Epic Sounds



SAT 26 JUN 2021 CONCERT HALL, QPAC

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WELCOME

Welcome to this week's performance, **Epic Sounds**. As I write this, Melbourne is emerging from lockdown, underscoring the uncertainty in the world in which we currently live, and how lucky we are to continue to be able to perform for you - our community of supporters.

This week's concert is not only a celebration of our QSO musicians' ability to continue to do what they do best, but also an opportunity to pioneer an important new work by one of Australia's finest musicians.

We are honoured to present the world premiere of William Barton's new music for didgeridoo and orchestra. This astonishing new work was made possible through the generosity of The Honourable Anthe Philippides, and we are delighted that our long-standing relationship with William continues to grow and develop.

This concert is also a celebration of the extraordinary career of our Principal Harp, Jill Atkinson, who retires today after 47 years as a member of Queensland Symphony Orchestra. Throughout her career Jill has been a teacher, mentor, and inspiration to several generations of harpists and to her colleagues.

We will all miss Jill's beautiful musicianship, but even more we will miss her kind and generous nature that has made her a favourite of audiences and colleagues alike. Please join me in congratulating Jill on a wonderful career and in wishing her a long and happy retirement.

Craig Whitehead

Chief Executive

IN THIS CONCERT

ConductorBenjamin NortheySoloistWilliam Barton, didgeridoo

Relive this concert on ABC Classic on 11 July at 1PM (AEDT).

PROGRAM

BARTONApii Thatini Mu Murtu (To sing and carry a coolamon on country together)17'VERDIOverture to La forza del destino8'SIBELIUSSymphony No.5 in E flat, Op. 8230'

To ensure an enjoyable concert experience for everyone, please remember to turn off your mobile phones and all other electronic devices. Please muffle coughs and refrain from talking during the performance.

Photos by Peter Wallis.

Presented in association with QPAC.

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

WELCOME FROM QPAC

Music that Soars...a beautiful tagline for this program that speaks not only to the otherworldly, uplifting nature of this music by Verdi, Sibelius and Barton, but also to the ability of the arts in general to lift us beyond the everyday.

How appropriate to feature such classic compositions as Overture to *La forza del destino* and Symphony No.5 in E Flat alongside the world premiere of Kalkadunga man William Barton's extraordinary *Apii Thatini Mu Murtu* (*To sing and carry a coolamon on country together*).

Commissioned by The Honorable Anthe Philippides and informed by the composer's heritage, Barton's heartening and important piece seeks to connect everyone across cultural divides.

In addition to what will surely become a legacy orchestral piece in William's new work, this concert also presents an opportunity to honour the distinguished career of the Orchestra's Principal Harp Jill Atkinson, playing her last concert today after 47 years with Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

What an astonishing achievement and a fitting final performance to be First Harp for Verdi's Overture that features a beautiful moment to celebrate the instrument's ethereal quality.

We are always proud to co-present the Orchestra's Maestro Series concerts as they reflect our own commitment to both classics and new Australian work.

John Kotzas AM Chief Executive



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Queensland

Goodbye from Jill Atkinson Principal Harp for 47 years

My time with Queensland Symphony Orchestra has been many things - instructional, at times challenging, but always rewarding. Looking back briefly, I have been privileged to perform as a soloist many times with the Orchestra, both in concert and in recordings, and I've been lucky enough to premiere a few harp concerti. My career took on an unexpected turn when QSO began playing as a pit Orchestra, first with Opera Queensland and then Queensland Ballet, followed by The Australian Ballet, and then various international companies through QPAC's International series. This provided a totally different repertoire for me, which was very interesting from a harpists view, as the parts are very exposed, often accompanying a solo instrument or even the voice. Offstage, tenor arias became my specialty for a while! The music for these big productions is also very inspiring, and getting the opportunity to do repeat performances for a season I felt made me a better player.

I have seen many changes over the years, beginning in the orchestra rehearsal venue in 1974 - a very unsuitable room above a nightclub (neither air conditioned nor soundproofed!), to excellent facilities now in the ABC building right next to QPAC. The building of QPAC had an enormous influence on the development of the Orchestra, and I look forward to the completion of their fifth performance space, making QPAC Australia's largest performing arts venue.

There have been many memorable people I have worked with during these decades, too many to single out. Rather than mention particular highlights, I would like to acknowledge the many extraordinary artists I have had the privilege to work with, the conductors that have been inspiring, but most of all my musician colleagues who every day hold the standard of excellence and the spirit that is Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Life offers new challenges and interests for me now, so I am really pleased to be leaving with the Orchestra in such a good place, artistically and managerially. The orchestra has been a second home for me, and one I won't be leaving totally–I will definitely be joining you in the audience. So, it's not adieu but au revoir!

Jill Atkinson

Principal Harp

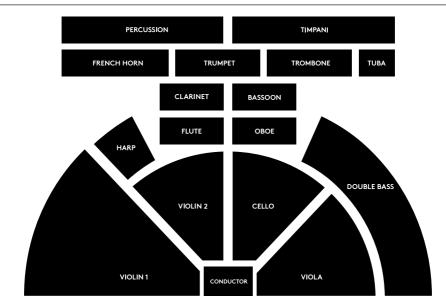
"It is hard to imagine the QSO without Jill. As long as I can remember, Jill has been here. Jill is first on stage, first at the venue, first to tune and first to every orchestral rehearsal call.

Jill loves music, is a passionate musician and has passionate opinions. She also knows her ballet cadenzas impeccably and has a great laugh!" KATHRYN CLOSE, CELLO





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/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

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 shaken. Some instruments just make a sound; others play particular pitches.

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

WHO'S ON STAGE TODAY

CONCERTMASTERS Warwick Adeney

ASSOCIATE CONCERTMASTER Alan Smith

VIOLIN 1

Courtenay Cleary Lynn Cole Ann Holtzapffel Anne Horton Joan Shih Brenda Sullivan Jason Tong Stephen Tooke Claire Tyrell Brynley White Sonia Wilson

VIOLIN 2

Gail Aitken ~ Wayne Brennan ~ Natalie Low ^ Katie Betts Jane Burroughs Faina Dobrenko Simon Dobrenko Delia Kinmont Tim Marchmont Nicholas Thin Allana Wales Harold Wilson

VIOLA

Imants Larsens ~ Nicole Greentree ^ Charlotte Burbrook de Vere Gregory Daniel Nara Dennis Bernard Hoey Kirsten Hulin-Bobart Li-Ping Kuo Graham Simpson Nicholas Tomkin

CELLO

Michael Dahlenburg = Matthew Kinmont ^ Tim Byrne Kathryn Close Andre Duthoit Matthew Jones Alison Smith O'Connell Craig Allister Young

DOUBLE BASS

Phoebe Russell ~ Dušan Walkowicz >> Justin Bullock Dan Molloy Paul O'Brien Ken Poggioli

FLUTE Alison Mitchell ~

Hayley Radke >>

PICCOLO Kate Lawson *

OBOE Huw Jones ~ Alexa Murray

CLARINET Irit Silver ~ Kate Travers

BASS CLARINET Nicholas Harmsen *

BASSOON Nicole Tait ~ David Mitchell >>

CONTRABASSOON Claire Ramuscak *

FRENCH HORN Malcolm Stewart ~ Nicholas Mooney + Ian O'Brien * Vivienne Collier-Vickers Lauren Manuel **TRUMPET** Sarah Butler = Richard Madden = Dani Rich

TROMBONE Jason Redman ~ Ashley Carter >>

BASS TROMBONE Brett Page ^

TUBA Thomas Allely *

TIMPANI Tim Corkeron *

PERCUSSION David Montgomery ~ Josh DeMarchi >>

HARP Jill Atkinson * Lucy Reeves

~ Section Principal

- = Acting Section Principal
- >> Associate Principal
- + Acting Associate Principal
- * Principal
- ^ Acting Principal

Michael Dahlenburg appears by arrangement with Australian String Quartet

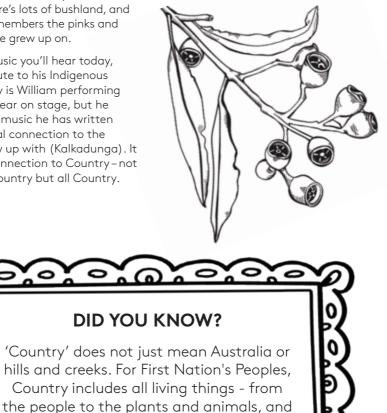
William Barton

Apii Thatini Mu Murtu (To sing and carry a coolamon on country together)

On stage today, you'll see our soloist William Barton. He sings and plays didgeridoo and quitar (talk about multi-tasking!). William is from Kalkadoon country, which is far out west many hours away from Brisbane! Kalkadoon country is the traditional name for what is

also called Mount Isa. You may have heard of Mount Isa-there's lots of bushland, and William fondly remembers the pinks and reds of this land he grew up on.

In the piece of music you'll hear today, William pays tribute to his Indigenous heritage. Not only is William performing the music you'll hear on stage, but he composed it! The music he has written is about a spiritual connection to the language he grew up with (Kalkadunga). It is also about a connection to Country-not just Kalkadoon Country but all Country.



the seasons, stories, and creation spirits. It is a way of believing and belonging.

LISTEN OUT FOR...

This piece of music is called *Apii Thatini Mu Murtu* in Kalkadunga language, and in English it translates to *To sing and carry a coolamon on country together* (A coolamon is a wooden vessel shaped like a canoe, usually used to carry water, fruit, grains, and sometimes to cradle babies). During this piece William will play the didgeridoo using circular breathing to maintain a continuous sound.



DID YOU KNOW?

Circular breathing enables a musician to create uninterrupted sound - they breathe in through their nose, whilst pushing air out through their mouth using air stored in their cheeks!



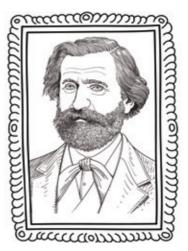
Giuseppe Verdi

Overture to La forza del desinto (The Force of Destiny)

This piece of music is an Overture. An Overture is a musical introduction to a larger suite of music - usually an opera or a ballet. The music you will hear today was composed by Giuseppe Verdi and is from an opera called *The Force of Destiny*.

WHO WAS VERDI?

Regarded by many as one of the greatest Italian opera composer of the 19th century, Giuseppe Verdi was born in 1813 in a town called Busseto. He began taking organ lessons at the age of six, and by eight years old he was the official paid organist for his local church. Verdi composed nearly 30 operas during his lifetime; some were funny while others were political, but overall many consider his operas to have an emotional truthfulness about them, meaning his stories reflected real life.





LISTEN OUT FOR...

The opening of this piece is played fast and sounds dramatic. It begins with six exclamations from the brass instruments to create a sinister feeling. This is followed by a soft introduction by the string instruments (violins, violas, and cellos) and grows into a foreboding feeling that Verdi uses throughout the rest of the opera.

This piece of music was chosen by our Principal Harp Jill Atkinson. Jill has been performing with the Orchestra for 47 years. Today is her last concert before she retires – congratulations Jill!



Jean Sibelius Symphony No.5 in E flat, Op.82

Composer Jean Sibelius was commissioned by the Finnish government to write this symphony. A symphony is a piece of music that's written for an entire orchestra. This symphony was inspired by the call of whooper swans native to Finland and was a dedication to the country itself.

As you listen to this music, imagine the icy landscapes of Finland – the cold air, the dark nights, and the loud calls of Finland's native swans as they fly overhead.



LISTEN OUT FOR...

This symphony has three movements. Listen out and see if you can hear how the movements change.

The first movement starts slow, and begins with a call from the French horns. This sound is used to mimic what a swan sounds like. Sibelius uses the horns to create a 'swan call motif'. A 'motif' is a recurring idea and in this symphony it is the call of a swan using music instruments.

As the music continues, the strings flutter and settle, and then flutter and settle again. Almost like a swan flapping its wings, gliding in the air, then flapping again to get higher. By the end of the movement all the musicians are playing their instruments fast.

The second movement begins very, very quietly. Can you hear the flute at the beginning? It chirps very gently before the string instruments play *pizzicato* (this means the musicians pluck the strings) to create a more cheerful feeling.

The third movement begins very quickly-the string instruments play *tremolando* (to play with a trembling effect). As they play, other instruments are introduced. Can you hear the horns playing? That's the swan call motif we heard in the first movement. The symphony finishes with six staggered chords, each separated by silence.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Before we get started with today's performance, let's get to know a few musical terms in the Listening Giude.

Triplets	In music theory, a triplet is a three-note pattern that fills the duration of a typical two-note pattern.
Symphonic Poem	a piece of orchestral music that illustrates, evokes or is based off a poem or story.
Poco tranquillo	to play in a calm and relaxed tempo.
Coda	a passage that brings a piece (or a movement) of music to an end.
Syncopated	a variety of rhythms played together to make a piece of music off-beat or displaced. The displaced beats or accents are used so that the strong beats are week and vice versa.
Counterpoint	the technique of writing or playing a melody in conjunction with another one.

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QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

William Barton (b. 1981)

Apii Thatini Mu Murtu (To sing and carry a coolamon on country together)

Commisioned for Queensland Symphony Orchestra by The Honorable Anthe Philippides

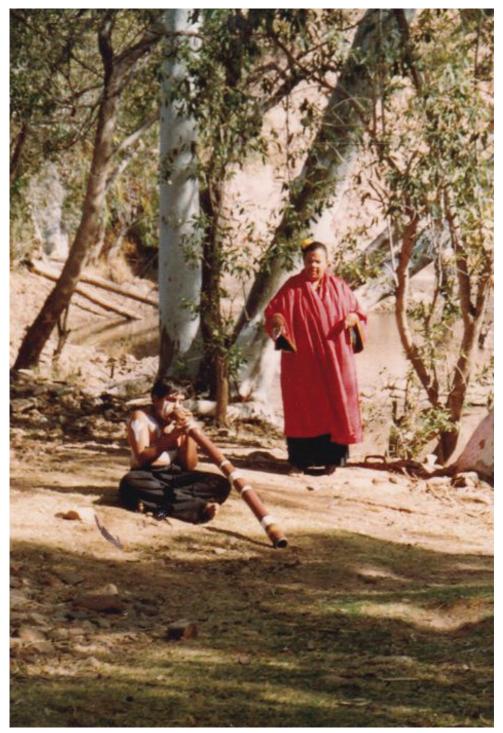
In 1998 at just 17 years of age, I began my journey with Queensland Symphony Orchestra, and in 2002 I performed with them again, premiering Peter Sculthorpe's *Earth Cry.* Now, 23 years later, I feel very honoured and humbled to have the opportunity to perform my newest music alongside my QSO colleagues once again. *Apii Thatini Mu Murtu* or *To sing and carry a coolamon on country together* is about home – my homecoming to Queensland, to perform with my home Orchestra; going back to country and reconnecting with Kalkadoon land; and a unified connection to the land that I hope all who hear this work will feel.

This work is about reconnection to the mother country and paying homage and respect to our language, to the land, and to our dreaming. Last year I had the privilege of having a 2020 Prelude Residency at Peggy Glanville-Hicks Composers House where I began working on what you will hear today. At the piano I let my ideas flow and visualised where I am – I am in Kalkadoon country flying above the landscape like an eagle. I can see the rugged beauty of the escarpment over the Argylla and Selwyn Ranges, the tinted pinks and reds of the land in winter time (that magic time of renewal and fresh air). I am reconnecting to country and breathing life into it for my dad who is buried out there, thinking of where he is.

While this work is my own reconnection to country and language, I wanted this work to be a part of the continued revitalisation of language. Language should be accessible not only for our own people but for everyone. I want people to walk away from this experience having a melody or a language word from Kalkadunga, my people, resonate with them.

In this busy world today many miss out on the lullaby of our ancestors – of our grandfathers, uncles, and aunties singing to us as children. Music is so much embedded in our DNA and it has to be revitalised always. I see this piece as a revitalisation of connection and of country–when you sing to a dry river bed, you're singing up country. When you reconnect to country, you're energising it and you're getting energy back from it, and the more we sing the song together, the more energy we create for peace and harmony. When people hear this work, you know it is welcoming people into a shared experience of reconnection; the musicians, me as a composer, and Benjamin Northey as conductor are a unified team on stage to tell the story of our people and our unique Australian sound.

From my first appearance on stage with QSO to now, I've come full circle and I feel this work represents a legacy of composing new Australian works. I would like to thank Queensland Symphony Orchestra and The Honourable Anthe Philippides who commissioned this work and for recognising the importance of supporting new works to make sure new music is always being created. Thank you to my supporters who have journeyed with me over the last 20 years. Thank you to my mum, for her support over the years and to my partner, Véronique Serret, who has been the musical strength behind many things for me.



Pictured: A young William Barton playing Didgeridoo with his mother, on Kalkadoon country.

Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901)

Overture to La forza del desinto (The Force of Destiny)

Insofar as the 19th-century overture was a 'trailer' for the evening ahead, the Force of Destiny Overture fits the bill perfectly, from its arresting opening to the pot-pourri of themes, including Leonora's prayer from Act II, with its Verdian trademark of high, shimmering violins. It even ends with festive Rossinian **triplets** that eschew tragedy and ask us, unashamedly, to admire the brilliance of the orchestra.

Yet the dramatic weight of the opera's tragedy is echoed in Verdi's overture, right from the stark octaves of the opening. The opera's victim of fate, Leonora, gives us the overture's musical substance, an agitated theme from Act I, when she is cursed by her dying father. This sinister theme recurs throughout the opera, but in the overture it takes on a dramatic life of its own.

Even at its most improbable, opera has a certain directness, with three-dimensional characters and situations. But the spirit of Romanticism was more closely attuned to allusion and metaphor, and for this the genre of choice was the **symphonic poem**.

Yvonne Frindle © 2005



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Jean Sibelius (1865–1957)

Symphony No.5 in E flat, Op.82

- I. Tempo molto moderato
- II. Andante mosso, quasi allegretto
- III. Allegro molto

The pitiless despair of Sibelius' Fourth Symphony (1911) puzzled many of its first listeners. The work seemed an unlikely sequel to the gentle radiance of the Third (1907), yet its gaze into the abyss gave way, in the Fifth, to one of Sibelius' most shining, life-affirming creations.

He wrote the Fifth, one of the most popular of all his works, at a time of great personal difficulty. The Great War had broken out and, as a result, Sibelius had lost access to the revenue from his German publishers, Breitkopf and Härtel. To earn some regular income he wrote a great number of salon pieces for domestic performance, and had little time for other composing; the Fifth Symphony is his only major work of the war years.

Sibelius himself conducted the symphony's first performance, at a concert given on 8 December 1915 to mark his 50th birthday. It was a jubilant event, treated almost as a national holiday, but Sibelius was unhappy with the work and revised it twice. In 1916 he joined the first two of the original four movements together, and he made further revisions before it was published in 1919.

The symphony begins quietly on horns and timpani. The theme we hear at this point is soon elaborated into a woodwind cadenza. At its conclusion the strings enter, and we seem to be moving gradually and inexorably into the landscape of the music until we come to the vista presented by a great tolling of the brass and the announcement of a jagged syncopated theme on the strings. Now we have reached the threshold beyond which the heart of the symphony lies. A mysterious, cloudy passage for the strings – over which the bassoon utters a sorrowful version of one of the main themes – leads to a burnished assertion by the trumpets of the very first theme of the symphony, shortly after which, with a change of time signature from 12/8 to 3/4, the mood changes to one of dancing lightness, in which the sound of the two flutes leads us on. Soon the music gather pace and the strings take up the dance strain with increasing excitement until the brass join in for the final, sudden, invigorating climax.

The second movement is a set of variations not on a theme, but on a rhythmic pattern that Sibelius contrives to behave like a theme. The whole movement is a centre of calm, and even the passionate descending string tune that marks one of the most decisive transformations of the original idea is marked **Poco tranquillo**. Towards the end of the movement the brass toll out a reminiscence of their earlier, more excitable selves; this leads to a series of cloudy gestures which recall music from the earlier movement. But towards the end the mood changes to one of almost childlike serenity, which is carried through to the short, abbreviated, **coda**.

The finale throws us into its hurly-burly almost immediately, with a whirlwind passage for the strings leading to one of the most famous of all themes in Sibelius' music, that in which, as Donald Tovey famously described it, Thor swings his hammer. It is a good example of how orchestrally conceived Sibelius' ideas are. Played on the piano the tune would mean very little, but given out on horns with a high, **syncopated** woodwind **counterpoint**, it attains a unique nobility. After some woodwind carolling and a return to the gusty sounds of the movement's opening, Sibelius prepares us for a return of the swinging horn theme. When this finally re-appears, it does so as a chorale that has to struggle through long pedal-points and changes of key before bursting into its sunset glory. These final minutes of the movement contain the richest orchestration of the whole work, but almost before we can register the fact, the symphony ends with six jubilant, adamant chords.

Abbreviated from notes by Phillip Sametz © 1995/2004



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



Benjamin Northey Conductor

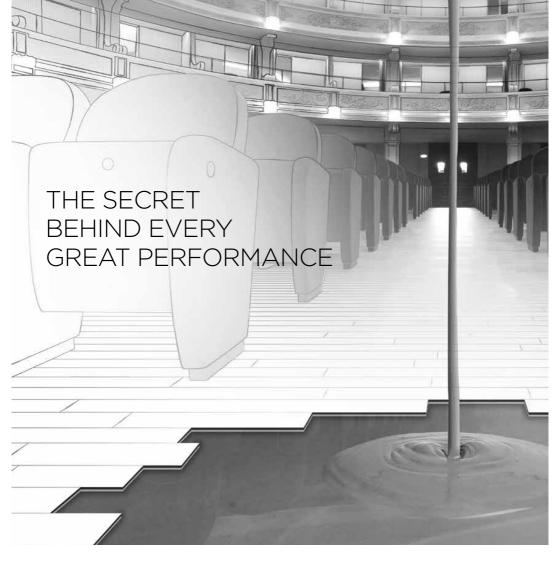
Australian conductor Benjamin Northey is the Chief Conductor of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and the Principal Conductor in Residence of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Previously Resident Guest Conductor of the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra (2002-2006) and Principal Conductor of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra (2007-2010), Limelight Magazine named him Australian Artist of the Year in 2018.

Northey also appears regularly as a guest conductor with all major Australian symphony orchestras, Opera Australia (Turandot, L'elisir d'amore, Don Giovanni, Così fan tutte, Carmen), New Zealand Opera (Sweeney Todd) and State Opera South Australia (La sonnambula, L'elisir d'amore, Les contes d'Hoffmann). His international appearances include concerts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, the Malavsian Philharmonic and the New Zealand Symphony, Auckland Philharmonia and Christchurch Symphony Orchestras.

With a progressive and diverse approach to repertoire, he has collaborated with a broad range of artists including Maxim Vengerov, Julian Rachlin, Karen Gomyo, Piers Lane, Alban Gerhardt, Johannes Moser, Piers Lane, Amy Dickson, Slava Grigoryan & Marc-André Hamelin as well as popular artists Tim Minchin, KD Lang, Kate Miller-Heidke, Barry Humphries, Kurt Elling, James Morrison and Tori Amos.

Northey is highly active in the performance of Australian orchestral music having premiered numerous major new works by Brett Dean, Peter Sculthorpe, Elena Kats-Chernin, Matthew Hindson and many others. An Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, his awards include the prestigious 2010 Melbourne Prize Outstanding Musician's Award and the 2002 Brian Stacey Memorial Scholarship as well as multiple awards and nominations for his numerous recordings with ABC Classics.

In 2021, he conducts the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Singapore Symphony, New Zealand Symphony, Christchurch Symphony and all six Australian state symphony orchestras.



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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



William Barton Soloist & Composer

The panoramic sprawl of Australia's Gold Coast skyline is inescapably modern, but the soundtrack is timeless. As William Barton stands atop the Q1 skyscraper in Surfers Paradise with his didgeridoo raised, setting a stunning opening image of the 2018 Commonwealth Games, his life's work as a bridge between cultures has never rung more clear and proud.

On that spectacular night in March 2018, the ancient instrument in his hands blended seamlessly with the Torres Strait hip-hop of Mau Power and the islander folk-pop of Christine Anu. It may seem a long way from the red dirt of Mount Isa or the classical music halls of Europe, but part of William's gift is making them all feel like one big home.

For two decades, William Barton has forged a peerless profile as a performer and composer in the classical musical world, from the Philharmonic Orchestras of London and Berlin to historic events at Anzac Cove and the Beijing Olympics. With his prodigious musicality and the quiet conviction of his Kalkadunga heritage, he has vastly expanded the horizons of the didgeridoo — and the culture and landscape that it represents. "I grew up on a cattle station just outside Mt Isa in northwest Queensland," he begins. "I started learning the didgeridoo from about the age of seven from my uncle, Arthur Peterson. He was an elder of the Wannyi, Lardil and Kalkadunga people."

His mother — singer, songwriter and poet Delmae Barton — remembers him dancing to Elvis Presley when he could barely stand. He recalls Beethoven and Vivaldi streaming from ABC Classic FM radio, and AC/DC in his cassette player. Through it all, the hypnotic whoop and drone of the didgeridoo wove a common thread in his imagination.

By the age of 12, William was sure enough of his destiny to leave school to concentrate on music. "What I remember so clearly from my uncle is him telling me that the didgeridoo is a language. It's a speaking language and like any language, it's something that you've got to learn over many months, and many years. It's got to be a part of you, and what you do."

After his uncle passed, he says, "I was given the special privilege by his family of holding onto his didgeridoo, which is quite a rare honour in Aboriginal culture because when an old song man passes away, they usually break his didgeridoo into pieces or even throw it out into the fire just to silence the sound forever of that old song man." At 17, William realised a lifelong dream when he was invited to perform with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. But the full, rapturous embrace of the classical music world came in 2004, when Tasmanian composer Peter Sculthorpe unveiled his *Requiem* with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and guest soloist, William Barton.

That night, William was invited to join the orchestra in Japan, to perform Sculthorpe compositions *Earth Cry* and *Mangrove*. Tours to the USA and New Zealand followed, and the composer and didgeridoo artist cemented a firm creative partnership. "William offered me a new direction," the late composer has said, praising his instinctive musicality and skill as an improviser. "He's almost like a magician ... bringing my music home."

Often in the company of Delmae, with whom he has an indelible creative bond, William was soon performing on classical stages from the Vatican to the royal court of Spain. As a wildly passionate electric guitarist and jazz-fusion enthusiast, he has appeared alongside Iva Davies' Icehouse at the Sydney Cricket Ground, and in conservatorium recital with concert pianist Simon Tedeschi.

By the mid-2010s, despite a bare minimum of formal musical education, William had won an ARIA Award for his classical album *Kalkadungu*, composed a world premiere work for members of the Berlin Philharmonic at Sydney Opera House, and unveiled his first string quartet, Birdsong at Dusk, with the Kurilpa String Quartet and Delmae on vocals. Today he holds honorary doctorate degrees from the Universities of Griffith and Sydney, and had released five albums on the ABC Classics label. His most recent, Kalkadungu : music for didjeridu and orchestra, features predominantly his own compositions, alongside those of Delmae and Peter Sculthorpe.

"I'm doing what I love. I want to take the oldest culture in the world and blend it with Europe's rich musical legacy," William says. "I guess what I'm doing is giving back: giving back to my culture and my people because I was given something when I was very young and like the old fellas who taught me years ago, I'm just passing it on."



BEYOND THE CONCERT HALL

On stage and off, we're always making, performing and teaching music. Our performances in QPAC's Concert Hall are only part of what we do, so we thought we would share a little bit of what your Queensland Symphony Orchestra has been up to lately across the state.

In March, we took a QSO Connect Woodwind Quintet to the beautiful towns of Chinchilla, Miles and Tara, as well as a String Quartet to Roma. This tour showed our musicians and team the splendour of the Western Downs Region and featured performances alongside local musicians, playing in nursing homes and aged care facilities, and teaching workshops in remote schools. Our 13-player QSO Connect Ensemble went tropical and toured Far North Queensland, performing four concerts for the general public and school students in Innisfail and Cairns. More than 200 instrumental music students from Innisfail, Tully, Mossman and Cairns high schools attended workshops on their individual instruments presented by our musicians.

Our commitment to fostering music education, we facilitate several projects that teach music making to young people. Last month our Education team with cellist Craig Young visited Narangba Valley State High School, St Johns Anglican College, Cannon Hill Anglican College, and Brisbane State High School as part of our Compose Project to develop the composers of tomorrow. Our Musical Mentor program took violinist Katie Betts to Holland Park State High School for rehearsals and workshops with budding young violinists for one-on-one mentorships. Finally, our Young Instrumentalist Prize Finalists' Recital was held at our Studio on Saturday 13 March. From six outstanding finalists, Andre Oberleuter (bassoon) and Anna Suzuki (violin) were selected as 2021 prize winners.

To be a truly Queensland Orchestra we are committed to livestreaming concerts from our Brisbane home to the far reaches of our great state. We are thrilled to share that our *Firebird* concert in March was streamed into communities in Mt Isa, Mackay and the Fraser Coast.

All this, as well as performances in regional centres from Toowoomba to Redlands, Redcliffe to the Gold Coast. It's been a busy start to 2021 and reinforces our mission to be an Orchestra for Everyone.

Craig Whitehead

Chief Executive

Watch some highlights from our Chinchilla Miles Roma tour.



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HOW HAS QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IMPACTED YOU?

Music has always been a central part of my life. For me, and for so many others, QSO provides an important way of connecting with great music. QSO concerts have a wonderful atmosphere and provide an exciting opportunity to be reacquainted with much loved works but also to be surprised and entranced by new works. Having attended performances over many years, the members of the Orchestra feel like family. They are generous and inspiring musicians that have a marvellous rapport with the audience.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO SUPPORT QSO?

Music is a powerful creative medium. Now more than ever, I appreciate how important being part of a live QSO performance is – both in connecting with the musicians and being part of the audience. Supporting QSO in its goal of bringing wonderful music to as many people as possible is a great way of giving back for all the marvellous QSO experiences.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THOSE CONSIDERING SUPPORTING QSO?

Helping QSO to connect with audiences and to create great music is such a positive thing to be a part of. At whatever level of support, you will be engaged in an endeavour that brings happiness to others and is richly rewarding.



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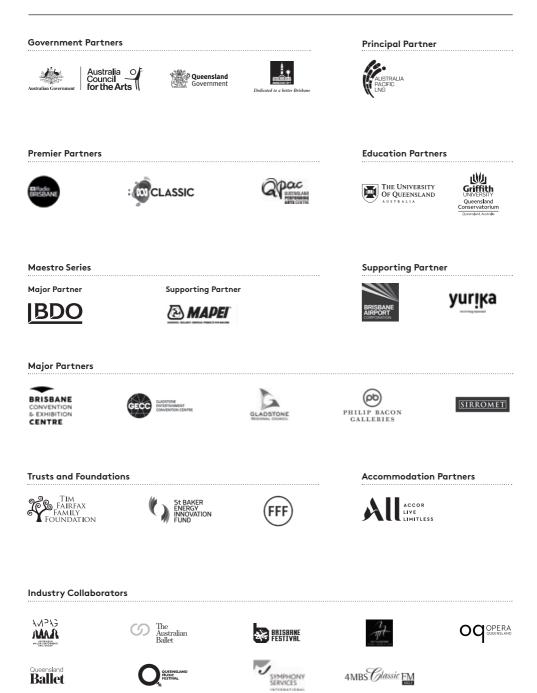
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SUN 25 JUL 11AM Concert Hall, QPAC

Conductor Host Soloist Benjamin Bayl Guy Noble Thomas Allely, tuba

Haydn Beethoven Samuel Jones Rimsky-Korsakov Symphony No.101 in D, mvt 2 Symphony No.3 in E flat, *Eroica*, mvt 3 Concerto for tuba and orchestra *Capriccio espagnol* and more



BREATHTAKING TCHAIKOVSKY

FRI 6 AUG 11AM SAT 7 AUG 3PM & 7.30PM Concert Hall, QPAC

Soloist	Piers Lane, piano
Liszt	Concerto No.1 in E flat major for Piano and Orchestra

Tchaikovsky Symphony No.6 in B minor (*Pathétique*)



CHAMBER PLAYERS

SAT 21 AUG 4PM & 7.30PM QSO Studio, ABC Building

4PM - Brass, Woodwind, Percussion

Includes music by Gabrieli, R. Strauss, Montgomery, Gounod and more.

7.30PM - Strings

Includes music by Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky

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