

KYO

Kuringai Youth Orchestra

CARNIVAL

conducted by **Brad Lucas**

3pm, Sunday 21 June 2026

Peter Duly Concert Hall, Abbotsleigh

www.kyo.org.au



Program

Orpheus in the Underworld Overture (arr. 1860)

Jacque Offenbach

Originally performed in 1858 as a two-act opera, *Orpheus in the Underworld* was extensively revised and expanded into a four-act opera in 1874, with each version being a huge box office hit. The story follows the mythological musician Orpheus whose wife, Eurydice, is abducted by the god of the underworld, Pluto. While Orpheus is happy with this turn of events, the character Popular Opinion demands that he try to rescue her. He is accompanied by the gods of Olympus, whose conduct is seen as a satire of the court and government of Napoleon III. This overture was arranged by the Austrian musician Carl Binder in 1860, incorporating various melodies and themes from throughout the opera. Listen for the galop at the end of this work, which has been adopted by the Moulin Rouge and Folies Bergere as the can-can dance.

Espanã (1883)

Emmanuel Chabrier

Chabrier - a lawyer by trade - was a child prodigy and dabbled in composition throughout his life. After working for 18 years in the French Ministry of the Interior, he quit his job in 1880 to compose full time. *Espanã* was composed following a trip he took to Spain in 1882 where he became infatuated with Spanish music, and has become his most popular work. This piece features three notable themes – the Spanish *malaguena* and *jota* dances and a third theme of his own, featured in the trombones. Featuring Chabrier's impressions of Spanish sights and sounds, this work is a fusion of upbeat rhythms and orchestra colour.

Academic Festival Overture (1880)

Johannes Brahms

In 1879, the University of Breslau conferred upon Brahms a degree of Doctor of Philosophy. As an expression of gratitude and on the advice of his friend, the director of music in Breslau, Brahms wrote this work as a thank you to the University. Brahms described the piece as “a boisterous potpourri of student songs.” While Brahms never attended university, this work is full of German student songs, including drinking songs, and most memorably, the triumphant finale on *Gaudeamus igitur*, a work traditionally sung at university graduations. With a blend of serious and light-hearted elements, this work blends the festivities of university life, with the academicism of incorporating his sources and treatment into the piece.

The Three-Cornered Hat, Suite No. 2 (1919)

Manuel de Falla

I. The Neighbour's Dance (Sequidillas)

II. The Miller's Dance (Farruca)

III. Final Dance (Jota)

The *Three-Cornered Hat* is a ballet de Falla wrote for Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, with set design by Pablo Picasso. The comedic story follows a magistrate (who wears a three-cornered hat to show his position in the town) who grows infatuated with a miller's faithful wife. He is unsuccessful in attempting to seduce her and the town joins in with the miller's antics against the magistrate. In *The Neighbour's Dance*, the miller's neighbours have come to celebrate St. John's Eve, making a lively *seguidilla* dance. The miller then performs his own *farruca* dance (a form of the traditional Andalusian flamenco). The *Final Dance* is a wild *jota* (folk dance), interspersed with frantic chases between the miller and magistrate, and culminating in raucous celebration at the magistrate's failure. The piece is heavily inspired by Andalusian music, quoting traditional themes, but mostly features original work by de Falla.

Meet the Orchestra

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.

KYO stages four performances every year at the end of each school term, performing music ranging from Tchaikovsky and Dvořák to John Williams. We also support emerging composers, commissioning and premiering new works from students of Composition at the Conservatorium. Our engagement with the community extends beyond our formal concerts, with small ensembles actively participating in events such as the Ku-ring-gai Council Australia Day Citizenship ceremony, the 2023 Try Turrumurra Festival and 2024 Make Music Day.

With a notable track record, KYO secured the top spot in the Community Youth/Secondary School Orchestra 25 and under category at the Sydney Eisteddfod for three consecutive years from 2014 to 2016. Additionally, our orchestra has garnered television exposure. In 2018, KYO featured on the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Gala, reaching an audience of over one billion viewers. In 2024, KYO made a delightful appearance on the ABC Kids TV show Fizzy & Suds, introducing younger audiences to the enchanting world of orchestral music.

KYO functions as a not-for-profit association, operated by an elected volunteer committee comprising musicians and parents. The Committee works with KYO's Musical Director, Brad Lucas, and with a selection of professional musicians during annual workshops, to develop and stretch the orchestra's musical abilities. The wide age range of musicians also fosters a culture of older musicians mentoring younger players.

Beyond the music, KYO fosters a vibrant sense of community and camaraderie. From shared social snacks during rehearsals to lively games nights and end-of-term drinks, our orchestra provides a welcoming space for musicians to connect and forge lasting friendships.

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.

Musicians

Violin 1

Timothy de Solom"
Haywood Yeung
Justin de Solom
Victoria Liu
Eda Chiou
Alexander Cronin
Liam Nicholls
Bernice Tsang

Violin 2

Isabella Wilson^
Arthur Halls
Emily Ronning
Vanessa Ng
Aaron Espiritu
Hannah Zhou
James Parasyn
Lily Still

Viola

Michael Monahan^
Eloise Riviere

" Concertmaster

^ Principal

* Guest/Alumni

Cello

Ritvik Somaiya^
Austen Fu
Piper Neatherway
Audrey Zhu
Timothy Wang
Harry Wagstaff *

Double Bass

Anna Armstrong^
Henrik Hogg

Flute/Piccolo

Tanisha Kolodochka^
Anna Herbert
Emma Sloan

Oboe

Will Armstrong^
Eloise Lo

Clarinet

Rohan Keshava^
Ashleigh O'Young
Ben Cook

Bassoon

Thomas Henderson^
Oliver French

French Horn

Emily Hackney^
Ryan Kennedy
Danielle Imrie
Ryan Wu
Elliot Leahy

Trumpet

Lena Morris^
Rosanna Ranasnghe
Claudia van Liefland

Trombone

Tom Cartwright^
Camille Gill

Bass Trombone

Archie Wyse^

Tuba

Amelia Clark^

Percussion

Nick Gummerson^
Ben Kellaway

Harp

Caressa Peng *
Bella Sun *

Committee Members

President

Katrina Bacon

Vice President & Marketing

Isabella Wilson

Secretary

Danielle Imrie

Membership Secretary

Emily Hackney

Concertmaster & Marketing

Timothy de Solom

Marketing

Ryan Kennedy

Website

Eda Chiou

Treasurer & Program Writing

Justin de Solom

Music Librarian

Elliot Leahy

Artwork & Graphic Design

Emilie Glasson

Concert Recording & Editing

Man Lee

General Committee

Victoria Liu, Lay Ling Kwong, Kim Neatherway

Musical Director

Brad Lucas

Term 2 Workshop

In preparation for today's concert, KYO ran a ½ day musicians workshop at Killara High School in May. Running annually since 2021 the workshop brings in professional musicians to tutor each section of the orchestra and is highly valued by the KYO musicians. This year our thanks go to the following tutors:

Violin Ben Tjoa

Viola Charlotte Fetherston

Cello Margie Iddison

Woodwind Amy Whyte

Horn Michael Dixon

Brass Will Farmer

Percussion Dave Lockeridge

Harp Natalie Wong

Sponsors

We would like to thank and acknowledge the support of our sponsors.



KYO visit to East Willoughby Preschool

As part of KYO's community outreach program a group of KYO musicians visited East Willoughby Preschool in early June. After a 'show and tell' of their instruments the musicians performed Twinkle Twinkle Little Star several times, with a number of preschoolers acting as guest conductors.



2026 Concert Series

Postcards from Europe — Sunday 29 March

- ◇ Saint-Saëns — Marche Militaire Française from Suite Algérienne
- ◇ Mendelssohn — String Symphony No. 2
- ◇ Mendelssohn — Overture for Winds
- ◇ Grieg — Four Norwegian Dances

Carnival — Sunday 21 June

- ◇ Offenbach — Orpheus in the Underworld Overture
- ◇ Chabrier — Espana
- ◇ Brahms — Academic Festival Overture
- ◇ de Falla — Three Cornered Hat Suite No. 2

Organ Symphony — Sunday 20 September

- ◇ von Weber — Andante e Rondo Ungarese (soloist: Michael Monahan)
- ◇ Saint-Saëns — Symphony No. 3 ("Organ")

Christmas and Cinema — Sunday 6 December

- ◇ Menken — Beauty and the Beast
- ◇ Williams — Harry's Wondrous World
- ◇ Williams — Jaws
- ◇ Silvestri — Back to the Future
- ◇ Krogstad — Christmas at the Movies
- ◇ Tchaikovsky — Symphony No. 1 Mvt 4 "Winter Daydreams"

Support Us

As a non-for-profit organisation, KYO welcomes donations to help further its mission to provide young musicians, from high school and above, with the experience of performing orchestral music, as well as bringing high quality music to the community. Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. Visit kyo.org.au/support-us/ for more details.

To make a donation, kindly transfer your contribution to:

Name: Kuringai Youth Orchestra
Incorporated
BSB: 633 000
Account number: 141 392 860

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'Carnival' Artwork — Audrey Zhu
Graphic Design — Emilie Glasson

Program Notes — Justin de Solom

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