

Strathfield Symphony

ORCHESTRA OF THE INNER WEST

Яаснмаиіов



Music Director

Sadaharu Muramatsu

Rachmaninov

Symphony No. 2

22 November 7pm

23 November 2.30pm

Program

Symphony No 2

Rachmaninov

[1873 - 1943]

1. Largo — Allegro moderato (E minor)
2. Allegro molto (A minor)
3. Adagio (A major)
4. Allegro vivace (E major)

Symphony No 2 Rachmaninov [1873-1943]

First performed eleven years after the disastrous premiere of his 1st Symphony, the 2nd Symphony's performance in St Petersburg in 1908 saw Rachmaninov's triumphant return to the symphonic form.

The earlier work's first outing in 1897, performed by an under-rehearsed orchestra under an apparently listlessly drunk conductor was received by the hostile critical establishment of St.

Petersburg in such dismissive and negative terms as to cause Rachmaninov to consider giving up composing altogether, swearing to never again attempt a symphony.

It wasn't until 1906, after the warm reception of his 2nd Piano Concerto in 1901, that Rachmaninov began work on his 2nd Symphony. Whether because of Rachmaninov's musical sensibilities, or apprehension at receiving another negative critical reaction, the work is composed according to the (by then) conservative conventions of Russian Romanticism, with strong ties to the music of Tchaikovsky and his student Taneyev (to whom it is dedicated).

The work was warmly received in its time, earning Rachmaninov his second Glinka award in the year of its premiere. He uses the famously lengthy work to introduce simple motifs and themes and develop them gradually, using conventions of the form to help to build a tightly controlled sense of suspense. The work is full of beautiful melodies and lyrical passages, some of which, like passages in other famous Rachmaninov works have been used as the basis for popular music.

The first movement begins quietly with a simple motto that is developed and layered gradually throughout, becoming increasingly lyrical. The second movement begins with a rapid, driving start, that soon breaks into a luscious melody. Listen for the clarinet solo near the beginning of the third movement, and the sounds of layered descending scales, evoking the peals of many church bells, in the middle of the fourth.

Jerry Zylberberg

Sadaharu Muramatsu Music Director

Sadaharu Muramatsu (“Sada”) is the Music Director of Strathfield Symphony Orchestra. He is also the choirmaster of Willoughby Symphony Choir, conductor of Wesley Institute Choir and lecturer/instructor of conducting at the Wesley Institute, and choirmaster of Sydney Japanese Choir “Sakura”. Sada will be the guest conductor of the prestigious Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra in Japan in 2016, and the Central Aichi Symphony Orchestra in Japan in 2015.

In Sydney Sada has conducted the Penrith Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Camerata, Rockdale Opera Company, Eastern Sydney Chamber Choir, Kammerklang Chamber Orchestra and many other groups. His experience in Europe includes conducting the Budapest Operettszínház in a performance broadcast by Hungarian National Broadcasting Corporation (MTV). Sada has appeared in TV, radio, and newspapers including BBC, Channel 9, SBS radio and many media programmes.

Sada completed a Masters of Music in Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK. He was granted a fellowship to study conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney under the Japanese Government Overseas Study Program for Artists. Sada resides in Australia with a Distinguished Talent visa granted for his achievements by the Australian Government.

His outstanding accomplishments include an Honorary Doctorate in Music from his alumnus Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, UK (2011); Second prize in the Vienna Summa Cum Laude international youth music festival with the Wesley Institute Choir at the Golden Hall, Musikverein, Austria (2011); Finalist and awarded special prize of the jury at the Emmerich Kalman International Conductor’s Competition at the Budapest Operetta Theatre in Hungary (2007); Semi-finalist in the 2nd Bartok Bela International Opera-Conducting competition in Romania (2007); Mortimer Furber Prize for Conducting in Manchester, UK (2005); and First prize at the ISIS Conducting Competition in Cambridge, UK (2001).

Sada studied conducting under Kurt Masur, Imre Pallo, Sir Mark Elder, Gianandrea Noseda, Christian Mandeal, Hirofumi Misawa and Kazuki Sawa.

www.sadaharu.net



Strathfield Symphony Orchestra

Strathfield Symphony Orchestra is a community orchestra based in the inner west Sydney suburb of Strathfield. The orchestra is comprised of approximately 50 players. It rehearses most Monday nights and gives four performances a year, plus a special concert for seniors in Senior Citizen’s Week. The orchestra aims to promote music-making in the community, to provide exciting and enjoyable concert programs, to nurture young talent, and to showcase the works of Australian composers.



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Paul Pokorny Concertmaster

Paul Pokorny is the Concertmaster of the Strathfield Symphony and has also appeared as soloist. He has played in many of the amateur and freelance orchestras in Sydney including Concertmaster of the North Shore Youth Orchestra, Lane Cove Symphony, Northern Chamber Orchestra, Warringah Symphony, Encore Kammerorchester, the Sydney Serenade, the Sydney Occasional Orchestra and the Kuring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra. He is also Principal violin with the Balmain Sinfonia

and has played with the Solar Chamber Orchestra, Bourbaki Ensemble and Orchestra 143. Paul is a keen chamber musician, and is first violin with the Opus Four String Quartet and the Strathfield String Quartet and is concertmaster for occasional event orchestras.

In addition to performing freelance function work for many years Paul has been a active orchestral leader and player for many of Sydney's musical societies. Paul also enjoys singing and playing piano.



Principal Players



Dorothy Sercombe
Deputy Concertmaster



Philip Hazell
2nd Violin



Danielle Norton
Viola



Alica Gedz
Cello



Lyndon Swasbrook
Flute



Adele Haythornthwaite
Oboe



Regina Tam
Clarinet



John Fletcher
Bassoon



Neil O'Donnell
French Horn



Lindsay Smartt
Trombone



Steve Machamer
Timpani



Strathfield Symphony
Orchestra of the Inner West

Music to Look at

Debussy – La mer &

Mussorgsky – Pictures at an Exhibition

21/22 March 2015

Rebels with a Cause

Dvorak – Symphony No.7

20/21 June 2015

Sanctity & Frenzy

Mozart – Requiem & Stravinsky – Petrushka

12/13 September 2015

Happy Birthday – A musical chronicle

Sibelius – Symphony No.5

(100th Anniversary)

5/6 December 2015

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Strathfield Symphony reserve the right to change
programmed works or soloists if required

The Orchestra

Violin 1

Paul Pokorny**

Dorothy Sercombe^

Susan Brown

Clifton Chan

Volf Frishling

Sarah Haddad

Camille Hanrahan-Tan

Hanako Ward

Shao Xiong Zhan

Violin 2

Philip Hazell*

Madeleina

Hanrahan-Tan

Rosslyn Irvine

Chantal Nguyen

Alana Pretty

Hannah Nunn

Julianne Tonini

Petroc Wilton

Viola

Danielle Norton*

Emma Barnett

Timothy Darmanto

Katharine Fox

Andrew Heike

Cello

Alicea Gedz*

Vanessa Chalker

Craig Giles

Jane Parkin-Kullman

Danni Yi Ding

Double Bass

Vince Angeloni

Robert Budniak

Glenn Denny

Andrew Finlayson

Flute

Lyndon Swasbrook*

Rebecca Brown

Bruce Lane

Oboe

Adele Haythornthwaite*

Eve Osborn

Clarinet

Regina Lucena-Tam*

Kate Sweeny

Jeremy Kindl

Bassoon

John Fletcher

Harriet O'Donnell

French Horn

Neil O'Donnell*

Denbigh Morris

Amanda Whitfield

Trumpet

Janette Vardy

John Trezise

David Young

Trombone

John Blyth

Chris Ng

Tuba

Gary Levin*

Timpani

Steve Machamer*

Matthew Levy

Percussion

Cleo Venner

Rory Williams

* Principal

**Concertmaster

^ Deputy Concertmaster



Strathfield Symphony Orchestra of the Inner West

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Vice President & Concertmaster—
Paul Pokorny
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Thorburn

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Bellissario Hernandez
Marie Hodsdon
Geoff Widmer
Shirley
Mahableshwarwalla
Vincent Leonard
Margaret Shirley
Chris Elenor
Laura Jamieson

Thanks To

Stage Manager—Neil O’Donnell
Poster Design—Jonathan Yang
Program Notes—Jerry Zylberberg
Program Design—Laura Jamieson
Rehearsal Catering—Danielle Norton
Concert Catering—Rick Sercombe
Front of House—Shirley Mahableshwarwalla,
Lorraine Fernandez, Charlotte Lewis

Solomon Bard

[1916 - 2014]

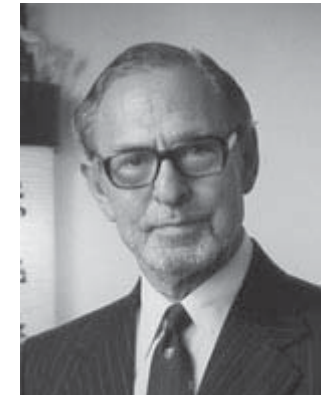
Maestro Solomon Bard conducted the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra from 1994-2004. Solomon lead the orchestra through difficult times with passion, dedication, generosity and musicianship, he left the orchestra richer for his contribution.

Solomon was a veritable trove of musical knowledge that he loved to share. From the perfect way to pizzicato pp (just place your finger on the string, and lift off, no need to pluck) to personal anecdotes about composers (did you know that Lully died of gangrene after stabbing himself in the foot with his conducting staff?). His musical education began in Northern China and he subsequently 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. He is the author of an auto-biography “Light and Shade: Sketches from an Uncommon Life” where he recounts his experiences as a doctor, musician and archaeologist – his three great passions.

Solomon’s artistic direction built the orchestra a solid reputation for supporting Australian contemporary composers. In particular, Solomon was the mainstay of the orchestra’s long standing and rich relationship with Miriam Hyde. There are many players still with the orchestra today that remember Solomon’s warmth and generosity of spirit and I am proud to be among them. Solomon’s contribution to our orchestra will never be forgotten.

Laura Jamieson



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