



UNFINISHED



Bendigo Symphony Orchestra



Image Bill Conroy

In 2021 Bendigo Symphony Orchestra celebrated 40 years as Bendigo's community orchestra.

Over these years BSO has provided symphonic music for the Bendigo community and opportunities for orchestral musicians to play together.

Each year the orchestra works with visiting and local conductors to perform symphonic works by well-known, and emerging composers, as well as concertos featuring international and local guest musicians.

Many young musicians who have joined the orchestra have gone on to enjoy orchestral and solo careers.



www.bendigosymphonyorchestra.org.au



<https://www.facebook.com/BendigoSymphonyOrchestra>



<https://www.instagram.com/bendigosymphonyorchestra/>

UNFINISHED

Saturday 11 March, 2023, 7.30pm and
Sunday 12 March, 2023, 2.30pm
Capital Theatre, Bendigo

Luke Severn Conductor
Elyane Laussade *Piano*
Jessica Irwin *Violin*

- Ludwig van BEETHOVEN** *Romance No. 2 in F major*
- Ludwig van BEETHOVEN** *Piano Concerto No. 1 in C, Op. 15*
I. *Allegro con brio*
II. *Largo*
III. *Rondo. Allegro scherzando*
- INTERVAL**
- Franz SCHUBERT** *Symphony in B minor, D. 759*
"Unfinished"
I. *Allegro Moderato*
II. *Andante con Moto*
- Jean SIBELIUS** *Finlandia, Op. 26*

Bendigo Symphony Orchestra recognises the Dja Dja Wurrung to be the traditional owners and custodians of the unceded land on which we gather, rehearse and perform.

We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all these First Nations Peoples.

We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.



A message from the President

Image: Mark Beever

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Beth Penington, who has recently completed five years as the President of the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra (BSO). During her tenure, Beth has demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, displaying both courage and imagination as she guided the orchestra through these challenging times.

One of Beth's key achievements was her successful formation of partnerships with the Ulumbarra Foundation and Bendigo Venues and Events. Additionally, she was instrumental in the appointment of Luke Severn as the Artistic Director and steered the orchestra through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The BSO's 2023 season promises to be a truly unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. It will feature four diverse programs of classical music, including well-known classics as well as lesser-known gems. Each program showcases the talents of world-class musicians, experienced conductors, and international and local soloists.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our silver sponsors, Bendigo Bank, St. John of God Hospital, and Bendigo Radiology, as well as our generous donors.

This support has enabled us to purchase new music stands, sheet music, and make improvements to our music library. In 2023, we will also be offering scholarships to talented young musicians who wish to join the orchestra.

To ensure that we continue to thrill audiences with our big string sound, we are currently recruiting new string players. If you or someone you know is a talented string player, please encourage them to contact us through our website.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our partners, Bendigo Venues and Events and the Ulumbarra Foundation, for their invaluable support. We are now preparing a new strategic plan for the next five years and welcome any feedback on our programs and performances.

Remember, the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra is your orchestra and we thank you for your ongoing support. Please feel free to spread the word and tell all your friends!

Our remaining concerts in 2023 are in the beautiful Ulumbarra Theatre, get your tickets early!

Nigel McGuckian
President
Bendigo Symphony Orchestra

PROGRAM NOTES

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770 - 1827)

Romance for violin and Orchestra, No 2 in F Major Op.50

Scored for flute, 2 oboes, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, strings and solo violin

Beethoven composed two single movement *Romances* for violin and orchestra; one in G major, and this one in F major. Both were dedicated to Beethoven's friend Ignaz Schppanzingh, the first violinist in a string quartet that premiered many of Beethoven's quartets.

The tender main theme of this *rondo* is introduced at the outset by the solo violin before being repeated by the orchestra. This theme is altered each time it reappears; the first time with wide leaps and ornamental passages, the second time modulating to D minor and becoming more passionately turbulent, while the final statement leads to a coda where, in a wonderful touch, the orchestra twice echoes the solo violin's finale three notes to gently close the work.

Piano Concerto No 1 in C major, Op. 15

I. *Allegro con brio*

II. *Largo*

III. *Rondo. Allegro scherzando*

Scored for flute, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, timpani, strings & piano solo

Beethoven moved to Vienna in 1792 where he was celebrated as a virtuoso pianist and a remarkable improviser. Before long he was also enjoying a reputation as a composer. Having already completed ten sonatas for piano, he turned to composing concertos to showcase his talents.

Concerto No 1 in C major was composed in 1796-7 while Beethoven was residing in the home of Prince Karl Lichnowsky, one of his patrons. The work is dedicated to another benefactor, Princess Barbara Odescalchi.

The influence of Mozart and Haydn is evident, particularly in the form and in the prominent use of trumpets, horns and timpani, a feature of Mozart's C major orchestral works. However, Beethoven's concerto also contains strikingly original touches of colour and drama, such as offbeat sforzandos and radical shifts of key, revealing Beethoven's originality.

The first movement begins timidly with an orchestral march-like theme that gradually gains confidence. Second violins introduce a second lyrical, flowing melody before the first theme reappears. The entry of the piano is a masterpiece in understatement as the soloist quietly introduces a new idea before the orchestra interrupts with the opening theme while the soloist adds virtuosic dialogue.

The development is announced *pianissimo* with the opening motive now in G major before settling into Eb major, where the soloist plays a series of mysterious *pianissimo* descending scale passages. A fortissimo chord and a dramatic plunging scale from the piano announces the recapitulation. The pianist's cadenza interrupts this; subsequently the movement closes in C major.

The second movement is a gentle, melodic *cantelina* in the key of Ab major highlighting the piano's expressive qualities. Throughout, the clarinet plays a significant role almost acting as a second soloist.

The final movement marked *Allegro scherzando* – fast and joking, in the tonic key of C major is an energetic rondo full of good humour and dazzling pianistic manoeuvres.

The main theme is stated by the piano, then repeated, *forte*, by the whole orchestra. However, each phrase is of a different length giving a subtle unpredictability. A contrasting sprightly woodwind fanfare featuring unexpected accents follows. The softer middle section juxtaposing high and low notes modulates to C minor.



Beethoven provides another musical joke in the cadenza as the pianist ends in the wrong key - B major, instead of C major, before winding its way back just in time for the orchestra to play the main theme for the last time.

The movement seems to be fading away – the piano gradually becomes quieter and slower, and with the same understatement of the entry in the first movement, departs. The oboes convey a sad farewell before the Beethoven's final surprise - the whole orchestra rushing to the end in a sudden short blaze of colour.

Franz SCHUBERT (1797 – 1828)

Symphony No 8 in B minor D 759, *Unfinished*

I. Allegro Moderato
II. Andante con Moto

Scored for 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, timpani and strings

Schubert completed the first two movements of this symphony in 1822, and although he left a substantial number of incomplete musical works over the years, we do not know why this one, so skilfully crafted, was not finished. A Scherzo third movement was sketched out in piano score; the first few bars were orchestrated, then for some reason abandoned.

Some believe the symphony's missing fourth movement is actually the Entr'acte from Schubert's incidental music to the play, *Rosamunde*.

In 1823 Schubert was awarded an honorary diploma from the Styrian Musical Society in Graz and as a thank you sent the manuscript to the society via his friend Anselm Huttenbrenner who held on to the work for over 40 years before he passed it on to the conductor Johann von Herbeck who premiered the symphony to great acclaim in Vienna in December 1865.

In its emotional turmoil and depth of feeling Schubert's 8th symphony is unlike any of his earlier instrumental music. The unusual choice of B minor, reputed to convey a melancholic, otherworldly mood, adds to the intensity as does the addition of trombones until then principally associated with sacred music and supernatural, magical effects in opera.

Cellos and double basses begin **the first movement** *pianissimo* in their lowest range, thus establishing the mysterious, melancholy mood that will be maintained for much of the movement. The main theme that follows is crafted in a unique tone colour created with a unison blending of the oboe with the clarinet. The irresistible charm of the second theme in G major reminds us that Schubert is one of the greatest melody writers of all time.



Image Mark Beever

Tension builds through unexpected silences, irresolute major and minor harmonies, syncopations, long held notes and abrupt changes in dynamic levels, before climactically exploding with the whole orchestra thundering the main theme. The movement fades away in quiet restlessness with a return to the opening theme and to the key of B minor.

The second movement shifts unexpectedly to the brighter key of E major and begins with a beautiful countermelody between the cellos and violins. The second theme in C# minor alters the mood as the clarinet soars over restless harmonies. Then the mood relaxes as major and minor keys fluctuate freely and widely creating ambiguities and oscillating moods before ending extremely quietly (ppp) in a mood of serenity.

This *Andante* is one of Schubert's most sublime compositions.

Jean SIBELIUS (1865 – 1957)

Finlandia Op. 26

I. Allegro Moderato
II. Andante con Moto

Scored for 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, strings

From 1809 until its independence in 1917

Finland's government was under the control of Czarist Russia. In 1899 a group of Finnish artists, protesting Russia's increasing censorship organised a series of covert political rallies championing Nationalism and Independence. It was for one of these events that Sibelius composed *Finlandia*.

Finlandia begins in ominous mood. Deep brass chords surge from forte to fortissimo whilst rumbling timpani emphasise the drama. The winds take over softening the mood with a gentle, reflective statement that gathers momentum and restlessness by means of imaginatively coloured scoring, brass fanfares and rising string melodies. A sudden calm overtakes the orchestra as the winds quietly intone one of music's greatest melodies. The hymn-like *Finlandia* theme builds until the entire orchestra joins in bringing this short tone poem to an emotionally triumphant end.

In 1948 Sibelius re-scored and added words to *Finlandia* making it the unofficial Finnish National Anthem.

Program notes by Diane Chapman



LUKE SEVERN

Artistic Director and Conductor

Conductor, Composer, and Concert Cellist Luke Severn possesses a musical voice of great versatility and passion. Noted for his expressive performances and dynamic and engaging personality he is emerging as an artistic tour de force in the Australian musical landscape.

Luke is currently the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Director of The Gisborne Singers with whom he has had the privilege of conducting some of Australia's top classical artists including Teddy Tahu Rhodes, Charlotte Miles, The Seraphim Trio and Merlyn Quaife AM. Recent conducting highlights include Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No.3 and a staged production of Purcell's opera, Dido and Aeneas, with the Gisborne Singers and the Macedon Ranges Chamber Orchestra. Also a champion of new composition and Australian works, he has conducted world premieres of works by Cally Barlett, Christopher Healey, Matan Franco and Elena Kats-Chernin.

As a soloist, Luke is a champion of both the standard concerto literature and new exciting works for cello and orchestra. In recent seasons he has performed as a soloist with The Monash Academy Orchestra,

The Frankston Symphony Orchestra, The Essendon Symphony Orchestra, Monash Sinfonia and the Melbourne Sinfonia among others. In 2018 Luke gave the Australian Premiere of the Concerto for Cello and Strings (2008) by British-Bulgarian composer Dobrinka Tabakova.

A highly sought-after chamber musician, Luke has performed in many festivals and chamber music series throughout Australia, Europe and North America. In recent seasons (2017, '18 & '19) Luke toured the complete piano trio cycles of Brahms, Mendelssohn and Beethoven across North America and Australia. In November 2019 Luke gave his New York City debut performing alongside NYC-based composer and pianist Evan Fein as part of a recital tour of both the East and West coasts of the USA. In 2022 the pair toured Victoria, culminating in recording of their first album together, featuring Brahms Cello Sonata No.1 and Fein's Cello Sonata No. 2 written for Luke, to be released on all major streaming platforms in 2023. Luke performs regularly with his duo partner, pianist, Elyane Laussade with whom he recorded his debut album Humanation in 2018 for cello and piano. His chamber music prowess has culminated in being Artistic Director of The Gippsland Fine Music Festival.

As a composer, Luke's music has been performed throughout Australia, Europe, North America and Asia. Recent commissions include Transfiguring the Sky for the Preston Symphony Orchestra (2021) and his 7-movement suite, and other lines written for Duo Obax and Yasmin Rowe and recorded by ABC Classic, available on all major streaming platforms. Luke is an Associate Artist of the Australian Music Centre.



ELYANNE LAUSSAUDE

Piano

A graduate of the Juilliard school in New York City, pianist Elyane Laussade has delighted audiences on five continents with her imaginative and strongly individual playing. The New York Times has said she is *“a pianist with a powerful, polished technique and many an original interpretive notion....with an impeccable sense of style and dazzling power.”*

Originally from the USA, she has now established herself as one of Australia’s finest performers. She has performed on numerous occasions with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and has been featured by ABC Classic FM and 3MBS in studio recordings and live broadcasts.

As a soloist, Elyane has performed in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, China, Japan, South Africa, the USA, Taiwan and Europe.

As a recording artist Elyane has recorded **Just for You**, a solo CD, **These Little Things** with Sydney-based violinist Jemima Littlemore, and **Humanation** with Melbourne cellist Luke Severn.

Elyane’s most recent endeavour is the Mozart Project which will see her perform all 27 Mozart piano concertos with orchestras around Australia. She enjoys a rich chamber music involvement along with her solo career.



JESSICA IRWIN

Violin

Jessica Irwin was appointed BSO Concertmaster in 2022. Her love of violin began when she was seven years old. Since then, she has been a member of the Australian Girls’ Choir, has participated in many orchestral groups and has recently received her Associate of Music with distinction.

Jessica has been leader of the second violin section in both the Percy Grainger and Melbourne Youth Orchestras, as well as playing second violin for the Percy Grainger Quartet. She has played with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for the premier of Deborah Cheetham’s requiem Esmeralda.

As well as playing violin, Jessica is currently studying medicine in rural and regional Victoria and will be a part of the Corpus Medicorum doctor’s orchestra during her studies.

Silver Sponsors

The Bendigo Symphony Orchestra wishes to specially thank **Bendigo Radiology, Bendigo Bank** and **St John of God Bendigo Hospital** for becoming Silver Corporate Sponsors.

We sincerely thank the teams at **Bendigo Radiology, Bendigo Bank** and **St John of God Bendigo Hospital** for their generous contribution to support the strong growth of our regional orchestra. Thanks to their sponsorship and participation, we are able perform at our best.

Would you like to become a sponsor of the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra for our upcoming season?

Please contact:

Bendigo Symphony Orchestra Partnerships Director, Anna Hill.

E. anna@annahill.net

M. 0488 197 546



BENDIGO RADIOLOGY

Imaging, Insight and Innovation

Bendigo Radiology is one of the largest providers of radiology services to Regional Victoria with 16 practices across northern and western Victoria, including Bendigo Health and St John of God hospital in Bendigo. We are committed to providing our communities with access to high quality medical imaging and care with the latest in medical technology.

Bendigo Radiology offers a diverse blend of private and public hospital based work with access to state of the art technology. Our quality management program ensures that we will continue to provide best practice medical imaging services to all our customers.

Bendigo Bank

As one of Australia's biggest banks, Bendigo Bank provides products and services to the homes and businesses of communities all across the country. Providing everything you need to bank confidently in branch, online or via app to successfully feed into the prosperity of communities and support groups and organisations like the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra.

Bendigo Bank – the better big bank.



St John of God Bendigo Hospital is a contemporary private hospital in central Victoria providing health care services for people in Bendigo and its surrounding areas.

We deliver high quality care in a comfortable and compassionate environment. Our 167-bed facility and highly qualified medical practitioners cater for a wide variety of specialty medical and surgical admissions, including orthopaedics, maternity and more. We offer both inpatient and outpatient services.

St John of God Bendigo Hospital is part of St John of God Healthcare, a leading Catholic not-for-profit provider of high-quality health care and community services in Australia and New Zealand.

As a not-for-profit health care provider, we return all surpluses to the communities we serve by updating and expanding our facilities and technology, developing new services, investing in people, and providing our social outreach services to those experiencing disadvantage.

Our Mission: to continue the healing mission of Jesus.

Our Vision: we are recognised for care that provides healing, hope and a greater sense of dignity, especially to those most in need.



Bendigo Symphony Orchestra

Violin 1

Leonie Schellhorn*^
Emily Calder
David Dore
Meg Holmes
Jaynee Russell-Clarke
Jeanette Stoll
Rachel Williams

Violin 2

Heather Cummins*
Naomi Bayliss
Ellie Close
Kylie Gould
Jessica Irwin
Joan Ledwich
Rachel Levett
Mel McCarthy
Dinali Wijewickrama

Viola

Cally Bartlett*
Frances Gall
John Gault
Denise Peterson

Cello

Phil Kelynack*<
Anne Begg
Diane Chapman
Mannie Maund
Travis Perera
Liz Wilson

Double Bass

Stephen Begg
Bevan Madden
Rohan Tailor

Flute

Cynthia Holsworth*
Amy Bachman

Oboe

Owen Matthews*+
Rebecca Beagley

Clarinet

Jacquie Tolhurst
Craig Spencely

Bassoon

Mathew Chalmers
Nyree O'Connor

French Horn

Catherine Moore*
Nicholas Benbow
Malcolm John
Geordie Walker

Trumpet

Kaid Normington*
Robert Delmenico
Jacqui Vine

Trombone

Chris Lees
Stephen Vine
Bonnie Walker

Tuba

Dave Martin

Timpani

Charles Chilvers
Judy Oliver

Percussion

Annette Conway

* Denotes Principal Chair

^ Zona Sevcik Concertmaster Chair

+ Chair supported by Bendigo Surgery

< Chair supported by Wheeler Associates

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people who have generously donated to Bendigo Symphony Orchestra:

- Rachel Beagley
- Brian Florence
- John Gault
- Daniel Herbst
- Howard Nathan
- Ann Parris
- Beth Penington
- David Penington
- Luke Severn
- Susan Wheeler

Thanks also to our Soloist Sponsors:

- Agnico Eagles Mines Limited
Fosterville Gold Mine
- Dr Kirsty Belfrage
- Mr Alex Cameron
- Central Victorian Anaesthetic Service
- Bendigo Radiology
- Bendigo Surgery

Tax deductible donations can be made to Bendigo Symphony Orchestra via the **Ulumbarra Foundation**. See the back cover of this program for details.

We would like to thank **Kristen Beever** for her design expertise in rebranding BSO at the start of 2021, and her ongoing pro bono design work for the orchestra.

kristen@centraldesignstudio.com.au

Bendigo Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to be an official performance partner of **Bendigo Venues & Events**.

This partnership will accelerate the growth and development of our community orchestra and inspire the presentation of diverse and exciting orchestral work in Bendigo's premier performance spaces.

BSO Scholarships 2023



Bendigo Symphony Orchestra Scholarships are available for young orchestral string players and musicians of less common orchestral instruments. Valued at \$1100 each.

Alf and Nelle Thompson Memorial Scholarship for student string musicians. Awarded jointly to Ellie Close and Annie Maund

Stewart Anderson Scholarship for musicians of other less common orchestral instruments. Awarded to Will Patterson

For further information and to apply for future scholarships, visit our website: www.bendigosymphonyorchestra.org.au

CASTLEMAINE

STATE FESTIVAL

MARCH 24



**LIZZY WELSH & THE BENDIGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:
Le Quattro Stagioni**

The evergreen Four Seasons will be performed tonight with renowned violinist Lizzy Welsh leading the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra through Vivaldi's immortal work. They'll play the seasons in the order that they run in the Southern Hemisphere, beginning with autumn, sonically exploring what each means to us here in Central Victoria.

Welsh is known for her experimental improvisation and has performed with orchestras and ensembles all over the world, specialising in baroque violin and modern violin, so while The Four Seasons is a classic, expect a touch of the unexpected.

**Castlemaine Town Hall, 25 Lyttleton St. Castlemaine.
Wednesday, March 29, 6 pm**

To see the Programs detail and book tickets, please visit www.castlemainefestival.com.au

APRIL 9 2023

2023 SEASON

UNFINISHED

Luke Severn | Conductor
Elyane Laussade | Piano
Jessica Irwin | Violin

The Capital Theatre
7:30pm 11 March
2:30pm 12 March

BEETHOVEN Romance No. 2 in F major
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1 in C, Op. 15
SCHUBERT Symphony in B minor, D. 759 "Unfinished"
SIBELIUS Finlandia, Op. 26

LIGHT & SHADE

Graham Abbott | Conductor
Lily Begg | Piano

Ulumbarra Theatre
2:30pm 18 June

BEETHOVEN Egmont Overture
GRIEG Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 16
SCHUMANN Symphony No. 2 in C, Op. 61

SCHEHERAZADE

Luke Severn | Conductor
Kyla Matsuura-Miller | Violin & Guest Concertmaster
Cynthia Holsworth | Flute

Ulumbarra Theatre
2:30pm 17 September

COPLAND Fanfare for the Common Man
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS The Lark Ascending
CHAMINADE Concertino in D, Op. 107
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV Scheherazade, Op. 35

EBBS & FLOWS

Luke Severn | Conductor
Kristen Leich | Mezzo Soprano

Ulumbarra Theatre
7:30pm 25 November
2:30pm 26 November

STRAUSS II On the beautiful blue Danube, Op. 314
SMETANA Vltava from Má Vlast
DVOŘÁK The Water Sprite, Op. 107
KATS-CHERNIN Deep Sea Dreaming
ELGAR Sea Pictures, Op. 37



Ulumbarra
Foundation

Direct your tax deductible donation to the Ulumbarra Foundation to support one of Bendigo Symphony Orchestra's pre-approved fundraising goals, and watch us grow!

- SCHOLARSHIPS FUND
- LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
- MUSIC LIBRARY FUND
- EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS FUND
- PERFORMANCE FUND
- BUILDING COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION FUND

UlumbarraFoundation.org.au



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