Beethoven

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QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 11 & 12 JUL 2025 CONCERT HALL, QPAC

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Queensland Symphony Orchestra provides a spoken Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of each concert to encourage awareness and to demonstrate our respect for First Nations cultures and traditions, as well as signalling our commitment to a more inclusive and equitable society. We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of Meanjin where we work, rehearse and perform; the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples, whose deep connection to this land reminds us to always protect and care for it.

Queensland Symphony Orchestra acknowledges the traditional custodians of Australia. We acknowledge the cultural diversity of Elders, both past and present, and the significant contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to Queensland and Australia.

QSO FIRST NATIONS ARTWORK WHO WE ARE

The First Nations artwork that appears on QSO attire is reprinted with permission and drawn from *Who We Are* by Jeremy Donovan. Jeremy speaks about the work here:

"This artwork was commissioned to capture and reflect the Queensland Symphony Orchestra (QSO). Painted in the office of the QSO, I had the unique opportunity to engage with musicians, QSO staff, and supporters. The painting was influenced by these conversations and interactions. This painting depicts the whole of the QSO. In each individual panel, the Orchestra is depicted using different colours to reflect the roles and the variety of instruments played. The central panel features the hands around the orchestra, which is symbolic of the people who come to experience the QSO and the music. Blue features across all three panels and represents the land on which the QSO is based, and pays respect to both the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples, and the custodianship of this beautiful region.

Greens are the mountains and the rainforests of Queensland. Fine detail within the greens is symbolic of our Far North Queensland Shield designs. There are three of these on the middle panel; they are our Elders and are symbolic of three individuals who were just acknowledged for their 40-year service to the orchestra. Across the top of the painting, the fine white dot work is symbolic of the Dark Sparkles (Milky Way) in the sky—a Dreaming story belonging to my family. Beyond the stars are the musical notes silhouetted in the sky, acknowledging that sound is infinite. The seven purple circles on each panel are symbolic of the dedicated teams behind the music. QSO is so much more than what people get to see, hear, and enjoy. There are tireless teams behind the magic of the music. These seven circles are also the Seven Sisters, connecting my Grandmother's Dreaming.

Having spent my career as a musician and artist, and being privileged to play alongside classical and symphony orchestra musicians, the creation of this piece was a special experience."

– Jeremy Donovan



WELCOME

Welcome to Beethoven & Strauss! Although today's program isn't directly related to our First Nations People, we can still reflect on a few concepts at play as NAIDOC week's 50th anniversary draws to a close. Juxtaposed in Nietzsche's *Also Spake Zarathustra* are concepts of eternal occurrence and *Übermensch* (Superman): Infinite time on a cosmic scale – a time well before ourselves and after, and the struggle of humanity to be and do better.

Beethoven's 3rd piano concerto in C minor – a key he associated with struggle and passion (as in the *Pathétique* sonata and 5th symphony) – was premiered just months after he penned the *Heiligenstadt Testament*, a letter describing the anguish and isolation caused by his deafness. Strauss was criticized for interpreting Nietzsche's philosophy musically. Though it's hardly surprising that such a precocious talent would be inspired by the novel's epic nature. *Zarathustra* followed *Till Eulenspiegel* and both works trace characters on transformative journeys – one, a prankster exposing human folly, the other, a sage contemplating the human condition. Unlike Beethoven, Strauss didn't take himself as seriously as his critics did, and there is plenty of playfulness to be found in his music – maybe as a counterpoint to the gravity of subject matter.

Commissioned by Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, Ravel almost had his own mortal struggle when Diaghilev challenged him to a duel (which thankfully didn't occur) due to an irreconcilable falling-out over the impresario's comment that *La Valse* was the 'notion' of a ballet rather than an actual ballet. Diaghilev's comment has proved prophetic as *La Valse* is one of the most popular works in the concert repertoire despite its ballet beginnings!

While this program's featured composers may have fallen short of Nietzsche's Übermensch, they have left a legacy of music than transcends their own time, which can be enjoyed on its own merits – exciting, colourful, expressive, moving and energetic – or stimulate thought on a deeper level if you wish. Enjoy today's concert and let QSO, under the superb direction of Pablo González and the virtuosic brilliance of soloist Javier Perianes, offer you a temporary escape from life's struggles.



David Montgomery QSO Section Principal Percussion

IN THIS CONCERT

Conductor	Pablo González
Soloist	Javier Perianes, Piano

PROGRAM

BEETHOVEN	Concerto No. 3 in C minor for Piano and Orchestra, Op.37	40'
INTERVAL	Saturday only	20'
STRAUSS	Also sprach Zarathustra (Thus Spake Zarathustra), TrV 176, Op.30	33'
RAVEL	La valse (Saturday only)	12'



MESSAGE FROM The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane Councillor Adrian Schrinner

The Queensland Symphony Orchestra has done it again with this exceptional series of performances combining timeless tradition with contemporary brilliance.

The Maestro performances breathe new life into timeless classics, delivering world-class entertainment for all ages. Programs like this have the power to inspire the next generation of musicians needed to sustain our vibrant performing arts industry.

What happens on stage directly reflects the countless hours of rehearsals and logistics behind the scenes, so I would like to congratulate and thank everyone who has played their part.

The Queensland Symphony Orchestra plays a vital role in shaping Brisbane's reputation as the cultural capital of Australia.



Congratulations and thank you.

Adrian Schrinner Lord Mayor

IF YOU'RE NEW TO THE ORCHESTRA



WHO SITS WHERE

Orchestras sit in sections based on types of instruments. There are four main sections in the symphony orchestra (strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion) and sometimes a keyboard section.

STRINGS

These instruments produce sound by bowing or plucking stretched strings.

First and Second Violin Viola Cello Double Bass Harp

WOODWIND

Wind instruments produce sound by being blown into.

Flute/Piccolo Clarinet/E-flat Clarinet/Bass Clarinet Oboe/Cor Anglais Bassoon/Contrabassoon

KEYBOARD

Keyboard instruments are played by pressing keys.

Piano Celeste Organ

BRASS

Brass players create sound by vibrating their lips. When this vibration is pushed through large brass tubes, it can create significant noise.

French Horn Trumpet Trombone/Bass Trombone Tuba

PERCUSSION

These instruments create sound by being struck or, for the harp, plucked or strummed. Some instruments just make a sound; others play particular notes.

Timpani, Bass drum, Snare drum, Cymbals, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Tam-tam, Triangle, Sleigh Bells.

WHO'S ON STAGE TODAY



BEFORE WE BEGIN

Before the performance begins, get to know a few musical terms in the Listening Guide.

Movement	A large musical work is often divided up into different sections, called movements. Each section may be played at a different speed to the previous, but each carry and develop the overarching theme of the work throughout.
Motif	A short musical phrase or idea that is repeated and forms the basic building blocks of a piece of music.
Staccato	Performed with each note sharply detached or separated from the others.
Tremolo	The trembling, rapid repetition back and forth of a note, usually on a bowed string instrument.
Tone poem	A piece of orchestral music that tells a story, either evoking the content of a poem, story, painting, or landscape.
Dissonant	Compositions that utilize intervals and chords considered harsh or unstable, creating a sense of tension and unease, rather than the pleasing harmony of traditional consonance.



LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770–1827)

Concerto No. 3 in C minor for Piano and Orchestra, Op.37

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Largo
- III. Rondo: Allegro

Beethoven's works were often premiered and performed in jam-packed musical celebrations: the Piano Concerto No. 3 made its debut alongside the premieres of the composer's Second Symphony and the oratorio *Christ on the Mount of Olives* – and once bundled alongside a few old favourites (including a whole symphony) and applause, the whole affair was no brief event.

This concert was also not entirely set up for success – a 'second-rate' orchestra struggled through their first and only rehearsal of the work, which was on the morning of the concert. Beethoven, too, had not finished the concerto: his friend Ignaz von Seyfried was asked to page turn, and fearfully found himself facing several blank pages, composed of what he described as indecipherable 'hieroglyphics.' During the performance, Beethoven would cheekily nod when he required his pages to be turned, and Seyfried's anxiety over the thought of missing one of these gestures had the composer in fits of laughter at the post-concert dinner.

The concerto is in three movements, opening with a sprawling first **movement** that grows from a stately, almost militaristic **motif**, which parades forward with great aplomb. The back and forth between piano and orchestra grows in intimacy as the movement progresses; the piano soloist often leaves the ends of its phrases to the strings, and what begins as two opposing forces slowly meld together.

The second movement is often regarded as a leap away from the first – it begins in a distant key, and is a gently lilting contrast to the concerto's beginning. Beethoven ties these two movements together with the rollicking third movement, a grand finale which dances its way up the piano with a cheeky **staccato** theme. This playful agility is punctuated with brilliant lightness, deft fingers that pinprick piano keys.



LISTENING GUIDE

RICHARD STRAUSS (1864-1949)

Also sprach Zarathustra (Thus Spake Zarathustra), TrV 176, Op.30

- 1. Einleitung (Introduction)
- 2. Von den Hinterweltlern (Of the Backworldsmen)
- 3. Von der groen Sehnsucht (Of the Great Longing)
- 4. Von den Freuden und Leidenschaften (Of Joys and Passions)
- 5. Das Grablied (The Song of the Grave)
- 6. Von der Wissenschaft (Of Science and Learning)
- 7. Der Genesende (The Convalescent)
- 8. Das Tanzlied (The Dance-Song)
- 9. Nachtwandlerlied (Song of the Night Wanderer)

It begins with the rumblings of basses, a **tremolo** of timpani, and then in unison, four trumpets play three infamous ascending notes: an invocation of a dazzling sunrise, and one of the best known openings of the orchestral repertoire. This fanfare announces Richard Strauss' *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, popularised in Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, where the frontier of space exploration is painted with epic orchestral majesty. But as iconic as this opening is, it is just the beginning of an even bigger adventure.

Strauss' **tone poem** is inspired by Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophical novel of the same name, written just over a decade earlier. Strauss was particularly drawn to the central concept of the *Übermensch*, or Superman, a state reached once an individual transcends beyond the constraints of humanity and religion. Strauss takes eight chapters from Nietzsche's larger text, and uses them as a framework for his movements, which often seamlessly slip into one another.



After the final wash of organ sound in the opening prelude, the orchestra darkens, and our philosophical journey properly begins – as the cellos and violas begin a melody that tugs on the heartstrings, as the second and third movements melt into the lush warmth of strings.

Sometimes Strauss' movement painting is more literal: 'Of Science' the sixth movement, uses every note of the chromatic scale, arranged mathematically in a calculated, methodical fugue. An extensive violin solo sweeps through the waltzing eighth movement, titled 'The Dance Song.' In between these sections you might catch a glimmer of the opening sunrise, which sometimes emerges subtly, and at other times breaks forth with overwhelming brassy strength.

At last, the closing chapter: 'The Song of the Night Wanderer' is opened by twelve tolls of midnight. Strauss leaves the narrative unresolved: humanity and the universe face one another, each represented by one of two clashing keys: B and C. While they are consecutive notes to one another, as tonal worlds these key centres are both distant and **dissonant**. The final sweet chord is displaced by one last utterance of low strings, the last plucked murmur of the universe.

MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937) La valse

"At first the scene is lined by a kind of swirling mist through which one discerns, vaguely and intermittently, the waltzing couples..."

So Maurice Ravel begins his explanation of *La Valse*, where breaking through the grumble of double bass, a pair of bassoons begin this waltz with a rumble of unease. After a buzzing flutter of flute, and an almost seasick swaying of orchestra, this waltz loses its ominous, fragmented origins to sparkle through a dreamlike haze, or as the composer explains:

"Little by little the vapors begin to disperse, and the illumination grows brighter, revealing an immense ballroom filled with dancers. The blaze of the chandeliers comes to full splendour."

Ravel first conceived of the piece in 1906, but it was not actually composed until 1919 – a time period across which the world was irrevocably changed: how could a composer write an innocent ballroom waltz in the wake of a devastating world war? As an ambulance driver on the front, Ravel's experiences were first hand, and his experiences of the horrors of war were lived alongside his own personal crises, including the death of his mother. In this light, *La Valse's* lavishness takes on a cruel irony – one Ravel enhances with savage harmonies and an uncertain, undanceable character which rapidly changes its mind about the tempo and character of its waltzy nature. When the full weight of strings, the dappled ringing of harp, and Ravel's cheeky wind inclusions come out to play, a little twinkle of what-once-was lingers beneath this turbulent take on decadence.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



Pablo González Conductor

Pablo González brings passion, insight and a theatrical sensibility to communicating music to both orchestras and audiences, most recently as Principal Conductor of Spanish Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra (RTVE), where he also served as Artistic Adviser, between 2019 and 2023.

As Music Director of Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya (OBC) from 2010 to 2015, he conducted full Mahler and Schumann cycles; led a central European tour, including an acclaimed appearance at Vienna's Konzerthaus; recorded and released three volumes of orchestral works by Granados, and Bizet's Carmen and L'Arlesienne suites (Naxos); and championed many new pieces by Catalan and Spanish composers. He strengthened the orchestra's community focus, developing a collaborative social project *Et toca a tu*, bringing the musicians of the OBC together with children who were at risk of social exclusion.

As a guest conductor, González has developed close relationships with orchestras including Helsinki Philharmonic, Residentie Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège, Orchestre National d'Île de France and Bochum Symphony. In recent seasons he has also collaborated with Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Dresden Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Recent and future projects include debuts with London Philharmonic Orchestra, Milan Symphony Orchestra and NDR Hannover. He is highly in demand in his native Spain, enjoying collaborations with the country's most prestigious orchestras.

Born in Oviedo, González studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and won prizes at the prestigious Donatella Flick and Cadaqués International Conducting competitions. He also took formal training to be an actor at the Academy Drama School in London, as well as taking other drama courses, and has appeared as an actor on stage and in film. He has previously served as Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestra of the City of Granada and Assistant Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra.



Javier Perianes Piano

Javier Perianes has performed in the world's leading concert halls with major orchestras and esteemed conductors including Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, Gustavo Dudamel, Klaus Mäkelä, Simone Young, and Vladimir Jurowski.

Highlights of the 2024/25 season include the Spanish premiere of Francisco Coll's Ciudad sin sueño with Les Arts Valencia and performances with the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, NDR Elbphilharmonie, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Gulbenkian Orchestra, and orchestras in Singapore, San Diego, Vancouver, and across the UK. He will also perform Jimmy López Bellido's Piano Concerto with the Naples Philharmonic, and all five Beethoven concertos with Orquestra de la Comunitat Valenciana and the Philharmonia Orchestra on tour. The season ends with appearances across Australasia, including the Sydney, Queensland, Adelaide, Tasmania, and New Zealand symphony orchestras.

A passionate recitalist and chamber musician, Perianes appears this season at Wigmore Hall, Radio France, and in Adelaide, as well as touring with violist Tabea Zimmermann. He has performed at prestigious festivals including the BBC Proms, Lucerne, Salzburg, and La Roque d'Anthéron and Festival Pianistico Internazionale in Brescia and Bergamo. Perianes records exclusively for harmonia mundi. His latest albums include Goyescas, Chopin: Sonatas & Mazurkas, Jeux de Miroirs, and Cantilena with Tabea Zimmermann. He received Spain's National Music Prize in 2012 and was named ICMA Artist of the Year in 2019.

Supporter Encore Helen Sotiriadis and Lionel Poustie

Helen Sotiriadis and Lionel Poustie have been part of QSO's Music Chair Program since 2017, currently supporting Dr Gregory Lee, Violin 1.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY OR EXPERIENCE WITH QSO?

There are many, but one of the standouts was when Serbian violinist, Namanja Radulovic, played Tchaikovsky's Concerto in D for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 35 (2019). That evening, the conductor was unwell and a last-minute replacement couldn't be found. Namanja took centre stage, and we literally saw the firsts of each section lean in and respond to his direction. He said it was a 'first' for him. We're sure it was a first for many in the audience, including ourselves. His playing was electric!

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO SUPPORT QSO?

Classical music has always brought us great joy. The Music Chair Program presented us with an opportunity to support incredible talent while gaining insight into the workings of the QSO. Initially, it was a gift for Helen's 50th birthday. It's the gift that keeps on giving.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THOSE CONSIDERING SUPPORTING QSO?

The world needs elite musicians and artists as much as it needs sports people and academics. Supporting QSO gives them the much-needed funds to nurture great talent, bring classical music to regional Queensland and continue to bring world-class performers to Brisbane.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE COMPOSER OR WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF MUSIC?

At the moment, Lionel's favourite collection of music is Bach's Goldberg Variations; Helen's is Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings. But we're both great fans of the Romantics.

Please contact the Development team on (07) 3833 5027 or development@qso.com.au to discuss how you can support QSO.

Join the Music Chair Program

The Music Chair Program is a unique opportunity to strengthen your relationship with QSO and connect with our musicians. Support received through this program helps develop QSO as a world-class orchestra.

" QSO's Music Chair Program is really important to us as musicians because it helps us establish a special rapport and relationship with our audiences. I enjoy getting to know my supporters and seeing their reactions at the end of a performance. " - KATHRYN CLOSE, CELLO

" It makes us so proud when our supported musician gives us a friendly wave from the stage. If you want to engage with QSO in an exciting and meaningful way, certainly consider joining the Program." - LORNA AND WILL HEASLOP

> Contact the Development team to find out how you can join the Music Chair Program.

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COMING UP



The Royal Organist

SAT 26 JUL 7.30PM SUN 27 JUL 11.30AM Concert Hall, QPAC

Conductor Pablo González

Soloist James O'Donnell, organ

Bach	Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565
Jongen	(Sun only) Symphonie concertante, Organ & Orchestra, Op.81 - (Sunday mvt I only)
Sdraulig	Colourscapes
Saint-Saëns	Symphony No.3 in C minor, Op.78 (Organ Symphony)

Lior & Westlake

SAT 9 AUG 1.30PM & 7.30PM

Concert Hall, QPAC

Conductor Soloists	Benjamin Northey Lior, vocalist Kristian Winther, violin
Finsterer Vasks Westlake and Lior	Stabat Mater Symphony (Mvt I) Violin Concerto No.1 Distant Light Compassion



Shostakovich Ten

FRI 19 SEP 7.30PM SAT 20 SEP 7.30PM

Concert Hall, QPAC

Conductor Soloist	Umberto Clerici Alexander Gavrylyuk, piano
Prokofiev	Piano Concerto No.3 in C, Op.26
Shostakovich	Symphony No 10 in F minor, Op 93

Shostakovich's Tenth becomes the soundtrack to the William Kentridge film *Oh To Believe In Another World* in this unique pairing of artforms.



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