



QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



NORTHERN LIGHTS & SOUTHERN STARS

10 OCT 2025 7PM
TOWNSVILLE CIVIC THEATRE

Presented by Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Townsville Civic Theatre

TOWNSVILLE
CIVIC
THEATRE



NORTH
AUSTRALIAN
FESTIVAL
OF ARTS





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 the link below to provide your feedback via our quick, 5 minute survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9XRXXB7>

IN THIS CONCERT

Conductor	Sam Weller
Soloist	Jake Lyle – Baritone
Host	Ed Le Brocq

WHO'S ON STAGE TODAY



PROGRAM

CHARODY	<i>My Australia</i>	8'
GRIEG*	Suite No. 1 from <i>Peer Gynt</i> , Op.46	15'
	Morning (Morgenstemning)	
	Ase's Death (Åses død)	
	In the Hall of the Mountain King	
	(I dovregubbens hall)	
TWIST	<i>Ancient Lights, Mystic Sky</i>	7'
GOUNOD	<i>Avant de quitter ces lieux</i> from <i>Faust</i>	5'
MOZART	<i>Non più andrai</i> from <i>Marriage of Figaro</i>	4'
	(<i>Nozze di Figaro</i>)	
RAVEL	<i>Pavane pour une infante défunte</i>	6'
	(<i>Pavane for a Dead Princess</i>)	
BIZET	Symphony No.1 in C - movement 1 only	8'

*Side-by-side with students from Townsville

Listening notes by ©Phillip Sametz ©Joesph Twist

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



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Sam Weller - Conductor

Sam Weller was one of six 'designated winners' of the 2025 International Conducting Competition Rotterdam, conducting the Rotterdam Philharmonic, Klangforum Wien and Orchestra of the 18th Century. This season, he debuts with the Tasmanian, Queensland and West Australian Symphonies and returns to Adelaide Symphony. Recent highlights include his debut at the Concertgebouw with Netherlands Radio Philharmonic.

In 2016, Sam founded Ensemble Apex, and launched Apex Festival in 2024, supported by the Australian Government. Sam studied under Ed Spanjaard, Jac van Steen, Kenneth Montgomery and Antony Hermus, through National Masters of Orchestral Conducting. Sam is a guest lecturer and conductor at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Conservatorium van Amsterdam and Koninklijk Conservatoire, Den Haag.

Jake Lyle – Baritone

Jake Lyle is a baritone originally from Gladstone, Queensland. In 2024, Jake was one of five singers selected to sing in the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition Finals, where he received the Linnhe Robertson Prize and Nell Pascal Award. More recently, Jake was the winner of the Alton Budd Memorial Award competition and The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Emerging Artists Grant. Jake is studying under Dr Margaret Schindler at Griffith University Queensland Conservatorium.

Jake has performed extensively in the opera program at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University (QCGU). His operatic credits include *Ulisse* in *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria*, *Tonio* (*I Pagliacci*), *Taddeo* (*L'Italiana in Algeri*) as part of the Val Machin Opera Scenes, and *Marco* (*Gianni Schicchi*).

Ed Le Brocq - Host

Ed Le Brocq is a writer, musician and broadcaster. He was born in Dover and began playing music aged six. Ed studied music in Manchester, Berlin, and London with scholarships from the Munster Trust and the German government, played professionally in the UK and Hong Kong and moved to Australia in 2003. He is the presenter of ABC Classic's Weekend Breakfast.

Ed has written five books, including *Cadence*, about his journey by bicycle from England to Hong Kong, *Danger Music*, describing his year teaching music in Afghanistan, and *Sonam and the Silence*, a children's book about the importance of music. Ed's books have been shortlisted for awards, including the Prime Minister's Literary Awards.

Ed was born Emma and transitioned just before his fiftieth birthday. Better late than never.

LISTENING GUIDE

The concert opens with *My Australia* by Chloé Charody, a reflective and socially conscious fanfare that reimagines what the Australian national anthem could be. Drawing on the voices of schoolchildren from diverse backgrounds—including Indigenous and refugee communities—Charody seeks to offer a unifying vision for modern Australia. The piece was inspired by these young voices and addresses themes of reconciliation, inclusivity, and national identity.

Next is Edvard Grieg's Suite No.1 from *Peer Gynt*, Op.46, drawn from his incidental music for Henrik Ibsen's play. Though often heard as a standalone suite, the music originally accompanied scenes from the dramatic story of *Peer Gynt*, a flawed antihero. The four movements present a range of emotional and narrative scenes. *Morning Mood* offers a serene melody often mistaken as a depiction of Norway's fjords, but actually represents Peer waking in the Sahara Desert. *Åse's Death* is a poignant string elegy accompanying a tender moment between Peer and his dying mother. *Anitra's Dance* portrays the flirtatious daughter of a sheik, who ultimately deceives Peer. The suite ends with *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, a frenzied musical depiction of Peer being pursued by trolls, with tension building until his dramatic escape.

Ancient Lights, Mystic Sky by Joe Twist is a short orchestral fanfare celebrating the wonder of Australia's night sky. Inspired by personal stargazing experiences and the spiritual connection to the cosmos, the piece begins with solo woodwinds and syncopated rhythms, growing into full orchestral climaxes that reflect the unfolding brilliance of the Milky Way. A calm, shimmering texture follows, leading to a soaring melody from the composer's choral setting of Henry Lawson's *On The Night Train*, evoking mystery, beauty, and timelessness.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Non più andrai* from *The Marriage of Figaro* follows, performed by baritone Jake Lyle. This aria humorously warns the flirtatious page Cherubino of the harsh military life awaiting him. Mozart's collaboration with librettist Lorenzo da Ponte revolutionized opera with bold, humanistic themes that challenged aristocratic authority—particularly powerful in pre-revolutionary Europe, where the servant Figaro's triumph over his master was both subversive and groundbreaking.

Another aria, *Avant de quitter ces lieux* from Charles Gounod's *Faust*, also sung by Jake Lyle, adds emotional depth. In this Act II moment, Valentin sings a heartfelt farewell to his sister Marguerite as he leaves for war, praying for her protection. Though Gounod's opera simplifies Goethe's original drama, it retains the emotional intensity of the story, with this aria showcasing noble resolve and devotion.

The mood shifts with Maurice Ravel's *Pavane pour une infante défunte*, originally composed for solo piano and later orchestrated. Ravel evokes the elegance of a vanished Spanish court through stately rhythms and delicate textures. Despite the title, it is not a funeral piece, but rather a nostalgic tribute to a distant, idealized royal past.

The concert concludes with the first movement of Georges Bizet's *Symphony in C*, composed at just 17. Rediscovered decades after his death, this vibrant Allegro vivo movement is filled with lyrical melodies, lively rhythms, and youthful brilliance, hinting at the operatic genius Bizet would later become.

Welcome from QSO CEO

On behalf of our musicians, team, and board, I'm delighted to welcome you to Queensland Symphony Orchestra – Northern Lights & Southern Stars.

This performance is part of QSO's ongoing commitment to regional Queensland, and we're proud to return to Townsville today. The concert not only features Gladstone-born soloist Jake Lyle but also Australian conductor Sam Weller and host Ed Le Brocq. QSO will also be joined by Townsville students performing side-by-side with the orchestra, a great opportunity to showcase local performers.

I would like to thank North Australian Festival of Arts, Townsville Civic Theatre and Morgans Townsville for presenting QSO in Townsville, and all QSO corporate and government partners, and philanthropic supporters who make everything possible on and behind the stage.

Enjoy the music with your Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Michael Sterzinger

CEO

Queensland Symphony Orchestra



North Australian Festival of Arts

Welcome to NAFA 2025 and to Northern Lights & Southern Stars, one of the shining moments in this year's constellation of a festival program.

Tonight, we gather on the lands of the Wulgurukaba of Gurumbilbara and Yunbenun. We honour their enduring connection to Country and Sea Country and acknowledge them as our country's first musicians and story tellers and their custodianship which stretches over 60,000 years.

NAFA has begun a new chapter as an independent festival, born of civic pride and a deep love for our city and region. We're very grateful to our generous partners, sponsors, donors and supporters who believe in the power of art and in the joy of dreaming together.

To the students performing with the QSO tonight – your courage and artistry inspire us all. To the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Townsville Civic Theatre: we thank you for collaborating with us and bringing this concert to life.

We hope you enjoy this magical evening.

Judith McLean and Merissa Martinez
Co-Chairs, North Australian Festival of Arts







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QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY
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