



QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



QSO CLASSICS IN CAIRNS

24 SEP 2025 7:30PM

CAIRNS PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Presented by Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Cairns Performing Arts Centre





QSO REGIONAL TOUR

Queensland's state orchestra, QSO, is making a significant investment in regional Queensland by providing education and large-scale community concerts every year until 2028.

Touring Queensland as a full orchestra comprising up to 60 musicians, QSO will travel to four major regional cities and one outback location annually, inviting schools and communities from neighbouring areas to travel to hear the orchestra. This Residency Model ensures that thousands of regional and remote Queenslanders are given an opportunity to experience their state orchestra live.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

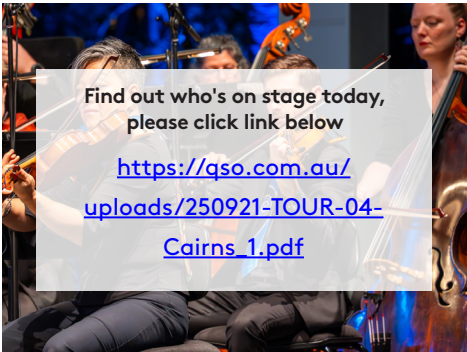
We would love to hear from you regarding tonight's performance. Please click link below to provide your feedback via our quick, 5 minute survey.

<https://shop.qso.com.au/donate/contribute1>

IN THIS CONCERT

Conductor Nathaniel Griffiths
Host Craig Allister Young

WHO'S ON STAGE TODAY



PROGRAM

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| HUMPERDINCK | <i>Hansel and Gretel</i> Prelude | 8' |
| ARR. FARRINGTON | | |
| LIU | <i>Dry Dry Land</i> | 3' |
| LOR | <i>Strolling Through Daydreams</i> | 3' |
| MOZART | <i>Eine kleine Nachtmusik</i> (Serenade, K525) | 16' |
| VERBICA | <i>Home in the Crosshairs</i> | 3' |
| KAN | <i>Pastorale</i> | 4' |
| GRIEG ARR. AITKEN | <i>In the Hall of the Mountain-king</i> from <i>Peer Gynt</i> Suite No.1 | 3' |
| INTERVAL | | 20' |
| BIZET ARR. YOUNG | <i>Habanera</i> from <i>Carmen</i> Suite No. 2 | 2' |
| SATIE | <i>Gymnopedie</i> No.3 | 5' |
| ARR. FARRINGTON | | |
| PLATZ | <i>Voice of the Land</i> | 5' |
| HOLST ARR. YOUNG | <i>Jupiter</i> from <i>The Planets</i> | 7' |
| JUREKIE-ROFE | <i>The Journey Home</i> | 3' |
| SAINT-SAËNS ARR. YOUNG | <i>Danse Macabre</i> | 5' |

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



OVERVIEW

Queensland Symphony Orchestra returns to Cairns for this special one-night-only performance at the Cairns Performing Arts Centre, led by conductor Nathaniel Griffiths. A specially selected ensemble of 20 musicians will bring timeless classics to life in an intimate program that highlights the clarity and connection of live orchestral music.

Expect favourites like Jupiter from Holst's *The Planets* and Grieg's *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, alongside compelling new works by emerging Australian composers from QSO's Compose program — a showcase of the next generation of orchestral talent.

Whether you're a seasoned concertgoer or new to orchestral music, this is a rare opportunity to experience Queensland Symphony Orchestra in a close-up setting, enhanced by the exceptional acoustics of the Cairns Performing Arts Centre.



WELCOME FROM QSO CEO

On behalf of our musicians, team, and Board, I'm delighted to welcome you to *Classics in Cairns* with Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

This performance is part of our ongoing commitment to regional Queensland, and we're proud to return to Cairns with a program that celebrates both tradition and innovation. With the support of Cairns Regional Council and CPAC, we're able to bring orchestral music to new audiences and deepen our connection with this vibrant community.

Tonight's concert also highlights the creative voices of emerging Australian composers through our Compose Program, featuring new works by Andy Liu, Able Lor, Leonardo Verbica, Alex Kan, Jon Platz, and Taylee Jurekie-Rofe.

We're excited to continue building our presence in Cairns and look forward to returning in 2026 with our full *Symphony Under the Stars* program, supported by Creative Australia and Arts Queensland, thank you for joining us.

Michael Sterzinger
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Symphony Orchestra

WELCOME FROM CAIRNS

On behalf of Cairns Regional Council, I warmly welcome you to this special Queensland Symphony Orchestra performance at the Cairns Performing Arts Centre.

Tonight, a handpicked ensemble will bring timeless classics to life alongside striking works by emerging Australian composers, all presented in an intimate setting that showcases the extraordinary talent and passion that defines Queensland's vibrant cultural scene.

Through initiatives such as the QSO Compose Program workshop with local secondary students, QSO shows its strong commitment to fostering and encouraging the next generation of musicians and composers in our community.

Thank you for joining us for this extraordinary orchestral journey. We hope it leaves you inspired and uplifted.

Mayor Amy Eden
Cairns Regional Council

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



Nathaniel Griffiths Conductor

Nathaniel Griffiths is an Australian-born conductor, enjoying a flourishing freelance career in Australasia. As The Australian Ballet's 2025 Robert and Elizabeth Albert Conducting Fellow, Griffiths made his debut with the company in performances of Johann Inger's *Carmen*, and his Sydney Opera House debut conducting Kenneth Macmillan's *Manon*.

In 2024, Griffiths debuted with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and Queensland Ballet. He also made further appearances with the Auckland Philharmonia, following the success of his assistantship as the 2023 New Zealand Assistant-Conductor-in-Residence. Griffiths' credits with the Auckland Philharmonia include conducting the orchestra in recording sessions for the recently released animated film *Plankton: The Movie*.

Passionate about opera, Griffiths premiered the full orchestration of Lucy Mulgan's *Red!* with the Auckland Philharmonia as part of their Summer School in 2024. He has assisted on many opera productions at the Queensland Conservatorium, and made his opera debut in 2021 in a performance of Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*.

Griffiths was a participant in the 2023/24 Australian Conducting Academy, affording him the opportunity to work with Australia's leading symphony orchestras and conductors. He is a graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium, where he studied with Johannes Frittsch.



Craig Allister Young Host

Craig Allister Young is a cellist with Queensland Symphony Orchestra. For the past 30 years he has also been writing, arranging and orchestrating music for orchestras, chamber ensembles and choirs around the country. He has an extensive library of classical and popular music for chamber and symphony orchestras that is now housed with the QSO.

Craig is the founder and mentor for QSO Compose Program, that works with high school composers to write new works for QSO. These works are played on regional tours and has offered the first ever commission to a high school student for the 2026 program. Apart from this Craig has written for events at Dreamworld, RMIT, Couran Cove and is often asked to supply music for the Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols and Spirit of Christmas. A highlight of his career was being asked to write and record music for the 2000 Olympics featuring singer Christine Anu.

Since 2018 he has worked with song-writer Donna Dyson for their label Spotty Kites, producing music, songs and shows for children, including a Christmas show previously performed with QSO, Symphonic Santa.

THANK YOU

To our local and regional supporters



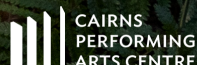
Queensland
Government



ELECTRICAL
& DATA
SUPPLIERS



BIRTLES
FAMILY
FOUNDATION



SUPPORT US

Please consider supporting QSO so we can continue to share the magic of music with our regional and remote Queensland communities.

Your gift will form part of a proud and treasured history that is helping to build Queensland's future. Please click the link below to donate.

CLICK LINK TO DONATE

<https://shop.qso.com.au/donate/contribute1>