



**KYO**

Kuringai Youth Orchestra

# Whimsy and Wonder

conducted by Brad Lucas  
soloist Harry Wagstaff

**3pm, Sunday 21 September 2025**  
Peter Duly Concert Hall, Abbotsleigh

[www.kyo.org.au](http://www.kyo.org.au)



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# Program

## **Carnival Overture (1891)**

Antonin Dvorak

Part of a trilogy of works originally titled *Nature, Life and Love*, the Carnival Overture ("*Life*") was composed and premiered just before Dvorak left Europe to take up the directorship of the National Conservatory of Music in the United States. These overtures were composed as stand-alone pieces, instead of as the introduction to a ballet or opera. As written by Dvorak, this work features a "lonely, contemplative wanderer" who "reaches the city at nightfall, where a carnival is in full swing. On every side is heard the clangour of instruments, mingled with shouts of joy and the unrestrained hilarity of people giving vent to their feelings in their songs and dance tunes".

## **Mopoke (2025, premiere performance)**

Elliot Leahy

Inspired by Philip Bunting's eponymous picture book, *Mopoke* is a fun and playful composition for orchestra. Following the general arc of the book, the work is episodic in nature depicting many of the different "pokes" found throughout, including: Highpoke (High pitched instruments), Poorpoke (a yearning violin solo), Fee-fi-fo-poke (timpani and piccolo duet) and Crowpoke (oboe's crowing), among others. The piece also utilises the Mopoke (southern Boobook Owl) call consisting of a minor 3rd descent. Watch out for the Wombat, and Mopoke's final word. *Mopoke* was commissioned by the Kuringai Youth Orchestra.

## **Equilibrium (2025, premiere performance)**

Chris Moran

Moran is an Australian trumpet player and emerging composer, who has recently turned his attention to composition, bringing the same energy and precision to writing as he does to performance. *Equilibrium* is a vibrant orchestral work that "balances familiar pop-inspired chord structures with the expansive colour palette of a full symphony orchestra", blending "contrasting elements-heroic brass fanfares, Latin American rhythmic energy, and sweeping cinematic lines-into a seamless musical journey. At its core, *Equilibrium* is about contrast and balance: groove and grandeur, simplicity and sophistication, excitement and control".

## **Dance of the Paper Umbrellas (2013)**

Elena Kats-Chernin

Born in Uzbekistan and having immigrated to Australia in the 1970s, Kats-Chernin is one of Australia's leading composers, whose accomplishments include composing music for the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Her colourful style makes her compositions some of the most approachable in contemporary music. This piece was originally commissioned for the Hush Foundation, which provides support to children undergoing painful medical procedures at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. As stated by Kats-Chernin, it illustrates a "world of magic and dreams", "a cake adorned with multi-coloured umbrellas".

## **Oboe Concerto (1955)**

Bohuslav Martinu (Soloist: Harry Wagstaff)

*I. Moderato*

*II. Poco andante*

*III. Poco allegro*

Martinu was a Czech composer of modern classical music. Although born in Czechoslovakia and being trained in the Romantic style, he left his home country for Paris in 1923 and experimented with modern French stylistic developments, embracing the style of neoclassicism, modelling his works on Stravinsky. This work was written for Czech-Austrian oboist, Jiří Tancibudek, who emigrated to Australia after escaping from Czechoslovakia in the early 1950s and was sponsored by the Daily Telegraph in celebration of the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne. Set in three movements, the concerto features key characteristics of Martinu's works, including long syncopated melodies, the prominent use of piano while drawing influences from Stravinsky.

## **Polovtsian Dances (1890)**

Alexander Borodin

Borodin described himself as a "Sunday composer", a scientist by day and a composer in his spare time. This work comes from his ballet, *Prince Igor*, which he spent 18 years composing but remained unfinished at the time of his death in 1887. His colleagues Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazunov finished the work in time for an 1890 premiere, which included recreating parts of the work from sketches that Borodin had sung to them. The *Polovtsian Dances* take place in the camp of the victorious Polovtsians. Their leader, Khan Konchak, treats the captured Prince Igor and his son to a variety of entertainment, including a ballet of slaves accompanied by a chorus singing the beauty of their lands followed by the Polovtsian men singing their version of entertainment, an ode to their king.

## Meet our Conductor

Brad Lucas



Bradley Lucas is a Lecturer in Brass and Coordinator of Brass at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and, in 2023, was appointed as Visiting Professor of Brass at the Shenyang Conservatory. He earned his Bachelor of Music Performance in Euphonium from the Conservatorium, under the tutelage of Scott Kinmont, and has performed with ensembles such as the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, NSW Police Band, and the Royal Australian Navy Band Sydney. He is also a co-founder of the Sydney Ophicleide Quartet (SOQ).

In his role at the Conservatorium, Brad not only teaches but also runs workshops and rehearsals with schools, regional conservatories, and communities across New South Wales. As a conductor he has been mentored by

Stephen Williams and Dr. John Lynch. As well as serving as KYO's Musical Director, Brad is a sought-after guest conductor for several community orchestras in Sydney including the North Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra.

Additionally, Brad is deeply involved with the NSW Department of Education's 'Arts Unit', where he conducts the NSW Public Schools Symphonic Wind Ensemble and leads orchestras and wind ensembles at NSW State Music Camps. He has conducted the Sydney Conservatorium's Brass Ensemble, Wind Symphony, and Chinese Music Ensemble, showcasing his versatility and deep commitment to a diverse range of musical styles and traditions.

His leadership extends to his role as Vice President of the Australian Band and Orchestra Directors Association (ABODA) where, since 2016, he has been instrumental in providing professional development for conductors and music educators. He has been pivotal in organising significant events like the annual Conducting Summer School and delivering professional development sessions on Conducting and Ensemble Direction.

Brad's comprehensive engagement in teaching, performance, and leadership highlights his dedication to advancing music education both on the national and international music scenes. His commitment to nurturing talent and enhancing the musical landscape through education and performance is evident in every aspect of his professional endeavours.

## Meet our Artists



### Harry Wagstaff, soloist

Harry Wagstaff is a Sydney born oboist who works full time with the NSW Police Band as their sole oboe player. He attended Knox Grammar School on a full music scholarship (for cello) and started learning the oboe in year 8 with Telena Routh. In 2019, Harry was granted the wonderful opportunity to perform the Elgar Cello concerto (Movement 1 & 2) with KYO.

In 2020, Harry began a Bachelor of Music (Performance) on oboe at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, studying with Nicola Bell. He has performed in masterclasses with artists including Diana Doherty, Juliana Koch, and Nick Deutsch. Harry has toured nationally and internationally with the Australian Youth Orchestra and the Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra.

When not at his day job, Harry takes any opportunity to play with a variety of ensembles, including as a casual with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Opera Australia Orchestra. He also thoroughly enjoys being the double reed tutor at the Arts Unit. Having performed with KYO since 2015, Harry is thrilled to appear as soloist for Martin's Oboe Concerto, and is grateful to Brad and the orchestra for their dedication to this challenging and rewarding work.



### Elliot Leahy, composer

Elliot Leahy (b. 2003), is an emerging Australian composer currently completing his BMus (Composition, Hons) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Since winning the Orpheus Recorders Composition Competition in 2022, Elliot has participated in the 2023 ICEBERG Institute in Vienna, the 2024 Sydney Conservatorium Wind Symphony reading session, been commissioned by the National Eight Foot Pitch Recorder Orchestra for NEFPRO '25, and most recently, won the Nexus Saxophone Quartet's 2025 Call for Scores. He has

conducted multiple school bands around Sydney and enjoys playing French Horn in local community ensembles, including in KYO.

# Musicians

## Violin 1

Timothy de Solom"  
Alexander Cronin  
Justin de Solom  
Victoria Liu  
Eda Chiou  
Stephanie Wong  
Liam Nicholls

## Violin 2

Isabella Wilson^  
Emily Ronning  
Jennifer Cho  
James Parasyn  
Hannah Zhou  
Lily Still

## Viola

Michael Monahan^  
Eloise Riviere

## Cello

Makito Mizushima^  
Audrey Zhu  
Charlotte He\*  
Timothy Wang

## Double Bass

Anna Armstrong^  
Henrik Hogg

## Flute/Piccolo

Katie Jones^  
Anna Herbert  
Tanisha Kolodochka

## Oboe/Cor Anglais

Harry Wagstaff^  
Bella Phillips

## Oboe

Will Armstrong

## Clarinet

Rohan Keshava^  
Ashleigh O'Young

## Bassoon

Thomas Henderson^  
Oliver French

## French Horn

Danielle Imrie^  
Emily Hackney  
Kian Shanahan\*  
Ryan Wu\*

## Trumpet

Lena Morris^  
Rosanna Ranasinghe  
Alex Lo

## Trombone

Tom Cartwright^  
Camille Gill

## Bass Trombone

Archie Wyse^

## Tuba

Amelia Clark\*

## Percussion

Nick Gummerson^  
Darcy Gulley  
Ben Kellaway

## Piano

Stephanie Wong^

" Concertmaster

^ Principal

\* Guest

## Committee Members

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### Musical Director

Brad Lucas

## Sponsors

We would like to thank and acknowledge the support of our sponsors. In particular KYO appreciates the support provided by Ku-ring-gai Council via a Community Grant which has funded additional publicity for this concert.



## Donations to Chris O'Brien Lifehouse

Elliot Leahy – a member of our excellent French Horn section, our fantastic music librarian and the composer of Mopoke, premiering in today's concert – is undergoing treatment for Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma (ARMS), a rare and aggressive form of cancer that particularly targets teenagers and young adults. Elliot and his family are being supported by Chris O'Brien Lifehouse's You(th) Can(cer) Centre and today's Box Office raffle proceeds will be donated to Lifehouse. If you'd like to make a further donation you can access Elliot's family's fundraising page, for the Lifehouse Go the Distance Challenge, through the QR code to the right.



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## Joining the Orchestra

KYO eagerly welcomes talented musicians aged high school and above. While vacancies are consistently open for strings, availability for woodwinds, brass, and percussion may fluctuate depending on current positions filled. Additionally, musicians must meet minimum AMEB/Suzuki grade requirements to be eligible for joining. For the most current details, please visit our website at [kyo.org.au/musician-info](http://kyo.org.au/musician-info).

If you're interested in becoming a part of KYO, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [enquiry@kyo.org.au](mailto:enquiry@kyo.org.au) or fill out the new member Expression of Interest form available on our website. We look forward to welcoming you into the orchestra!

# 2025 Concert Series

## **Fate and Fantasies — Sunday 30 March**

- ◇ Verdi — The Force of Destiny Overture
- ◇ Koehne — Forty Reasons to be Cheerful
- ◇ Berlioz — March to the Scaffold from Symphonie Fantastique
- ◇ Saint-Saëns — March Heroique
- ◇ Mussorgsky — Night on Bald Mountain

## **Cadence and Caprice — Sunday 15 June**

- ◇ Dukas — La Peri Fanfare
- ◇ Tchaikovsky — Capriccio Italien
- ◇ Hindson — RPM
- ◇ Rimsky-Korsakov — Capriccio Espagnol

## **Whimsy and Wonder — Sunday 21 September**

- ◇ Dvorak — Carnival Overture
- ◇ Elliot Leahy — Mopoke
- ◇ Chris Moran — Equilibrium
- ◇ Kats-Chernin — Dance of the Paper Umbrellas
- ◇ Martinu — Oboe concerto (soloist: Harry Wagstaff)
- ◇ Borodin — Polovtsian Dances

## **Broadway Meets Hollywood — Sunday 7 December**

- ◇ Jurassic Park — Williams
- ◇ Superman March — Williams
- ◇ Raiders March — Williams
- ◇ Star Wars: The Force Awakens Suite — Williams
- ◇ The Greatest Showman — O'Loughlin
- ◇ Les Miserables — Schonberg
- ◇ Wicked — Schwartz
- ◇ West Side Story — Bernstein

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## **About Kuringai Youth Orchestra**

The Kuringai Youth Orchestra (KYO) is a vibrant community youth orchestra based in Sydney's upper North Shore. Welcoming high school students and above, KYO offers a dynamic musical environment allowing talented musicians to thrive. Our musicians hail from various schools and universities across Sydney, including local schools in the Ku-ring-gai area, as well as the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney and UNSW.

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**Graphic Design** — Emilie Glasson

**Program Notes** — Justin de Solom

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