

TASMANIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

OVERTURES



SUMMER 2017

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN 70TH-ANNIVERSARY SEASON



THE TASMANIAN Symphony Orchestra's 70th-anniversary season, and Marko Letonja's seventh as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, offers a rich and diverse selection of works, ranging from landmark concertos by Beethoven at the start of the season to a one-off concert performance of Gounod's opera's *Roméo et Juliette* towards the end. The TSO will be welcoming artists who will be appearing with the orchestra for the first time, and welcoming back performers with whom the orchestra has built up a strong rapport over the years. Among the newcomers are pianists Nelson Freire, Simon Trpčeski and Jayson Gillham; singers Adriana Kučerová and Pavol Breslik; and violinist Veronika Eberle. Also making their TSO debuts are legendary maestro Sir Andrew Davis and up-and-coming American conductor Karina Canellakis.

70TH ANNIVERSARY AND SHAKESPEARE

The TSO's 70th anniversary will be commemorated in various ways throughout the year, culminating in a concert in Hobart on 10 October, *Romeo Retold*, featuring music by Tchaikovsky, Bernstein and Prokofiev. The TSO gave its first-ever concert on 25 May 1948 and two works from that concert — Grieg's Piano Concerto and Beethoven's Symphony

No 5 — will be performed in the 2018 season. Next year's season will also feature a specially commissioned 70th-anniversary work by Australian composer Melody Eötvös. *Romeo Retold* and *Roméo et Juliette* point to a Shakespearean theme running throughout the year. Other Shakespeare-related works include Mendelssohn's incidental music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and shorter pieces by Berlioz, Nicolai, Korngold and others.

LAUNCESTON EXCLUSIVES

Celebrated pianist Steven Osborne will perform dazzling solo piano works by Debussy and Prokofiev in Albert Hall, Launceston, on 7 August. This will be his only Tasmanian appearance. Also exclusive to Launceston will be an orchestral concert conducted by Johannes Fritzsche, TSO Principal Guest Conductor, on 6 September featuring Schubert's Symphony No 9, *Great*, and a selection of Richard Strauss orchestral songs sung by soprano Siobhan Stagg.

GO FOR BAROQUE

Internationally acclaimed mandolinist Avi Avital will make his TSO debut next year performing transcriptions of best-loved concertos by JS Bach



and Vivaldi in a concert conducted by leading Australian Baroque specialist, Erin Helyard. The Australian Chamber Orchestra with oud soloist Joseph Tawadros will perform Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, among other works, in a concert presented by the TSO. The third Baroque concert for the year will be *Messiah* on 1 December, conducted by Baroque expert Christian Curnyn, who will be appearing with the TSO for the first time.

CONCERTS FOR FAMILIES

As always, the year will begin with *RACF Symphony under the Stars*, free, family-friendly outdoor concerts in Hobart and Launceston. Next year's conductor will be Elena Schwarz, an alumna of the TSO's conductor training program and this year's Assistant Conductor. Specially designed for younger listeners are the three concerts in the Family Classics Series, which will feature Paddington Bear, *Peter and the Wolf* and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. Family Classics concerts are attractively priced at \$33 for adults and \$10 for children, with further discounts available to subscribers.

Other 2018 concerts include *Eskimo Joe + the TSO*, *Katie Noonan's Elixir Gratitude and Grief* with cartoonist Michael Leunig, *An Evening with Greta Bradman* and two concerts by the TSO Brass in Hobart's St David's Cathedral. For full details of the TSO's 2018 season, visit tso.com.au or request a brochure by phoning 1800 001 190.

Veronika Eberle



Simon Trpčeski



Avi Avital



Karina Canellakis



WIN A LUXURY ESCAPE AT SAFFIRE

Here's an incentive to renew your TSO subscription for 2018 or, if you are not already a TSO subscriber, to take out a 2018 subscription: all new and renewing subscribers will be in the running to win a luxury escape for two at Saffire Freycinet. To be eligible, you must subscribe or renew before 23 November 2017. The winner will receive the ultimate luxury experience including two nights' accommodation in a beautifully appointed Luxury Suite including breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as complimentary mini bar and lounge beverages. Additionally, the winner will receive \$100 to enjoy at Spa Saffire. Since opening in 2010, Saffire has been showered with accolades and was most recently awarded Best Deluxe Hotel Accommodation in Tasmania at the Tasmanian Hospitality Association Awards for Excellence.



GOODBYE MINI MAESTROS, HELLO MINI TSO

In the past, the TSO has used the title "Mini Maestros" for its concerts designed for toddlers and young children. Due to a rights issue, the TSO will be retiring the term in 2018 and replacing it with Mini TSO. It will be the same great type of concert, just a different name. In other words, plenty of music, storytelling and activities to get everyone singing, clapping and on their feet. And you never know, there might be the chance to join an ad hoc percussion band or take up the conductor's baton! Lively and entertaining and lasting about 45 minutes, Mini TSO concerts are the perfect introduction to music for the tiny tot in your life. The dates for 2018 are 9 and 30 June. Tickets go on sale on Wednesday 13 December 2017. Be quick!



TSO LIVE SESSIONS IN 2018

The dates are still to be confirmed, but there will be four TSO Live Sessions in 2018. Inaugurated last year, TSO Live Sessions are chamber orchestra concerts in non-traditional venues, most often the Red Shed at the Hobart Brewing Company. Lasting a little over an hour (including interval), they are designed to attract a younger audience. The musicians perform in Blunnies — thanks a million Blundstone for the footwear! — and play a wide range of repertoire, from Baroque to bluegrass to tango. The Live Sessions are made possible through the generous support of the Graeme Wood Foundation and, in addition to Blundstone, are sponsored by Foot & Playsted, the Hobart Brewing Company, The20 and Willie Smith's Apple Shed. Keep up to date with the Live Sessions through the TSO's Facebook page and at tso.com.au.





NICHOLAS HEYWARD, TSO Managing Director, formally launched the TSO's 2018 season at a function at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) on Thursday 12 October. Nearly 200 guests mingled in the soaring Central Gallery, which was festooned with signature artwork from the TSO's 2018 brochure. Formal proceedings commenced with some brilliantly executed music performed from the upper balcony by a brass quintet, after which Janet Carding, Director of TMAG, welcomed guests. Nicholas Heyward offered a precis of the 2018 season before handing things over to Marko Letonja who addressed the room via a

pre-recorded video message. Among next year's concerts and artists, Marko singled out pianist Nelson Freire, violinist Veronika Eberle, conductor Sir Andrew Davis, composer Melody Eötvös, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo Retold* and *Roméo et Juliette*. The TSO would like to thank TMAG for offering such a wonderful space for the launch. The Central Gallery is not only an impressive venue, it has a bright and resonant acoustic. Music and art are natural partners. Close enough to be neighbours, the TSO and TMAG look forward to furthering their mutually beneficial relationship.

ALL-STAR CAST SHINES IN **CARMEN**

OFTEN DESCRIBED as the world's most popular opera, *Carmen* proved to be a winner with Tasmanian audiences, selling out well ahead of the TSO's one-off concert performance in Federation Concert Hall on 12 August. Conducted by Marko Letonja and featuring Russian mezzo-soprano Elena Maximova in the title role, *Carmen* built on the success of last year's award-winning performance of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, the TSO's first opera-in-concert in recent years.

In addition to Elena Maximova, who has carved out a reputation as one of the pre-eminent Carmens of our time, the concert showcased Argentinean tenor Marcelo Puente in the role of Don Jose, baritone Teddy Tahu Rhodes as Escamillo and soprano Emma Pearson as Micaëla. Presented in association with Victorian Opera, *Carmen* boasted a cast of nine singers all up, with the all-important choral episodes sung by the TSO Chorus. "Marko Letonja presided over everything with complete authority," wrote Peter Donnelly in the *Hobart Mercury*, "the orchestra producing consistently first-rate work." Listeners around the country, and around the world, were able to tune in to a broadcast of the concert on ABC Classic FM on Sunday 27 August.







continued from page 6

Marko Letonja has steadily built up a reputation as an opera conductor of distinction, having conducted in many of Europe's leading opera houses, including La Scala Milan, the Vienna State Opera and Berlin State Opera. In May this year he conducted two cycles of Wagner's *Ring* for the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm.

In 2018 he will conduct the next instalment in the TSO's opera-in-concert series, with Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* in Federation Concert Hall on 20 October. As before, *Roméo et Juliette* will feature international stars in the principal roles — Adriana Kučerová and Pavol Breslik. Slovakian soprano Adriana Kučerová has sung at the Vienna State Opera, Hamburg State Opera and Glyndebourne; while Pavol Breslik, who was named "Most Promising Singer of the Year" by the German opera magazine *Opernwelt* in 2005, has appeared on all of the world's leading stages, including New York's Metropolitan Opera, London's Royal Opera House and the Opera Bastille in Paris. Tickets to *Roméo et Juliette* are now on sale to TSO subscribers. Purchase them at tso.com.au or call the TSO Box Office on 1800 001 190.



THIS YEAR'S TSO Composers' Project saw nine Tasmanian students in Years 11 and 12 work with composition tutor Maria Grenfell and ten musicians from the TSO, who kindly volunteered their skills and expertise. Presented in partnership with the UTAS Conservatorium of Music and the UTAS Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), the Composers' Project combined original music with scientific research.

IMAS scientists Neville Barrett, Gabi Pilo and Karen Watson presented aspects of their research to the student composers who used the presentations as the starting point for original compositions. The compositions were

workshopped as works-in-progress in mid-June — with the students taking note of valuable feedback from Maria Grenfell and the TSO musicians — and were performed before an invited audience as finished works in the IMAS building at Battery Point on 16 September.

A grant from the Oceanic Cultures and Connections Project at UTAS allowed the TSO to commission a work from professional composer Scott McIntyre to complement the student compositions. Likewise inspired by IMAS research, Scott's composition, *Mesoscale Fanfare*, was performed by the TSO musicians for the students participating in the project.

TSO AUSTRALIAN COMPOSERS' SCHOOL

The TSO has a proud record of supporting Australian composers, whether nurturing secondary school and tertiary students or commissioning, performing and recording original music by professional composers. The Australian Composers' School, which was held in Hobart 9–13 October, gave tertiary-level students the opportunity to further their expertise in writing for orchestra through a series of workshops, presentations, rehearsals and performances. Adam Brook (NSW), Louisa Trewartha (VIC), Alex Turley (WA) and Samantha Wolf (VIC) worked with



professional composers Paul Stanhope (ACS Director), Maria Grenfell and Jessica Wells on a range of assignments. In addition to hearing the TSO perform their original compositions and orchestrations — under the expert attention of conductor Elena Schwarz — the four students received tuition in commercial-style arranging,

a valuable skill in today's marketplace. In the words of Paul Stanhope, "You probably learn more in a week here with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra than you would learn in a whole degree at a university."

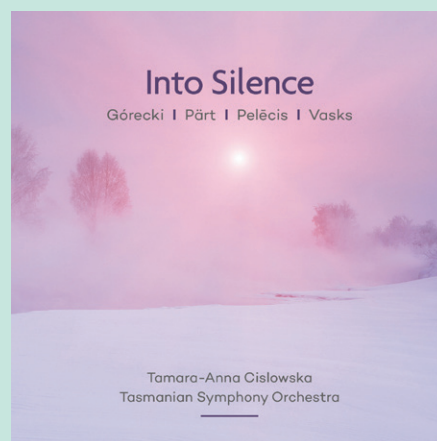
TSO WELCOMES NEW CORPORATE PARTNER

The TSO is excited to welcome a new corporate partner for 2018, Hobart Family Dental. Owned by Dr Jacques Cawood and his wife Tanya, Hobart Family Dental is a relative newcomer to the Hobart dental scene. Jacques and his dental partner, Dr John Chung, make it their priority to build trusting, long-term relationships with all of their patients, from children right through to grandparents. No more scary experiences at the dentist! “The reason we chose to partner with the TSO is we are massive fans!”, explains Jacques. “We love going to TSO concerts and are proud that the TSO is Tasmanian. As a family business, we believe strongly in local businesses supporting one another.” If you would like to find out more about the TSO’s Corporate Partnership program, please contact Cath Adams on 0412 717 785 or email adamsc@tso.com.au.



INTO SILENCE

Tune in to ABC Classic FM on any day of the week and chances are you’ll hear a track or two by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. The TSO’s ever expanding discography has just got a little bit larger with the release of *Into Silence*, a CD devoted to music by Eastern European composers Arvo Pärt, Henryk Górecki, Peteris Vasks and Georges Pelecis. All four composers grew up behind the Iron Curtain and had to negotiate state sanctioned artistic expression on the one hand with inner drives and ambitions on the other. Their music prizes simplicity, serenity and deep spirituality. Conducted by Johannes Fritzsche and showcasing pianist Tamara-Anna Cislowska, the album interweaves the intimacy of solo piano works — including Pärt’s celebrated *Spiegel im Spiegel* — with concertos and orchestral works. *Into Silence* is available from the TSO Box Office. RRP \$25 (\$22.50 for TSO subscribers).



TSO BIG REHEARSAL

Over 30 members of the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra sat among the musicians of the TSO for TSO Big Rehearsal in Federation Concert Hall on Saturday 26 August. As always, this annual event was a tremendous opportunity for the budding musicians to play along with and learn from the seasoned professionals of the TSO. The combined orchestra rehearsed side-by-side all morning and again briefly after lunch before performing works by Hindemith, Prokofiev, Berlioz and Shostakovich for over 200 family, friends and invited guests including Her Excellency, Kate Warner, Governor of Tasmania. Conducted by Andrew Gourlay (who kindly stepped in to replace an indisposed Richard Gill), TSO Big Rehearsal featured 12-year-old pianist Sheng-Yuan Lynch as soloist in Shostakovich’s Piano Concerto No 2. All up, it was an inspiring and productive day for TYO students and TSO musicians.





MAESTROS IN THE MAKING

PARENTS, grandparents, young children, toddlers and babes in arms made themselves comfortable on the floor of the TSO Studio for Mini Maestros on Saturday 19 August. Conducted by Gary Wain and compered by Jane Longhurst, the two sold-out concerts involved music, storytelling — Jane’s hugely entertaining original tale “Where is the Big Sound?” — and plenty of audience involvement. The chamber-

sized TSO showcased all instrument families — strings, winds, brass and percussion — and even called upon volunteers from the audience to beef up the percussion section. Gary likewise put the call out for anyone interested in waving the conductor’s baton. As mentioned on page 4, Mini Maestros will continue next year under the name Mini TSO. Join the TSO for more entertaining and immersive musical fun.

PARTNERS

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The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and through Arts Tasmania by the Minister for the Arts, and the Tasmanian Icon Program.

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For information on Corporate Partnership opportunities, please contact Ed Benyon on 03 6232 4430 or email benyone@tso.com.au.

Federation Concert Hall
1 Davey Street, Hobart Tasmania 7000 Australia
GPO Box 1450 Hobart TAS 7001 Australia

BOX OFFICE
Telephone: 03 6232 4450
Email: boxoffice@tso.com.au
Freecall: 1800 001 190

ADMINISTRATION
Telephone: 03 6232 4444
Email: tso@tso.com.au
www.tso.com.au



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