



Kuringai Youth Orchestra

Organ Symphony

conducted by Brad Lucas
soloist Michael Monahan

3pm, Sunday 20 September 2026
School Chapel, Abbotsleigh

www.kyo.org.au



Community Bank
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Program

Andante e Rondo Ungarese (Andante and Hungarian Rondo) (1813)

Carl Maria von Weber

Soloist: Michael Monahan

Composed in 1809 for his violist brother, Fritz, this piece exemplified Weber's particular distaste for the rigorous confinements of the traditional aspects that made up the majority of concerto first movements. This work avoids the traditional sonata-allegro form of concerto slow movements and instead opts to start with a "grave" slow section and end with a "dashing conclusion". This piece also showcases the exoticism of sounds that gripped Western European music during the 19th century. While it doesn't include a reference to any particular Hungarian melody, it makes use of certain rhythmic and melodic conventions that, to German ears at the time, were identified clearly as Hungarian. In 1810, a German bassoonist from the Munich Court Orchestra approached Weber to have him re-score the work for bassoon and this piece has had continued success as both bassoon and viola works today.

Pachanga (2026, premiere performance)

Henrik Hogg

From Henrik:

Pachanga is all about dance, taking its name from the Spanish phrase for a lively, spirited party. The piece is meant to let you feel completely free while listening. Keep an ear out for the various motifs and their variations as they pop up throughout, representing the different celebrations we navigate and all the excitement of movement and dance. When writing this work I was inspired by Leonard Bernstein's Divertimento, Morton Gould and John Adams. There are references to all 3 works within the piece and I tried to capture a similar energy. I hope you enjoy listening as much as I have working with this great orchestra.

Symphony No. 3 in C minor "Organ" (1886)

Camille Saint-Saëns

I. Adagio – Allegro moderato – Poco adagio

II. Allegro moderato – Presto – Maestoso – Allegro

This symphony was commissioned by the Royal Philharmonic Society in England, with its first performance conducted by Saint-Saëns himself and dedicated to his friend and mentor, Franz Liszt. This piece is widely considered as one of Saint-Saëns' greatest works and one for which he remarked: "I gave everything to it I was able to give. What I have here accomplished, I will never achieve again."

Saint-Saëns was no stranger to the organ and was considered an extremely talented prodigy on the instrument. In 1857, at the age of 22, Saint-Saëns was appointed as the organist of the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene, considered the most fashionable church in Paris, where the social elite would gather for worship and his playing drew the greats of the music world to Paris, including Clara Schumann and Pablo de Sarasate. Franz Liszt described him as "the greatest organist in the world".

Written in two movements, but maintaining the classic four-part structure of a symphony, the work explores Liszt's concept of cyclical thematic transformation – extended development and variation of a single motive or theme across all movements and sections of a work. Despite becoming known as the "Organ Symphony", the work features surprisingly little organ. However, the organ is expertly integrated into the fabric of the orchestra, first delicately, before joining the fray for the triumphant finale.

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



Brad Lucas is a passionate educator and conductor in high demand in Sydney. He holds a Bachelor of Music Performance in Euphonium from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where he studied under the tutelage of Scott Kinmont. Since 2015, Brad has lectured Euphonium at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and is currently Coordinator of Brass. In 2023 he was made Visiting Professor of Shenyang Conservatory. As a performer, Brad had performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, NSW Police Band, and the Royal Australian Navy Band Sydney. He is a founding member of the Sydney Ophicleide Quartet (SOQ).

As a conductor he has been fortunate to be mentored by both Stephen Williams and Dr John Lynch. Brad is the Musical Director of the

Kuringai Youth Orchestra, and has been invited as a guest conductor to work with many of Sydney's community orchestras, including the North Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra. Brad also works at the NSW Department of Education 'Arts Unit' as conductor of the NSW Public Schools Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and conducts Symphony Orchestras and Wind Ensembles at the NSW State Music Camps. He has been invited to work with ensembles across NSW and interstate.

Brad is the Vice President of the Australian Band and Orchestra Directors Association (ABODA) after serving as a committee member and as Secretary since 2016. ABODA provides professional development to conductors and educators. In his time on the committee, Brad has organised and run numerous events for the organisation including their annual Conducting Summer School. He has also been engaged to provide professional development sessions on Conducting and Ensemble Direction for the NSW Department of Education.

Meet our Artists



Michael Monahan, Soloist

Michael Monahan is a violist and second-year student at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he studies on a scholarship. He has been a member of the Kuringai Youth Orchestra since 2019.

Michael is an active orchestral musician at the Conservatorium, performing regularly with the Conservatorium ensembles, as well as several student-run orchestras. In May 2026, he represented the Sydney Conservatorium at the Pacific Alliance of Music Schools Summit, an international gathering of leading music institutions from across the Asia-Pacific. Later this year, he will perform as part of the Conservatorium's orchestral tour of South America.

Michael has performed a wide range of orchestral and solo repertoire and is particularly passionate about orchestral performance. Michael is delighted to perform with the orchestra.



Henrik Hogg, Composer

Henrik Hogg has been playing music from a young age and was always fascinated by which instrument could cause the biggest headache for his parents. Naturally, he chose the double bass. His love of music eventually led him to pursue it as a career, studying composition at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music for two years before his passions took him in a new direction towards Applied Medical Science and Data Science. Henrik is delighted to be a featured artist at this concert and thanks everyone for listening to his work.

Musicians

Violin 1

Timothy de Solom"
Haywood Yeung
Justin de Solom
Victoria Liu
Alexander Cronin
Liam Nicholls
Emilie Glasson
Bernice Tsang
Sean Weatherley*

Violin 2

Isabella Wilson^
Arthur Halls
Emily Ronning
Hannah Zhou
James Parasyan
Lily Still

Viola

Michael Monahan^
Eloise Riviere
Claire Zhu

Cello

Ritvik Somaiya^
Audrey Zhu
Piper Neatherway
Timothy Wang
Austen Fu

Double Bass

Anna Armstrong^
Henrik Hogg

Flute

Tanisha Kolodochka^
Anna Herbert

Flute/Piccolo

Emma Sloan

Oboe

Will Armstrong^
Eloise Lo

Oboe/Cor Anglais

Bella Phillips

Clarinet

Ashleigh O'Young^
Ben Cook

Bassoon

Thomas Henderson^
Oliver French

French Horn

Ryan Kennedy^
Ryan Wu
Emily Hackney
Danielle Imrie
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

Organ

Sean Weatherley*

" Concertmaster

^ Principal

* Guest

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General Committee

Victoria Liu, Lay Ling Kwong, Kim Neatherway

Musical Director

Brad Lucas

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.

If you're interested in becoming a part of KYO, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at 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!



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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)
- ◇ Pachanga — Henrik Hogg
- ◇ 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.

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