Award. She won the 2021 New Juilliard Ensemble (NJE) Composition Competition, and her commissioned work was performed by NJE at Lincoln Center in 2022.

Luo Jiang Yuan

"Luo Jiang Yuan - A Bit Blue," an episodic single movement work, suggested a tableau of jazzy syncopations and riffs, contrasted with pizzicato pentatonic themes, probably not an unexpected combination from a Chinese-American composer, a protege of Mason Bates." – San Diego Story

"Luo Jiang Yuan - A Bit Blue" was premiered by the Friction Quartet in San Francisco in 2019; it won the first prize in the 2020 Hausmann Quartet Composition Competition.

Luo Jiang Yuan is the title of a Chinese traditional folk tune, meanwhile the title of a famous "Ci" ("Ci," which is a type of poem). In traditional Ci, diverse poems by different poets share the same title with the same structure of the poem; just like in jazz tradition, the same title with various interpretations and improvisations. "Yuan" usually stands for "hatred, blame," but the meaning in the context are more of the unspoken sadness, oppression and melancholy. The music is lyrical and blue, in which I find it connected with Blues music.



Brian Chatpo Koo (Australia)
String Quartet No. 4
Contemporary Chamber Music
SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL COMPOSERS CONCERT 2020

22 December 2020
 7:30 p.m.
 TLC Theatre Baulkham Hills High School
 Sydney Australia



Dr Brian Chatpo Koo is a Sydney-based musician. He worked as a violinist, cellist, and conductor in several professional symphony orchestras before settling down in Sydney in 1993.

He studied music at the University of Hong Kong and the University of Sydney. He was the first person in Australia to receive a Ph.D. degree in music composition. He also studied music at International Summer Course for New Music in Darmstadt, Germany, and obtained his Licentiate, Fellowship Diplomas from Trinity College of Music London.

As a composer, his compositions have been performed and broadcasted over Asia, Europe, North America, and Australia.

He won the Hong Kong Young Musicians' Award in 1985 and the Himalaya Cup Award in the First International Competition for Piano Composition in Beijing in 1995.

As an academic member, he has worked as a tutor/teaching assistant for the Music Department at the University of Hong Kong, and a senior faculty member of the Australian Institute of Music, (where he established curricula for the Bachelor's degree in Music Composition), and an external examiner for the University of Wollongong.

As a conductor, he has conducted many symphony orchestras to premiere his works, including both of his operas.

He is the Founding Conductor and Artistic Director of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra. The SCO Youth Symphony - the Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra and the Sydney Hills Junior

Orchestra, and the Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

String Quartet No.4

The Music in Edvard Munch's Three Paintings

Inspired by three of Edvard Munch's the pictures, this string quartet consists of three movements in the following order:

1. The Dance of Life
2. Melancholy
3. Scream

The order of these three pictures seemingly represent the artist's cataclysmic experiences of his life and his philosophy - longing for love, sadness for lost family and friends, and expounding the merciless reality of life - a fearful, infinite scream.

The first movement, The Dance of Life is dominated by cheerful music throughout depicting Munch's stages of womanhood: youth and innocence; love and passion, and inexorable coming of old age.

The second movement 'Melancholy' is a slow, quiet and pensive movement, expressing one's feeling of gloom.

The last movement 'Scream' is full of fear and uneasiness. In this movement, a soprano recites the text written by Munch.

Composed in 1999. Presented by Arditti Quartet in 2009, Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre, Melbourne, Vic. Australia.

SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY ORCHESTRA



Founded in 2013 and led by its Founding Conductor, Artistic, and Executive Director Dr. Brian Chatpo Koo, the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra (SCO) is dedicated to exploring and promoting new music by contemporary composers.

Based in Sydney Australia and comprised of about 100 of Sydney's finest professional musicians, the SCO offers a high standard professional video recording service for contemporary orchestral music providing significant incentives for composers to pursue creative endeavors in new music and to enrich the music culture of our times.

Since 2013, the SCO has hosted 12 concerts - Music Contemporary 2013, 2014, 2015, Contemporary Piano Music 2014, Chamber Music 2014, and the Sydney New Music Festival 2016 which consists of six open rehearsals and 3 public concerts (Contemporary Piano

Music 2016, Contemporary String Quartets 2016 and Contemporary Chamber Music 2016), Sydney International Composers Concerts 2017, Sydney International Composers Concerts 2018, and has performed and promoted 56 new works of the composers from 40 countries and regions around the world. The SCO also hosted and video recorded a Chinese New Year Concert for the celebration of the Chinese Spring Festival in 2015 which was highly acclaimed.

The vision of the SCO is to enrich the cultural life of Sydney and to establish Sydney's reputation as a leading center for the performance of contemporary music. The SCO promotes the music of today's composers from Australia and around the world. It is the only Australian orchestra dedicated to the performance of new music by today's contemporary composers.

Sydney Contemporary Orchestra
STRING QUARTET 2023

Dr Brian Chatpo Koo
Conductor

Stevie Maston
1st Violin

Alice Yang
2nd Violin

Parvin Afandiyeva
Viola

Samantha Knutsen
Cello

Janine Harris
Soprano



Dr Brian Chatpo Koo
Artistic Director

Founding Conductor and Artistic & Executive Director Dr Brian Chatpo Koo is a Sydney based musician. Having studied music at the University of Hong Kong and the University of Sydney, Brian was the first person in Australia to receive a PhD degree in music composition.

Supported by the Hong Kong University Grant, Brian also studied music at the International Summer Course for New Music in Darmstadt, Germany, and obtained his Licentiate and Fellowship Diplomas from the Trinity College of Music in London.

As a composer, his compositions have been performed all around the world.

As a conductor, Dr Koo has conducted many symphony orchestras around the world for his compositions' premieres.

He founded the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra in 2013. Together with about 100 Sydney finest professional musicians and a strongly admired volunteer management team, Brian is dedicated to creating a platform where more new orchestral works can be performed, heard, recorded, published and become a part of our music culture, as he believes music development history is written by composers' creativities. To encourage and to reach the pinnacle of this creativity and art, we must through devotion, perseverance, determination, but most importantly through constant performances.

Brian also founded the SCO Youth Symphony, a training arm of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, in order to provide professional orchestral training to young musicians, as he believes with classical music training and carefully selected programs covering a variety of cultural perspectives, young musicians can be equipped to broaden their vision and to enhance their understanding of culture, civilisation and human society.

James Wannan

First Violin



Stevie Maston is a passionate young emerging violinist who has studied under some of Australia's best renowned violin pedagogues, such as Michele Walsh, and Spiros Rantos. In the past year Stevie was accepted for study under Australia's only two Alexander technique violin teachers (a method of movement training taught in the royal college of music).

Stevie has studied at the Queensland Conservatorium, Melbourne Conservatorium and has now settled to study at the Sydney conservatorium under the tutelage of Janet Davies studying the Alexander technique. She takes a particular passion to furthering her practicing through the use of Alexander technique specially how our habitual behavioral patterns affect our body movement.

She has had the privilege to perform with the Australian Romantic and Classical orchestra, The Queensland Symphony, Australian Youth Orchestras, Queensland Youth Orchestra, and the Gold Coast youth Orchestra.

Stevie performs on the 99th violin made by Ian Clarke in 2012

Alice Yang

2nd Violin



Alice Yang is currently pursuing her master degree in Violin Performance at the Australian Institute of Music.

Started violin learning at the age of 5, Alice has a strong interest in chamber music performance with over 10 years of orchestral experience in China and in Australia. She has acted as the assistant principal at the ANU Chamber Orchestra and Sydney University Student Orchestra, and has played with the North Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the newly established Sydney Concert Orchestra.

Parvin Afandiyeva

Viola



Parvin Afandiyeva is a talented musician and educator who is currently teaching at a Catholic school in Sydney. With her passion for music and her dedication to her students, she is sure to be making a positive impact in the lives of those she teaches.

Previously, Parvin had a successful career as a violist, performing in the State Opera and Ballet Theatre for several years. She also worked as a music teacher at the "Nightingale" music school and William Clarke college, inspiring countless young musicians with her knowledge and skill.

With 20 years of experience as a performer and educator, Parvin Afandiyeva is a true asset to the world of music. Her dedication and love for music is sure to continue to touch the hearts of audiences and students alike.

Samantha Knutsen

(Cellist)

Samantha is a cellist in the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and has been teaching and performing for over 15 years.

She began studying cello in the Blue Mountains with Barbara Woolley and then went on to complete her Bachelor of Music

Performance degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2013, after studying with Susan Blake.

In 2012 Samantha performed Schumann's Cello Concerto as soloist with the Blue Mountains Symphony Orchestra.

Whilst at the Conservatorium she had the opportunity to play in masterclasses for European cellists Peter Bruns, and Pieter Wispelwey.

In 2013 and 2014 Samantha was principal cellist in the Sydney Conservatorium Orchestra, and in 2014 she performed as soloist during the Peter Sculthorpe memorial concert broadcast on ABC Classic FM.

In 2015 while she was studying her Masters degree at the Sydney Conservatorium with Umberto Clerici, Samantha was selected as reserve cellist for Sydney Sinfonia. Later that year she played as

Associate Principal in collaboration with Opera Australia and Penrith Symphony Orchestra in 'Opera in Paramatta Park.'

After a short break Samantha returned to performing in 2019, in orchestras, and chamber ensembles around the Sydney region: most

recently the Town Hall Sunset Festival on ANZAC Day 2023 which was broadcast live on Channel 7 TV. She also performed with Australian music legend Darren Coggan in his Cat Stevens show, and with both Damien Leith and Darren Coggan in their Beatles tribute show in Nowra. Samantha is the newest member of Sydney's 5-piece Baroque band, 'Balmain Baroque'.



Janine Harris - Soprano



Janine Harris is a versatile soprano based in Sydney. A recipient of the John Luscombe Award, Helpmann Family Award, Helen Myers Scholarship and a Henderson Travelling Scholarship in 2022, and of the Helpmann Family Award and the John Holt Todd

and Florence Todd Scholarships in 2021, she is presently studying opera under the tutelage of Donna Balson. Janine was winner of the Oratorio prize in the 2021 Sydney Eisteddfod and placed second in the open female operatic section the same year.

Having spent some years freelancing in top professional ensembles in London Janine returned to Australia to take up the position of Ensemble Artist for 2020/21 with The Song

Company. This opportunity has seen her perform to critical acclaim across repertoire from the 13th C to the present day – notably receiving praise for “her exceptional range, precision, clarity and even tone” [Limelight Magazine, April 2021] performing motets of the Renaissance from original manuscripts, and “impeccable dramatization... hilariously exemplified” [Theatre Travels, March 2021] in a dramatic staging of music by living American composer Juliana Hall. A further highlight of 2020 was performing in the Adelaide Festival alongside The Tallis Scholars, The Norwegian Soloists’ Choir and the Netherlands Kamerkoor.

Apart from engagements with The Song Company, in September last year, Janine performed with the acclaimed Miriam Allan and Pinchgut Opera in *Women of the Pieta*. Her roles in Sydney have included *Dritte Dame* (*Die Zauberflöte*) and *Cobweb* (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*) for the Sydney Conservatorium and *Marcellina* (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) for The Co-operative. Janine has also performed as a soloist with the Choir of Christ Church St Laurence, the SCM’s Early Music Ensemble, the Chandos Choir and Portsmouth Chorale in the UK, and with the Choirs of St James King St and St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney and the Australian Brandenburg Choir.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Artistic Director - Dr Brian Chatpo Koo
Secretary - Rajishwar Datt
Treasurer - David Gock
Rawah Dorrnanian
Rosanna North

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Director - Dr Brian Chatpo Koo
Office Manager - Rajishwar Datt
Finance Manager - David Gock
Publicity Manager - Rawah Dorrnanian
Concert Manager - Rita Lee
Membership Manager - Cameo Song

THE SCO FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Chair - Dr Brian Chatpo Koo
Deputy Chair - Marilyn Koo
Treasurer - David Gock
Secretary - Rajishwar Datt



COMING CONCERT

Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

presents

Contemporary Orchestral Music (III) 2023

October 6 2023, 8:00pm

Verbruggen Hall
Sydney Australia

***Featured seven new music composed by living composers from Turkey, UK,
the USA, and Australia.***

***Come to meet the composers, listen to their compositions, and experience
the new sounds and their distinct philosophies, to challenge your ideologies.***

Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

Ticket booking and more information:
www.sydneystemporaryorchestra.org
Concert Manager, Rita Lee
rita.lee@sys.org.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank

The SCO Foundation
Baulkham Hills High School

for their generous supports.

Special thanks to our volunteer Managers and
the board members of
the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra
Management Committee
without them nothing could be done.



THE SCO FOUNDATION



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