

Sydney Contemporary Orchestra
YOUTH SYMPHONY
Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra



THE HILLS YOUNG MUSICIANS CONTEST 2023

8 September 2023
7:00 PM

TLCTheatre
Baulkham Hills High School
Sydney
NSW Australia



Sydney
Contemporary
Orchestra
Youth Symphony

Dr Brian Chatpo Koo
Founding Conductor, Artistic & Executive Director



MAYORAL MESSAGE

Welcome to the Hills Young Musicians Contest 2023, an Orange Blossom Festival associated event.

The Hills Young Musicians Contest is designed to expose young musicians to a healthy competitive environment, while also learning general competition etiquette and receiving constructive feedback from judges who are professional musicians.

I would like to commend the young musicians from the Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra for participating in the contest this evening. Performing and being critiqued in front of an audience is a challenging task, however, I know it will also be an incredibly enriching experience for you all.

I would also like to thank Dr Brian Koo, their founding conductor, for providing this opportunity for these young adults. Since the Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra was established in 2011, Dr Koo has been committed to fostering the talent of young musicians and encouraging their passion for classical orchestral music.

Thank you to everyone who made tonight's event possible, including parents and guardians. Music is a universal gift, and your encouragement is why we can share in this wonderful evening.

My very best wishes for tonight's performances, and I hope to see you all at our other Orange Blossom Festival events.

Mayor of The Hills Shire,
Dr Peter Gangemi



WELCOME

Welcome to The Hills Young Musicians Contest 2023.

Supported by the Hills Shire Council, and Baulkham High School, **Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra** of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra - YOUTH SYMPHONY proudly hosts the Hills Young Musicians Contests 2023.

In spite of that the main aim of this contest is to invoke young musicians' passion for music, broaden their performing experience, heighten performance during their examinations, and contribute their talents to the Hills community, this evening, gifted young musicians will contest for three trophies in three age groups each.

I would like to give my warmest congratulations to all participants and hope you all do the best performances.

I would like to thank the Hills Shire Council and Baulkham Hills High School for their great support.

Sincere thanks to our adjudicators and our management team without whom nothing could have been done.

Dr Brian Chatpo Koo
Artistic Director
Sydney Contemporary Orchestra
YOUTH SYMPHONY

CONTESTANTS

Group A

10 years of age and under

Lihini De Alwis - Violin
Catherine Kim - Clarinet
Caroline Zhou - Cello
Yihan Stephanie Lin - Violin
Annabelle Deng - Flute
Zahra Wickramage - Violin
Matisse Mok - Clarinet
Harvey Li - Violin
Celina Nguyen - Cello
Emily Shi - Violin
Connie Huang - Clarinet
Dabi Kim - Cello
Hannah Zhou - Viola

Group B

11 and 14 years of age

Elise Chen - Cello
Raavia Riar - Violin
Xinluyi (Muse) Zhang - Flute
Elise Chen - Cello
William Li - Violin
Una Kim - Oboe
Ashleigh Wong - Cello
Phoebe Ge - Violin
Clara Kwon - Cello
Elina Feng - Clarinet
Charis Song - Violin
Katelyn Li - Cello
Grace Lee - French Horn
Uthuli Samarasekara - Violin

Group C

15 - 18 years of age

Hayden North - Cello
Lyra Xi - Double Bass
Caleigh Chow - Violin
Valery Lam - Cello
Emma Yi-Xuan Kan Violin

PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS

Dr Brian Chatpo Koo

Artistic Director

Beata Stanowska

Concertmaster
Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

Samantha Mailer

Principal Flute
Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

Karen Cortez

Principal Cello
Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY ORCHESTRA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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



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 Ph.D. 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, he has conducted many symphony orchestras around the world for his compositions' premieres.

He founded the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra in 2013. Together with about 100 of Sydney's finest professional musicians and a 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 reach the pinnacle of this creativity and art, we must through devotion, perseverance, and determination, and most importantly through constant performance.

Brian also founded the SCO Youth Symphony in 2011, 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.



Beata Stanowska

Master of Arts (Violin – Poland)

Concertmaster of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra.

Teacher of Violin Beata has extensive experience as a performer and music teacher. She gained her qualifications in the Lyceum of Music in Warsaw, Poland and completed her Master of Arts study in the class of Professor T. Kochanski, in the Academy of Music in Gdansk Faculty of Instrumental Studies, where she held a concertmaster position with the Symphony Orchestra.

She was awarded a distinction in the National Children's Violin Competition in Lancut (Poland). Beata became a principal violinist with both the State Opera and Philharmonic Orchestra and Baltic Chamber Orchestra, with which she toured extensively throughout Europe, including France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and

Spain. She has performed at such famous venues as The Munich Philharmonic, Alte Oper in Frankfurt and Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

Since arriving in Australia in 1992, Beata has performed with Willoughby Symphonic Orchestra (leader), East-West Symphonic Orchestra, Amadeus Players (co-leader), Macquarie Symphony Orchestra and Choir at the Macquarie University (leader) and a variety of string ensembles. In 1995 she gave her solo performance during the Gala Concert with WSO, receiving an excellent review.

In 2015 Beata performed at The Flute Tree Studio and Utzon Hall at the Opera House with Hourglass Ensemble. Currently, she holds a concertmaster position in Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, leads a string quartet (Strings Attached), works as a recording musician (soundtrack for Water Diviner and movies by Pixar) while continuing teaching from her private studio in Castle Hill and providing tuition in Tara Anglican School for Girls and Marist College.



Samantha Mailer

(Flautist)

Australian flautist Samantha Mailer (née Joseph) has performed in concerts in Australia, Scandinavia, Russia, the United Kingdom and Italy, and live on ABC Classic FM, ArtSound FM and Sydney Live 2GB 873AM. Samantha divides her time performing regularly as flute soloist and chamber musician.

Samantha has been a recipient of several scholarships and grants including a Friends of the School of Music travel grant, Domann Flute Scholarship, ANU Head of Music School grant, Associazione Rome Festival and Rome Festival Orchestra, Ltd. Subsidy, prizewinner of the ANU School of Music Chamber Music Competition, and NSW Encore Award.

Following a Masters of Music degree at the Australian National University, Samantha travelled to participate in master classes and private study with the leading flautists around the world. This included a short residency at the prestigious Oxford Flute School, and a contract with the Rome Festival Orchestra.

In addition to her love of classical music performance, Samantha is equally comfortable exploring a wide range of styles and sounds, experimenting with modern works and 20th century techniques.

Her philanthropic work sees Samantha performing at fundraising events and charity concerts, as well as being an active committee member of the Flute Society of NSW.

Samantha currently works as Principal Flautist with both the orchestra of Sydney Independent Opera, and the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, and is a Preferred Player with the Australian Discovery Orchestra.

Karen Cortez

Cellist



Karen Cortez is a genre-hopping cellist and amateur chorister, and completed her Bachelor of Music (Music Education) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She is one of the founding members of educational quartet "Quart-Ed", performing and teaching for audiences of all walks of life. The quartet's philosophy of pluralist music education means they frequently perform new Australian works, often in collaboration with composers. Karen has recently been exploring the string folk scene and performed with the Narrownecks at the Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass Festival in 2019. Karen sustained an anxiety-related playing injury in 2016 and is now on the road to recovery with a passion for awakening and deepening people's musical identities, and developing healthy music making practices in school settings and beyond. In her free time, Karen enjoys connecting with the world and people for whom music is about and for: Recently, she was a facilitator for Girl Guides NSW, ACT & NT's environmental advocacy seminar, and is currently completing a Certificate IV in Outdoor Leadership.

Karen is the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra - Ensemble Modern 2022 musician for the Sydney International Composers Concerts - Contemporary Chamber Music concert on December 22, 2022, at the TLC Theatre. Sydney Australia.

Sydney Contemporary Orchestra YOUTH SYMPHONY

Established in 2011, a training arm of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra Inc. (SCO), the SCO Youth Symphony (SYS) is our Youth Program for young music lovers, music students, young musicians, and young music teachers in Sydney, Australia.

It consists of two training orchestras - the Sydney Hills Junior Orchestra and the Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra. Led by its Founding Conductor, Artistic & Executive Director, Dr. Brian Chatpo Koo, the SYS offers young music lovers the opportunity to play and enjoy classical orchestral music of all kinds, not only performing but also learning to understand how those masterpieces were constructed, and expanding their orchestral music education training and orchestral music performance experience. The orchestra also broadens their potential music career by building up their orchestral music repertoires, as well as imparting to them the value of communication, teamwork, and discipline.

After training, they can join our **Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra** playing alongside professional musicians to get more professional experience. Furthermore, they can join the **Sydney Contemporary Orchestra** to earn income as professional musicians.

Since 2011 we have hosted 33 concerts and trained more than 200 young musicians. Some of them now pursuing their tertiary music studies and some of them are working as professional musicians.

Young music lovers who play orchestral instruments are welcome to join us.

Contact our managers for more information:
management@sys.org.au

The Sydney Contemporary Orchestra
YOUTH SYMPHONY

Symphonic Training Program

Proudly supported by the Hills Shire Council, the Symphonic Training Program provides the opportunity for young musicians aged 8 – 25.

Symphonic skills training will be including how to watch and follow a conductor and various orchestral etiquette. Especially those who play wind instruments, brass instruments, and percussion, they will learn new techniques that aren't as widely used in a band setting as with an orchestra, requiring them to be more sensitive with their technical abilities.

Conducted by Dr Brian Chatpo Koo, this program has 40 scheduled rehearsals and two concerts with carefully selected programs covering a variety of cultural aspects and artistic values. The training will be focused on well-known classical symphonies with multiple movements. These multiple-movement symphonic training will strengthen young musicians' physical and mental capabilities and acknowledgment musically and structurally and will give a fantastic performing experience that young musicians will be able to enhance their results in AEMB and HSC exams and benefit from forever.

Rehearsals: Friday evenings during the school term.

Sydney Hills Junior Orchestra 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm (AMEB grade 2 - 5 or equivalent)

Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm (AMEB grade 6 - LMus or equivalent)

To join this program you can visit our website for online application:

<http://www.orchestras.sys.org.au>

Or contact us:

management@sys.org.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank

The Hills Shire Council
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 HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire



Presented by
The Sydney Contemporary Orchestra Inc.
Y O U T H S Y M P H O N Y