

Saturday, 12 September 1998, at 8.00pm
Strathfield Town Hall



founded by Emily Finn in 1969

SOLOMON BARD
Conductor

DONALD WOOLFORD
Concertmaster

KIAN LIM
Deputy Concertmaster

DANIEL BARD, Violin
Soloist

ORCHESTRA PATRON
Councillor Elizabeth Gewandt, Mayor of Strathfield

PROFILES

DANIEL BARD

Born in Israel in 1977, Daniel began studying violin at the age of seven with Mr Avigdor Zamir. Since his arrival in Canada in 1990, he studied with David Zafer and currently with Lorand Fenyves. He is enrolled in the performance programme of the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. He has participated in master classes with Jose-Luis Garcia, Pinchas Zukerman, Jamie Laredo, Christian Tetzlaff, Kyoko Takezawa and Donald Weilerstein.

Chamber music has a central place in Daniel's career and he is a founding member of the Metro String Quartet, which represented the University of Toronto in the International Week at the University of Graz, Austria.

Daniel won the Concerto Competition at the Colorado College Summer Conservatory and Music Festival. He is a recipient of various scholarships and awards. He was Concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra and Concertmaster and Soloist of the University of Toronto Chamber Orchestra. Daniel was the winner of the Royal Conservatory of Music Max Bruch Competition (Toronto), and in May 1996 he had his solo debut with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Daniel is Solomon Bard's grand nephew. He came here from Canada especially for this concert to fulfill their long-time wish to perform together.

SOLOMON BARD

Solomon Bard's musical education began in North China where, at the age of ten, he commenced violin studies. From the age of fifteen, Solomon played regularly with the Harbin Symphony Orchestra and conducted at the music Academy where he was studying.

Setting aside music as a career, Solomon pursued medicine, graduating as a medical doctor in 1939. But after World War II he became the conductor of the newly-formed Sino-British Orchestra (later the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra). He relinquished his post in 1953 to become the concertmaster and deputy conductor, a post he held until 1976. In 1969, he was guest conductor with the National Philharmonic Orchestra of the Philippines.

Solomon's long-standing interest in Chinese music and Chinese instruments was rewarded by appointment in 1983 as conductor to the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, with which he toured Australia, Japan, Korea and China. He moved to Australia in 1993 and was appointed conductor of the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra in December 1994.

PROGRAM

Prometheus Overture

Ludvig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Symphony No. 104 (London)

Adagio; Andante; Menuetto;
Allegro spiritoso

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Prologue & Toccata

Paul Paviour
(1931-)

We wish to thank Miss Christine Edwards for her kind donation with which we purchased tonight's Paul Paviour piece.

Interval

Violin Concerto in D Major

Allegro moderato;
Canzonetta: Andante;
Finale: Allegro vivacissimo

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)
Soloist: Daniel Bard



The Strathfield Symphony Orchestra acknowledges with thanks the assistance of the Strathfield Municipal Council and the NSW Government Ministry for the Arts.



PROGRAM NOTES

Composed in 1801 for the ballet "The Men of Prometheus", this was Beethoven's first overture. The ballet was initially successful, but fell gradually out of favour. The Overture, however, is still a favourite with the audiences. The music is based on the story of Prometheus, a titan, who stole fire from heaven and gave it to the humans. As a punishment, the Olympian gods had him chained to the rock.

The music follows a classical pattern - the exposition, the reprise, the coda. The contrast between the two main ideas is very effective: the brilliant first theme, and the tender second theme, given chiefly to the woodwind. If it appears somewhat Mozartian in character, one should recall that it was the work of the young Beethoven, and that it also bears resemblance to the first movement of his 1st Symphony.

The 12 symphonies known as the "Salomon Symphonies" were written in two sets of six for the impresario Salomon's subscription concerts. The first six symphonies were initially performed during Haydn's first visit to London, in 1791-1792; two years later followed the next set of six symphonies, which received their first performances in 1794-1795. The second set became so popular that four of them acquired nicknames - always a sign of general popularity! This, the last of the group, is known in English as the "London" symphony.

A powerful *Adagio*, which at the same time creates a mysteriously enigmatic mood, introduces this last symphony, *Symphony No. 104 in D*. Out of the theme of the fast section, *Allegro*, the whole movement seems to develop in one long stream of bubbling music, an eloquent product of Haydn's wonderful imagination. The slow movement, *Andante*, is again a simple theme with exquisite variations which lead the listener into quite new musical realms. Connections with the music of Mozart as well as of Beethoven are obvious - but the movement is still pure Haydn, simple and masterly.

The *Menuetto* which follows presents untypically shifting rhythms and unexpected pauses. However, the gracefully beautiful *Trio* restores the Rococo atmosphere once more, before the robust *Menuetto* returns. Sketches exist for further symphonies, so there is no evidence that Haydn felt his symphonic work was completed with this one. However, the extraordinary perfection of this last movement, *Finale: Allegro Spirituoso*, displaying every facet of Haydn's melodic, harmonic and rhythmic mastery, seems to make it a summing-up of his symphonic achievements. The recurring theme is typically rustic, but this melody is then treated with such genial ingenuity that we seem to hear Beethoven waiting in the wings.

Late in 1997, the conductor of the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra contacted Paul Paviour about the possibility of including a work that he had looked at in the 1998 season. That early work was written for an amateur youth orchestra, and would not be appropriate for an adult orchestra, so it was decided to write a completely new composition.

This became the present work, *Prologue and Toccata*, which is in two sections. It commences quietly with a flute solo, from which most of the work emerges. Strings and woodwind continue the mood of contemplation leading to first climax of the work by the full orchestra. A return to somnambulism concludes the *Prologue*. The mood changes and the *Toccata* starts with a quick rhythmic motive, which carries the momentum forward, giving most of the players a chance to shine. After a development section using most of the main material, the percussion players have a cadenza to show their ability. A coda, which combines most of the themes, concludes the work optimistically.

Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* was soon recognised as one of the greatest achievements in the field of music for violin and orchestra. The first movement creates its effect chiefly through the superb main theme, which is powerful and expressive. The slow movement is a deeply emotional song which sets the listeners dreaming - even the most feared and respected Viennese critic of the time, Eduard Hanslick, found no critical words for this lovely music in spite of his damning criticism of the *Concerto*, a criticism which has gone down in history as the most damning of all time.

In the *Finale*, Tchaikovsky depicts a cheerful Russian folk festival, a wild, exuberant outpouring of Slavic temperament. The stirring music bears the listener along on a thrilling wave of excitement and high spirits, and the technical and musical demands made on the solo virtuoso take one's breath away.

ORCHESTRA MANAGER - Margaret Shirley
STAGE MANAGER - Russel Watson
LIBRARIAN - Jill Hobbs
LIBRARY ASSISTANT - Beatrice Ip

THE ORCHESTRA

In the 1960's, Miss Emily Finn, a well-known teacher in Strathfield, saw the need for an amateur orchestra in the area. She refused to listen to doubters, and with the assistance of Strathfield Council, The Strathfield Symphony Orchestra was formed in 1969, the first performance under the baton of high school teacher, Richard Gill, being performed on 28 June 1969.

Over the years many talented young musicians were given the opportunity to play with the Orchestra, some of them for the first time. The youngest was 9 year old violinist Kim Marshall. Others who are today well-known artists include Jane Rutter (flautist); Simon Tedeschi (piano); Kathryn Lambert (piano); Natalie Chee (violin); William Chen (piano); and Marilyn Meier (piano).

The Orchestra is now in its 29th year of music making in the Strathfield area, an achievement for any amateur orchestra. It keeps going because of the support from Strathfield Council, a grant from the Ministry for the Arts NSW, and its many subscribers and players.

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THE ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

VIOLIN I

Donald Woolford *Concertmaster**
Kian Lim *Deputy Concertmaster*
Maria Goumus
Carol Henson
Belisario Hernandez
Beatrice Iacono
Beatrice Ip
Lisa Lebedev
Sheila Myers
Behram Taleyarkhan
Samuel Tov-Lev
Annabelle Williams

VIOLIN II

Dorita Orzaes*
Helen Bailey-Cooke
Chris Elenor
Volf Frishling
Chris Kotsaris
Peter McCracken
Sheila Myers
Teresa Rogers
Katie Sebastian
Margaret Simpson
Rohini Thavaravy
Rex White

VIOLA

Ted Davis*
Fflur Harvey
Merv Brophy
Antonia Canaris
Airee Kim+
Brad Sutton+

CELLO

Haydn Skinner*
Elizabeth Goss
Roger Barker
Bill Dankbaar
Joy Lukunic
Geoff Widmer

DOUBLE BASS

Nick Lebedev
Darryl Neve
Manfred Schoen

FLUTE

Prue Page*
Andrew Elliston
Sue-Ellen Monaghan

OBOE

Margaret Shirley*
Jan Cosse
Eva Griffith

CLARINET

Rachael Clarke*
Joe Davies

BASSOON

Pat Taylor*
Alex Thorburn

FRENCH HORN

Terry Dewhurst*
Elizabeth Dalton
Jill Hobbs

TRUMPET

David Young*
John Clarke
Andrew Hooguliet

TROMBONE

Lindsay Smartt*
Ross Bliim

BASS TROMBONE

Brian Sedgwick*

TUBA

Russel Watson

TIMPANI AND PERCUSSION

Merrilee McNaught*
Sarah Blackwell
Matthew Chilmald+
Damien Freeman
Joel Pringle
Renee Longworth

* Denotes Principal

+ Denotes Freelance

STRATHFIELD ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

PATRON:

Councillor Elizabeth Gewandt
Mayor of Strathfield

SOCIETY MEMBERS:

Dr N A Andersen

Mr R Bernie

Mrs G Clarke

Mr T Davis*

Dr S Dickinson

Mr D B Dunlop*

Mrs J Dunlop

Miss C Edwards

Mrs M Edwards*

Mr & Mrs G Hawkshaw

Mr R A Knight

Mr J B Linley

Mr B McBurney*

Brother McGlade

Miss P A McPhillamy

Miss P J McPhillamy

Mrs S Mahableshwarwalla*

Mrs J C Moroney

Mr & Mrs I G Nicol

Mr & Mrs P Smith

Mr R Watson

Mrs J Widmer

* Life Member

We require three volunteers to assist on each concert night with the supper.
Please give us your name and telephone number if you can assist. Thank you.
We wish to thank Teresa Rogers for preparing this program.

FURTHER CONCERTS IN 1998

Saturday, 28 November, 8.00pm

Become a member of the Society and save money.

New Playing Members are welcome.

Rehearsals take place every Monday evening
at 7.45pm in the Strathfield Town Hall.

For further information, please call

Solomon Bard on (02) 9327 3439.