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PROGRAMME NOTES

Symphony No.25 K183

A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

This symphony was written when Mozart was only 17, and it is typical of Mozart's work in his earlier years. It is often thought that Mozart rewrote it later in his 40th symphony which is also a G. minor, and now much more often played. But people loved the 25th when it was written as it is so beautifully infectious.

Dances of Galanta (1934)

Z. Kodaly
(1882-1967)

Kodaly was born in Hungary and with a great love of his country's folk music. He seldom wrote for the orchestra but this rare suite is very popular for its wonderful use of the instruments. It is a suite of dance music for the gypsies of Galanta, a little market town between Budapest and Vienna.

ALEKO (1893)

S. Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

The young and brilliant pianist and composer Sergei Rachmaninoff completed his studies at the Moscow Conservatorium just 100 years ago (1893) and did this by writing a one act Opera "Aleko."

Tchaikovsky was a big encouragement to Rachmaninoff and immediately recognised this work's greatness. He arranged that it be performed as a companion piece to his own one act opera, and this is still done in Moscow. Rachmaninoff's opera, however, has had little

recognition elsewhere. Tonight we hear the opera in a concert version, we believe for the first time in Australia, the music scores having come directly from Moscow. The parts involving a chorus are being omitted. The Soloists are singing in the original Russian and to assist our understanding of the opera, the basis story line follows:

ALEKO -- As the introduction is played, a simple happy band of gypsies camped in the early night, prepare their meal. The "Old Gypsy" of the band (Alan Hendrie - Bass Baritone) sings of past days and recalls, in sadness, his great love for Mariula, how many years past. Only one year did it last, and a daughter was born, Zemfira. But, alas at that time Mariula fled for ever, infatuated by a young man from a nearby gypsy group.

Zemfira, his beautiful daughter, now grown to womanhood, sat listening to her father's sad story, for she was married to Aleko, a much older man, but also had a secret gypsy lover, a fateful repetition of her mother's unfaithfulness.

After their meal, the gypsy women dance unaware of Zemfira (Lilia Sile - Soprano) and her young lover (Maximilian Naguit - Tenor) stealing into the shadows as they sing of their secret love and plans to fly away when darkness falls.

The men then take their turn to dance as the people retire to their tents.

But Aleko returns early and overhears the plans of the lovers, and Aleko (Alan Hendrie) and Zemfira argue in song. Aleko learns of the lovers plans and challenges Zemfira for her unfaithfulness but Zemfira leaves Aleko, despairing. Aleko sings of his grief and fierce anger.

(While our version tonight finishes here musically, the plot continues to its tragic end)

Zemfira and the young gypsy meet again but they are surprised by Aleko who in a frenzy of jealousy flings himself onto the young gypsy and kills him.

Zemfira is overwrought and weeps over her dead lover's body. Aleko can stand this no longer, and plunges his dagger into the unhappy girl.

The "Old Gypsy" is aroused by the noise, and seeing the sadness of the scene in its full meaning, so dear to his own heart, merely rebukes Aleko, and sends him away to wander into the world, forever alone.

The tragedy is complete.

The SOLOISTS are each involved in Opera.

Alan Hendrie who sings two parts, the "Old Gypsy" and Aleko, is the Founder/Director of "Young Opera", a school for budding stars. He also sings with the Australian Opera.

Maximilian Naguit, who is the young romantic gypsy, studies with Alan and is at the Conservatorium Opera School.

Lilia Sile performed opera in Latvia before coming to Australia two years ago.

We thank them for their participation in "Aleko".

CONCERT, Saturday, 3rd April 1993

O R C H E S T R A

Conductor: Matthew KREL
Concertmaster: Donald WOOLFORD
Deputy Leader: Kian LIM
Founder: Emily FINN

P R O G R A M M E

Symphony No.25 K 183 A.Mozart
Allegro
Andante
Minuette
Allegro
Dances of Galanta Z.Kodaly

I N T E R V A L

ALEKO S. Rachmaninoff
Introduction - Andante Cantabile
The Old Gypsy's Story - Alan Hendrie
Women's Dance
Lover's Duet - Zemfira - Lilia Sile
Young Gypsy Lover - Maximilian Naguit
Men's Dance
Zemfira's Song - Lilia Sile
Aleko - Alan Hendrie
Aleko's Aria - Alan Hendrie

FIRST VIOLINS

Don Woolford - Concertmaster
Kian Lim - Deputy Leader
Sheila Myers
Rosslyn Cooke
Beverley Longhurst

SECOND VIOLINS

Dorita Orzaes
Rohini Thavaravy
Helen Bailey-Cooke
Beatrice Ip
Andrew Collishaw
Claude Yerma
Barbara Pitt

VIOLAS

Ted Davis
Antony Harvey

CELLOS

Cheng Li
Geoff Widmer
Rod Berriman
Rebecca Finn
Lisa Callanan
Wayne Hanson

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Svetlana Niconishin
Nick Lebedev

OBOES

Margaret Shirley
Karen Christophers
Graham Li

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Olive Laing
Joe Davies

BASSOON

Pat Taylor

FRENCH HORNS

Terry Dewhurst
Jill Hobbs
Donna Corbett
Emery Schubert

TRUMPETS

David Young
Clare Manson

FLUTES

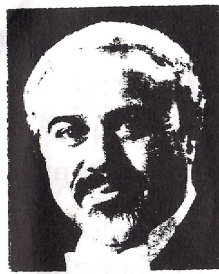
Yvonne Frindle
Susan Moore

TIMPANI

David Worrell



This project has been made possible
with assistance from the
New South Wales Government
through the Ministry for the Arts



Conductor, Matthew Krel

Matthew has been with us since 1987, and during that time the Orchestra has significantly developed in sound quality, its diversity of works played, and the use of members of the Orchestra as soloists.

Matthew's musical background begins in Moscow where he was educated and has taught, at the Moscow School of Music, from 1961-65.

In 1968, Matthew's career significantly advanced when he became a keyboard soloist and accompanist for the Moscow State Philharmonia, at the same time he was invited to join the Osipov State Orchestra, touring Germany, Austria, Switzerland, England and Ireland.

Between 1970-73, Matthew visited Poland and Czechoslovakia (twice) as the Conductor of the Moscow Youth Orchestra.

Matthew came to Australia in 1978, where he worked at the Conservatorium of Sydney. In 1979, founded and managed the Strathfield Music Centre.

Matthew became the Conductor of the Strathfield Youth Orchestra in 1983-85 and in 1988 founded the SBS Youth Orchestra, which is continually gaining momentum and creditability after every concert.

Between 1989-90 Matthew performed with Tasmanian, Queensland and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras

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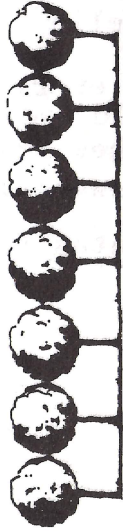


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We require players in the lower string section
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Rehearsal every Monday evening at 7.45 p.m. at
Strathfield Town Hall. For further information
call Matthew Krel on 746-5769.

Concert dates for the year - 26th June,
11th September
20th November