

# Symphony Under the Stars

**TOWNSVILLE**

Supported by North Australian Festival of Arts



**27 September 2024**

**7.00pm**

**Jezzine Barracks, The Strand**



# WELCOME

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Welcome to Townsville's Symphony Under the Stars!

We are thrilled to welcome you for an evening of music beneath the night sky. Our talented musicians have prepared a delightful program that promises to transport you through a rich tapestry of sound, celebrating both classic and contemporary compositions.

Whether you are a lifelong symphony enthusiast or experiencing the magic of orchestral music for the first time, we hope tonight's performance leaves you inspired and uplifted.

We are delighted to partner with the North Australian Festival of Arts to share the magic of orchestral music with Townsville.

Thank you for your support and company. Sit back, relax, and let the music carry you away under the stars. Enjoy the concert!

## IN THIS CONCERT

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**CONDUCTOR** Vladimir Fanshil  
**HOST** Ashleigh Denning

## PROGRAM

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<b>GLINKA</b>	Overture to <i>Ruslan and Ludmila</i>	5'
<b>WESTLAKE</b>	<i>Flying Dream Suite</i> for Orchestra from the movie <i>Paper Planes</i>	10'
<b>DEAN</b>	Symphony No.3 ' <i>The Great Barrier Reef</i> '	15'
<b>DVOŘÁK</b>	Symphony No.8 in G, Op. 88	34'

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; specifically 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.

# ABOUT QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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Queensland's orchestral history began in 1871 with violinist R.T. Jefferies, but it wasn't until 1947 that the state established its own professional symphony orchestra. This orchestra, Australia's second, was created through a partnership between the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Queensland Government, and Brisbane City Council. The 45-member Queensland Symphony Orchestra debuted on 26 March 1947 at Brisbane City Hall, playing to 2,500 attendees with guest conductor Percy Code and pianist Eunice Gardiner. The program included works by Wagner, Grieg, Berlioz, and Tchaikovsky.

In its first year, the orchestra performed 31 concerts and started an annual tour of North Queensland, heralding a new era in Queensland's musical landscape.

## ABOUT TOWNSVILLE SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS

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As part of the North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA), we welcome you to an unforgettable, one-night-only performance under the stars of Townsville. This is our debut appearance at NAFA, and we're thrilled to present a breathtaking evening of classical music.

The concert opens with the exhilarating energy of Glinka's Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmila*, followed by Nigel Westlake's *Flying Dream Suite*, an uplifting orchestral work from the beloved Australian film *Paper Planes*.

We then explore the wonders of the ocean with Paul Dean's Symphony No. 3 *'The Great Barrier Reef'*, a musical tribute to one of the world's most iconic natural wonders. Finally, we conclude the evening with Dvořák's joyful Symphony No. 8 in G, a work bursting with Bohemian spirit and lyrical beauty.

We are thrilled to be a part of this unique opportunity to provide an experience that shows the power and magic of live music in the heart of Townsville!



## Welcome from QSO

From our very first tour in the same year of our creation in 1947, we have recognised the importance of bringing the magic of orchestral music to communities across Queensland.

Supported by a five-year strategy, Queensland Symphony Orchestra is committed to the delivery of cultural enrichment and engagement for regional communities. We firmly believe that access to world-class performances and education should not be limited by geographical boundaries.

The board remains resolute in continuing this touring tradition, ensuring that the transformative power of music unites our communities and inspires Queenslanders for generations to come.

Rod Pilbeam

**QSO Board - Chair**

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Welcome to the Symphony Under the Stars in Townsville!

We are thrilled to once again bring the magic of orchestral music to you under the open sky. At Queensland Symphony Orchestra, we believe that the inspiration and joy of live music should be accessible to everyone, regardless of location. Tonight's performance is not just a concert, it is a celebration of our shared commitment to cultural enrichment and community engagement.

As we perform under the stars, we hope to create unforgettable memories and inspire a love for music that will stay with you long after the final note.

Thank you for joining us tonight and we hope you enjoy the concert.

Rodolphe Deus

**QSO Chief Executive**



## Welcome from North Australian Festival of Arts

On behalf of the North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA), we'd like to welcome you to the Symphony Under the Stars performance by Queensland Symphony Orchestra as part of our 2024 Festival.

We are delighted to host QSO and, in partnership, present this unique event which will showcase the incredible talent and dedication of the musicians while providing a memorable and enchanting evening for all in attendance.

I encourage everyone to sit back, relax, and immerse yourselves in the music. Thank you for joining us and I hope you enjoy the performance which marks the official opening of NAFA 2024.

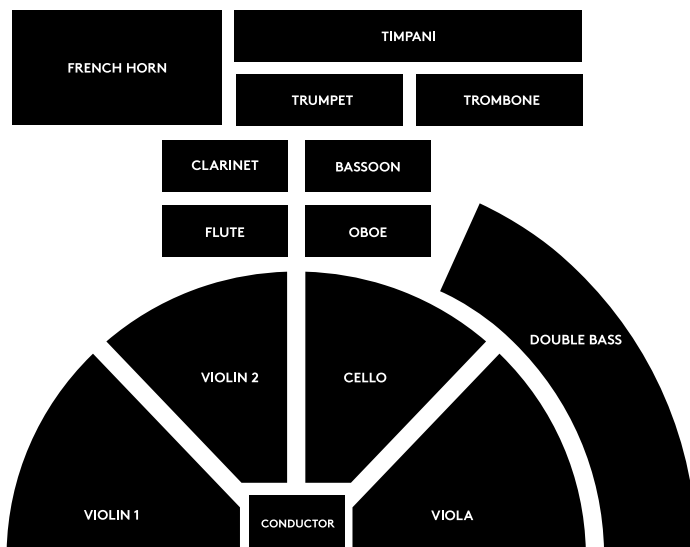
We also encourage you to please take some time to enjoy what the rest of the festival program has to offer. With over 430 performances, showcasing the incredible talents of over 500 artists – there really is something for everyone to enjoy, embrace and experience the arts.

Enjoy this incredible community evening!



# IF YOU'RE NEW TO THE ORCHESTRA

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## WHO SITS WHERE

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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

### WHO'S ON STAGE TODAY

Use [this link](#) to see who is playing on stage today.

### 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.

# LISTENING GUIDE

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## **Glinka - Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmila***

Mikhail Glinka's Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmila* is a thrilling and energetic orchestral piece that captures the adventurous spirit of the opera based on Pushkin's epic poem. The overture opens with a rapid burst of strings, instantly setting a lively and playful mood. The main theme, a buoyant melody introduced by the strings and echoed by woodwinds, embodies the excitement of Ruslan's quest to rescue Ludmila.

This overture is celebrated for its technical brilliance, showcasing the orchestra's virtuosity and setting the stage for the operatic adventure to follow.

## **Westlake - *Flying Dream Suite for Orchestra from the movie Paper Planes***

Nigel Westlake's *Flying Dream Suite for Orchestra* is a captivating work drawn from his score for the film *Paper Planes*. The suite captures the spirit of youthful ambition and the magic of flight, reflecting the movie's themes of creativity, resilience, and the joy of following one's dreams.

Westlake's music combines lush orchestral textures, sweeping melodies, and rhythmic drive to evoke a sense of wonder and freedom. The suite's vibrant orchestration and uplifting themes transport the listener, mirroring the exhilarating journey of the film's young protagonist. It's a beautifully crafted piece that resonates with both whimsy and emotional depth.

## **Dean - Symphony No.3 '*The Great Barrier Reef*'**

Paul Dean's Symphony No. 3 '*The Great Barrier Reef*' is a powerful, evocative work that reflects the beauty, fragility, and urgency surrounding one of the world's most iconic natural wonders. Dean, an Australian composer and clarinetist, uses the symphony to convey the grandeur and environmental challenges facing the reef, blending traditional symphonic elements with modern influences.

## **Dvořák - Symphony No.8 in G, Op. 88**

This symphony is known for its cheerful melodies, rich orchestration, and folk-inspired themes. The first movement opens with a gentle theme, evolving into lively dance-like rhythms. The second movement is serene and reflective, with song-like melodies. The third movement offers a graceful, playful waltz. The symphony concludes with a bold, triumphant finale featuring a dramatic fanfare and vibrant variations. Listen for Dvořák's lush orchestration, folk influences, and uplifting spirit throughout.

# ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

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## Vladimir Fanshil Conductor



Ukrainian-born Australian conductor Vladimir Fanshil is celebrated for his precision, musicianship, and strong international ties with major orchestras. He regularly conducts the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra in Turkey and the Odessa Philharmonic and Opera in Ukraine. Fanshil's global engagements include appearances with prestigious ensembles like the Orchestre National d'Île de France, Konzerthaus Orchestra Berlin, and the Budapest Festival Orchestra. He also directed the Debut to Master series at the St. Petersburg Philharmonic and served as a guest conductor at the Mariinsky Theatre.

Fanshil's career was shaped by mentorship under Iván Fischer, assisting with world-renowned orchestras like the Berlin Philharmonic. In Australia, he has worked with Opera Australia and conducted over 50 performances with his live music initiative, Live at Yours, launched during the pandemic to bring intimate, salon-style concerts to new audiences.

Fanshil combines artistic talent with entrepreneurial skills, excelling in concert programming and audience engagement. His passion lies in igniting a love for classical music, especially among young listeners, making him a dynamic force in the classical music world.

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## Ashleigh Denning Host



Ashleigh Denning is a dynamic and captivating performer, boasting more than 20 years experience in live performance. She graduated as a recipient of the Award for Excellence for her Bachelor of Musical Theatre (2016) at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University; where she continued on to complete a Master of Music Studies: Vocal Pedagogy (2021).

Ashleigh has also performed at the Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols, Bleach Festival, Opera in the Gardens, and Outback Queensland Masters. She is a sought-after event singer and regular entertainer on P&O Cruises with her band, CopperTop, and resident soprano for the Underground Opera Company's West End To Broadway seasons. As a teacher, Ashleigh helps budding performers find their voice through her extensive training and experience.



A woman with curly hair, wearing a red dress, is holding a double bass. She is standing outdoors in a natural setting with trees and a blue sky with clouds. The text is overlaid on the image.

# 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 over 60 musicians, QSO will travel to four major 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.

This locally-led approach works with multiple stakeholders: Arts Queensland, regional mayors, councils, economic development agencies, local leaders, local festivals and events, businesses (SME and corporate), state tourism bodies and philanthropists. The multi-year strategy aims to maximise community-wide engagement, and assess the economic, social and educational impact of QSO in Queensland communities.

## **Did you enjoy Symphony Under the Stars?**

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

[Complete Symphony Under the Stars Survey](#)

# Thank You

## To our local and regional supporters



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Supported by Dr Philip Bacon AO

# 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 use the link below to donate.

[Donate Today](#)