



QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA



# SYMPHONY ✦ UNDER THE STARS ✦ THE STARS GLADSTONE

Presented by Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Australia Pacific LNG operated by ConocoPhillips



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In partnership with Gladstone Regional Council and Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre



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27 JUN 2025  
GPC MARINA STAGE, GLADSTONE

# QSO FIRST NATIONS ARTWORK WHO WE ARE

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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



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.

# WELCOME FROM QSO CEO

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On behalf of our musicians, team and board, I would like to welcome you to Symphony Under the Stars with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Tonight, you'll experience the full orchestra performing live at the Marina Stage, led by our Chief Conductor, Umberto Clerici, with cello soloist Benett Tsai. Our host, Ed Le Brocq, will guide you through the performance and introduce the music and artists.

QSO is very proud to be a regular guest in Gladstone, sharing the magic of symphony orchestras with the local community, thanks to the long-standing support of Australia Pacific, operated by ConocoPhillips. Tonight's performance is the highlight of this week's tour, which included a concert for school students this morning, as well as delivering workshops and mentoring experiences in local schools. We also rehearsed with a group of exceptional local instrumental students, who will join the orchestra for parts of today's program and perform side-by-side with our musicians.

We'll return to Gladstone with a small ensemble in September, and further tours will take us to Chinchilla, Miles, Roma, Tara, Cairns, Mackay and Townsville later this year, supported by our major government partners, Creative Australia and Arts Queensland.

Please sit back, relax and enjoy the wonderful sounds of Symphony Under the Stars with your Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Michael Sterzinger  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Queensland Symphony Orchestra**

# WELCOME FROM AUSTRALIA PACIFIC LNG

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Queensland Symphony Orchestra's regional engagement enriches the lives of students, teachers and communities, providing unparalleled opportunities to enjoy, learn from, and perform alongside the state's best musicians.

We believe that everyone, no matter where they're from, deserves to experience the transformative power of music. Queensland Symphony Orchestra truly is an orchestra for all Queenslanders, and we are delighted to play our part in helping them fulfil that vision.

Dan Clark  
**CEO of Australia Pacific LNG**







# 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/qsogladstone25?utm\\_source=gladstone&utm\\_medium=brochure&utm\\_campaign=suts](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/qsogladstone25?utm_source=gladstone&utm_medium=brochure&utm_campaign=suts)

# IN THIS CONCERT

Conductor	Umberto Clerici
Soloist	Benett Tsai, Cello
Host	Ed le Brocq

# WHO'S ON STAGE TODAY



# PROGRAM

BEETHOVEN	Overture to <i>Egmont</i> , Op.84	9'
HARRISON	<i>Jammed</i>	4'
SAINT-SAËNS	Concerto No.1 in A minor for Violoncello & Orchestra, Op.33	19'
TCHAIKOVSKY	Symphony No.1 in G minor, op.13 ( <i>Winter Daydreams</i> )	26'

# LISTENING GUIDE

## LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

### Overture to *Egmont*, Op.84

Beethoven’s *Egmont* Overture is a powerful and dramatic work, composed as part of his incidental music for Goethe’s play *Egmont*. The story follows Count Egmont, a Dutch nobleman who stands against Spanish oppression, ultimately sacrificing himself for the cause of freedom. Beethoven, deeply inspired by themes of heroism and resistance, infuses the overture with a sense of struggle, sorrow, and ultimate triumph.

The piece begins with a dark and ominous introduction, representing Egmont’s fate, followed by a surging main theme that builds tension. The music grows in intensity, culminating in a triumphant, almost revolutionary conclusion, symbolising victory even in the face of death.

# LISTENING GUIDE

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## HOLLY HARRISON (BORN 1988)

### *Jammed*

The title *Jammed* has two meanings. It refers to the main musical riff which is repeated and reimagined throughout: it is implied that the players are part of an improvised jam session, freely drawing from funk, rock, and metal styles. The work also embraces the idea of 'jam' as something which is 'stuck'. This is heard in the piece through jarring brass chords and rapid changes between sections, which could be likened to a CD skipping or vinyl warping.

## CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921)

### Concerto No.1 in A minor for Violoncello & Orchestra, Op.33

I. Allegro II. Larghetto III. Allegro

Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No.1 is a masterpiece of lyricism and virtuosity, widely regarded as one of the finest works ever written for the instrument. Unlike traditional concertos with separate movements, this work unfolds in a continuous, seamless structure, giving it an exciting sense of momentum and cohesion.

The concerto opens with an electrifying flourish from the solo cello, immediately drawing listeners into its passionate world. The first section is bold and dramatic, while the second section offers a lyrical contrast, with tender, song-like themes. The final section is filled with dazzling technical complexity, as the cello soars and dances toward a thrilling conclusion.

## PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840-1893)

### Symphony No.1 in G minor, Op.13 (*Winter Daydreams*, abridged)

- I. Allegro tranquillo (Dreams of a winter journey)
- II. Adagio cantabile ma nontanto (Land of desolation, land of mists)
- III. Scherzo: Allegro scherzando giocoso (Scherzo)
- IV. Finale: Andante lugubre; Allegro moderato; Allegro maestoso (Andante lugubre)

Tchaikovsky's First Symphony, *Winter Dreams*, was written in 1866 by a young, newly appointed teacher at the Moscow Conservatoire. Encouraged by Director Nicholas Rubinstein, Tchaikovsky worked obsessively on the piece, sacrificing sleep and health. Despite his inexperience, the symphony showed remarkable maturity and premiered successfully in 1868. It became one of the first Russian symphonies to gain public acclaim. Tchaikovsky revised it multiple times, yet retained deep affection for it, calling it "a sin of my sweet youth." Influenced by Mendelssohn, especially in its Romantic, landscape-evoking character, the symphony's Russian identity is strongest in its evocative, subtitle-bearing first movements

# ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

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**Umberto Clerici**  
Conductor

After a career spanning more than 20 years as a gifted cello soloist and orchestral musician, Umberto Clerici has consolidated his diverse artist achievements to rapid acclaim as a conductor. Umberto is now the Chief Conductor of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. In addition to this role, Umberto is in great demand internationally. Recent and future highlights include conducting Daniil Trifonov with New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Elgar's cello concerto with Steven Isserlis for the Volksoper Vienna, and debuts with Orchestra del Teatro Massimo in Palermo and Orchestra Regionale Toscana. Umberto has also curated a three-week series with the Sydney Symphony for 'Symphony Hour' and returned to the podiums of the Dunedin, Melbourne and West Australian Symphony Orchestras. He also looks forward to his second collaboration with Opera Queensland with Puccini's *La bohème*.



**Bennett Tsai**  
Cello

Described as "electrifying...flawless freshness" (Süddeutsche Zeitung), Australian cellist Bennett Tsai was a top prizewinner at the 2022 Grand Prix Emanuel Feuermann and joined Young Concert Artists' roster after winning the 2023 YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions. Named a VC Artist on The Violin Channel and recipient of The Stern Young Artist Award, his New York debut was named one of the best of 2024 by New York Classical Review. He has performed as soloist with the Berlin Radio Symphony, Sinfonia Lahti, and Canberra Symphony, and collaborated with artists including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Emanuel Ax and Jean-Yves Thibaudet. A student of Clive Greensmith at The Colburn School, Bennett is mentored by Ralph Kirshbaum and Steven Isserlis. He plays a 1719 Giuseppe Guarneri 'filius Andreae' cello on loan from a generous benefactor.



**Ed Le Brocq**  
Host

Ed Le Brocq is a writer, musician and broadcaster. He was born on the White Cliffs of Dover and began playing music at six years old. 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 with only a violin for company, *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 several prestigious awards, including the Prime Minister's Literary Awards. Ed was born Emma and transitioned just before his fiftieth birthday. Better late than never.



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# 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.

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