

Willoughby Symphony Orchestra

2027 Season

Artistic Director and Chief Conductor
Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM



Experience the extraordinary





FROM THE MAYOR

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2027 Season of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra (WSO), proudly managed by Willoughby City Council.

For more than 60 years, the WSO has been an important part of our community, bringing people together through the shared experience of live music. Supported by Willoughby City Council since the very beginning, the orchestra has grown into one of Australia's leading community orchestras while remaining true to its purpose of making orchestral music accessible to everyone. Following the celebrations of the WSO's 60th anniversary in 2026, the orchestra continues to build on that proud legacy.

A strong arts and cultural life is an essential part of a vibrant and liveable city. It encourages creativity, celebrates local talent and enriches the experiences that make our community unique. The Willoughby Symphony Orchestra is a wonderful example of the lasting value of investing in the arts, inspiring audiences of all ages and helping ensure culture continues to flourish for generations to come.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM and Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith, whose passion and dedication continue to shape the orchestra and inspire audiences year after year.

This season promises a rich and diverse program, featuring well-known classics, new compositions and special collaborations with the Willoughby Symphony Choir and Willoughby Band. Whether you're a long-time supporter or attending for the first time, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

I warmly invite you to join us for another year of music, connection and community as we celebrate the important role the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra continues to play in the life of our city.

Cr Tanya Taylor

Mayor of Willoughby City



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

It brings me so much joy to share with you the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra's extraordinary 2027 concert season. On behalf of the musicians of your wonderful orchestra, I am thrilled to invite

you to join us for a sensational year of music in our beautiful home, the sublime acoustic of the Pat Reilly Concert Hall at The Concourse.

Whether you are a long-standing audience member or joining us for the first time, the 2027 Season offers a rich and varied musical journey. We open with the electrifying energy of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, setting the stage for a year of passion, colour and musical storytelling. We welcome a series of world-class soloists, including pianist Konstantin Shamray, saxophonist Amy Dickson and trumpeter Dominic Longhurst. Violinist Rosa Donata Milton returns for our unmissable *Opera Gala*, performing gorgeous melodies from the world of opera alongside stunning soloists from Pacific Opera. We'll also be joined by the magnificent Willoughby Band, with a special guest appearance from Scots College Old Boys Pipes and Drums.

We are especially excited to present two sensational Family Concerts: the world premiere of *Rosie the Clown Joins the Orchestra* and *Firebird for Families*. These 50-minute weekend afternoon performances are designed to delight, inspire, and welcome audiences of all ages to the magic of live orchestral music.

Don't miss Associate Conductor Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith unveiling the winner of the prestigious national Willoughby Symphony Young Composer Award, alongside glorious works by Beethoven and Vaughan Williams, sung by the resplendent Willoughby Symphony Choir, who bring the year to an awe-inspiring close with Carl Orff's choral blockbuster *Carmina Burana*.

We are profoundly grateful to you, our audience, for your continued enthusiasm, loyalty, and support. Your presence is at the heart of everything we do. We also extend our sincere thanks to Willoughby City Council for their unwavering and generous support of the orchestra and its vision.

Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM

Artistic Director and Chief Conductor
Willoughby Symphony Orchestra

FATE

Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM
Artistic Director and Chief Conductor

Konstantin Shamray
Piano



IMAGE: Laura Manariti

SEASON CONCERT 1

Saturday **20 February** 7pm

Sunday **21 February** 2pm

Duration 2 hours

Ludwig van Beethoven

Piano Concerto No.4 in G major, Op.58

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op.36

Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony opens with a blazing fanfare representing the incredible power of fate and takes you on a musical journey like no other. Full to the brim with soulful Russian melodies and awe-inspiring orchestral grandeur, experience this Romantic tour de force in the hands of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, who will sweep you from the symphony's dramatic first notes to its glorious finale.

Beethoven was confronting his own fate in his radiant and deeply personal Fourth Piano Concerto. Premiered alongside his famous Fifth Symphony, this was the last concerto Beethoven played at the piano himself, before his growing hearing loss made performing too difficult. Internationally lauded Australian-based pianist Konstantin Shamray, revered for his exhilarating performances and faultless technique, joins the WSO for this stirring concerto, which will see him reunite with Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM, who conducted his winning performance at the Sydney International Piano Competition in 2008. These are two astonishingly moving masterpieces you don't want to miss.

Konstantin Shamray's appearance has been made possible with support from the Friends of the Sydney International Piano Competition.



SEA AND STARS

Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith
Associate Conductor

Willoughby Symphony Choir

SEASON CONCERT 2

Sunday **16 May** 2pm

Duration 2 hours

Melody Eötvös
Hic Svnt Dracones

**Winner of the
2027 Young Composer Award**

Ludwig van Beethoven
Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage, Op.12

Ralph Vaughan Williams
Serenade to Music

Belinda Blades
While It Lasts

Ralph Vaughan Williams
Toward the Unknown Region

Chart a course for adventure on a voyage through choral and orchestral music from Beethoven to today. Sail from the thrilling musical storytelling of Australian composer Melody Eötvös's *Hic Svnt Dracones* (Here Be Dragons) to Beethoven's rollicking cantata *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*.

Marvel at stars on the rise when the winner of the 2027 Young Composer Award is unveiled, matched with the world premiere of *While It Lasts*, a heartfelt piece by emerging Australian composer Belinda Blades. The voices of the Willoughby Symphony Choir conjure higher realms with Ralph Vaughan Williams' exquisite *Serenade to Music*, before his *Toward the Unknown Region*, a rarely-heard early work, brings the concert home.

You will be transported to a world of exploration and adventure when you step into the concert hall for this unique and electrifying program.

HIGHLAND CATHEDRAL

Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM
Artistic Director and Chief Conductor

Amy Dickson
Saxophone

Scots College Old Boys Pipes and Drums



IMAGE: Christian Mushenko

SEASON CONCERT 3

Saturday **24 July** 5pm

Sunday **25 July** 2pm

Duration 2 hours

Anna Clyne
PIVOT

James MacMillan
Saxophone Concerto

Ulrich Roever and Michael Korb
Highland Cathedral

Jean Sibelius
Symphony No.2 in D major, Op.43

Lose yourself in the breathtaking vistas and rugged beauty of the Scottish Highlands with Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM and the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra in this stunning program inspired by Scotland. The concert opens with Anna Clyne's dynamic toe-tapping *PIVOT*, capturing the composer's experiences at the vibrant Edinburgh Festival, before Australian saxophone virtuoso Amy Dickson joins the WSO to perform Scottish composer James MacMillan's lively Saxophone Concerto, which he wrote for her in 2018, drawing on the dances and jigs of Scottish traditional music. Scots College Old Boys Pipes and Drums team up with the WSO to bring the first half of the concert to a close with one of the most famous bagpipe melodies of all time, *Highland Cathedral*.

The spectacular second half of the concert features Finnish composer Jean Sibelius' *Symphony No.2* – a monumental symphonic journey from the lush strings of its opening bars to the soaring anthems of the finale. This is a performance that will blow you away.



PINES OF ROME

Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM
Artistic Director and Chief Conductor

Dominic Longhurst
Trumpet

Willoughby Band

SEASON CONCERT 4

Saturday **25 September** 7pm

Sunday **26 September** 2pm

Duration 2 hours

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Capriccio italien, Op. 45

Alexander Arutiunian
Trumpet Concerto in A-flat major

Aram Khachaturian
Masquerade Suite

Ottorino Respighi
Pines of Rome

Take a trip to Italy with Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM and the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra in this vibrant concert of musical postcards. The Russian Tchaikovsky wrote his glittering *Capriccio italien*, which opens this program, inspired by a visit to Italy, where he revelled in the folk music, bustling streets and carnival atmosphere he discovered there. Italian composer Respighi moved to Rome to live and was inspired by the city's many pine trees, capturing in music scenes across the city from the Villa Borghese to the Appian Way.

Internationally acclaimed Australian trumpet virtuoso Dominic Longhurst joins the WSO to perform Alexander Arutiunian's powerhouse Trumpet Concerto, chock full of the energetic rhythms and soulful melodies of Armenian folk music. Considered the greatest Armenian composer of the 20th Century, Aram Khachaturian fashioned his *Masquerade Suite* from incidental music he wrote to accompany a production of Mikhail Lermontov's play *Masquerade* in 1941, and it has since become some of his best-loved work – especially the famous *Waltz*. The musicians of the WSO are your guides in this intoxicating musical tour.



CARMINA BURANA

Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM
Artistic Director and Chief Conductor

Willoughby Symphony Choir

SEASON CONCERT 5

Saturday **6 November** 7pm

Sunday **7 November** 2pm

Duration 2 hours

Igor Stravinsky
Suite from "The Firebird"

Carl Orff
Carmina Burana

The choral blockbuster *O Fortuna* is so iconic it has accompanied everything from gripping action sequences to tongue-in-cheek beer advertisements. Experience the raw power of Carl Orff's music live in the Pat Reilly Concert Hall when Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM leads the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Choir in *Carmina Burana*. Setting words from a medieval manuscript discovered in a German abbey, Orff's masterwork harnesses driving, primal rhythms and ethereal chant-like vocal lines to bring to life songs of love, nature, drinking and gambling alongside the famous ode to the goddess Fortune and her relentless wheel.

The concert opens with another masterpiece of musical storytelling, Stravinsky's suite from his colourful ballet *The Firebird*, composed for the Ballet Russes in Paris. Hear the musicians of the WSO retell this vivid tale from Russian folklore, from the vibrant *Dance of the Firebird* and the tranquil *Round Dance of the Princesses* to the terrifying *Infernal Dance of Kaschei's Subjects*, in this epic musical event.

OPERA GALA

Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM
Artistic Director and Chief Conductor

Rosa Donata Milton
Violin

Soloists from Pacific Opera

Willoughby Symphony Choir



IMAGE: Alexandra Münch

SPECIAL CONCERT

Saturday **14 August** 5pm

Sunday **15 August** 2pm

Duration 2 hours

Passion. Drama. Romance. You'll experience it all at the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra's lavish *Opera Gala*, an unforgettable concert celebrating the music, emotion, and grandeur of the operatic stage. Be amazed by the astonishing power and beauty of the human voice as rising stars from Pacific Opera sing heart-stopping arias from the world's most beloved operas, alongside stirring choruses from *Aïda*, *Nabucco*, *La traviata*, *Il trovatore*, *Madama Butterfly* and more, performed by the Willoughby Symphony Choir.

Returning to Sydney after her acclaimed rendition of Korngold's *Violin Concerto*, soloist Rosa Donata Milton will enchant you with the exquisite "Meditation" from Jules Massenet's *Thaïs* and Franz Waxman's *Carmen Fantasy*, a dazzling virtuoso showpiece inspired by the stirring melodies of Bizet's opera. Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM conducts this unmissable celebration of timeless music, bringing the splendour of the world's great opera houses to The Concourse for a concert that will inspire and delight.



SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Peter Ellis
Conductor

Willoughby Symphony Choir

SPECIAL CONCERT

Sunday **12 December** 2pm

Duration 2 hours

Tis' the season! The Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Choir fill the Pat Reilly Concert Hall with Christmas magic when this cherished annual tradition returns. Peter Ellis conducts a festive program of favourite carols and timeless classics alongside joyful surprises and breathtaking revelations – from the traditional, stunning rendition of *O Holy Night* to beloved Australian carols *The Silver Stars are in the Sky*, *The North Wind* and *Aussie Jingle Bells*. Experience the enchantment of the season with family and friends in this heartwarming Christmas concert, where the young and young at heart can expect a visit from a very special Christmas guest. Don't miss out on what promises to be our most uplifting performance of the year – it's our special Christmas gift to our wonderful audience, whose energy and enthusiasm delights and inspires us all year round.

ROSIE THE CLOWN JOINS THE ORCHESTRA

Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM
Artistic Director and Chief Conductor

Rosa Donata Milton
Rosie the Clown



FAMILY CONCERT

Sunday **19 September** 2pm

Duration 50 minutes (no interval)

Family concert for ages 5+

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

The fun starts an hour before the concert! Children can create their very own clown-inspired artworks. Then, after the performance, don't miss the chance to say hello to Rosie the Clown.

WORLD PREMIERE

Rosie loves flowers. But even more, she loves music.

One day, she discovers an orchestra and immediately knows that she wants to belong. But how does one become part of an orchestra? Which instrument might be right for Rosie? And who is that mysterious figure standing before the musicians with a stick?

With her very special music stand, plenty of curiosity, and a great deal of enthusiasm, Rosie sets off on a musical journey of discovery. Together with the conductor, the orchestra, and the children in the audience, she explores the wonderful world of music and the feelings it can awaken within us.

A touching and humorous musical journey filled with wonder, heart, and beautiful sounds.

Born from a shared idea by Rosa Donata Milton and Nicholas Milton, and lovingly developed with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra.



FIREBIRD FOR FAMILIES

Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM
Artistic Director and Chief Conductor

FAMILY CONCERT

Saturday **6 November** 2pm

Duration 50 minutes (no interval)

Family concert for ages 5+

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Join us an hour before the concert for a creative craft session inspired by the brilliant feathers of the firebird. Then, after the performance, meet the musicians and experience the magic of live orchestral music up close.

Experience the magic of Stravinsky's *The Firebird* in a delightful concert for the young and young at heart. Join the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra for an afternoon of fiery feathers and fantastic music in this dramatic retelling of the Russian fairytale that inspired Stravinsky's vibrant ballet music.

Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM invites you into a world of adventure with daring heroism, kidnapped princesses, a wicked villain and, of course, the majestic firebird itself, with its luminous feathers and remarkable powers. You'll hear how Stravinsky uses the vivid colours and instruments of the orchestra, from menacing strings to glistening winds and blazing brass, to tell this gripping tale in music.

HOW TO BOOK

Bookings can be made online or via phone, email or in person at The Concourse Box Office.



Online bookings:
willoughbysymphony.com.au/Events

The Concourse Box Office

409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood NSW 2067

02 8075 8111

concourse_boxoffice@century.com.au

Open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm

The Box Office temporarily closes between 12pm and 1pm during the operating hours listed above. The Concourse Box Office is also open one hour prior to each ticketed performance at The Concourse.

SEASON CONCERTS

FATE	20 & 21 FEBRUARY
SEA AND STARS	16 MAY
HIGHLAND CATHEDRAL	24 & 25 JULY
PINES OF ROME	25 & 26 SEPTEMBER
CARMINA BURANA	6 & 7 NOVEMBER

SPECIAL CONCERTS

OPERA GALA	14 & 15 AUGUST
SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS	12 DECEMBER

FAMILY CONCERTS

ROSIE THE CLOWN JOINS THE ORCHESTRA	19 SEPTEMBER
FIREBIRD FOR FAMILIES	6 NOVEMBER

Program, including repertoire, soloists, and dates, are subject to change.

SUBSCRIPTION TICKETS

Choose between a 3, 4 or 5 concert subscription and save up to 20%, or elevate your experience with a Platinum Subscription.

Platinum Subscriptions include:

- ◆ All 5 Season Concerts
- ◆ 2 Special Concerts:
 - Opera Gala
 - Spirit of Christmas
- ◆ An exclusive platinum reception hosted by Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM on Thursday 4 November 2027 at 6.30pm, followed by a closed rehearsal at The Concourse with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra.

Type	Adult	Concession
Platinum Subscription	\$510	\$462
5 season concerts (save 20%)	\$352	\$312
4 season concerts (save 15%)	\$299	\$265
3 season concerts (save 10%)	\$237	\$210

SINGLE TICKETS

Type	Adult	Concession	Under 35/Junior
Season Concerts	\$88	\$78	\$35

Type	Adult	Concession	Under 35/Junior	Groups 10+
Special Concerts	\$99	\$94	\$35	\$89

Type	All tickets
Family Concerts	\$36

Booking fees may apply.

Unless specified, our concerts are best suited for ages 5 and above.

Special promotional prices for a limited time only.

The Willoughby Symphony Orchestra (WSO) is a world-class ensemble with deep roots in the community. Established in 1966, the WSO is one of Australia's oldest and most celebrated orchestras, enriching the life of Willoughby with exceptional music-making. A cultural landmark on Sydney's North Shore, the WSO has earned a reputation for supporting the careers of some of Australia's most exciting emerging musicians and composers.

Performing in its home in the acoustically excellent Pat Reilly Concert Hall in Chatswood, the WSO is renowned for its outstanding annual concert series. The series encompasses beloved orchestral classics, iconic film music, and family-oriented productions that engage and delight audiences of all ages.

The WSO's prestigious national Young Composer Award was established in 2004. For more than 20 years, it has been a springboard for a generation of composers, whose pieces are played by a full orchestra as part of a WSO Season Concert.

Featuring up to 80 of Sydney's finest musicians on stage, the orchestra delivers a spectacular subscription series encompassing a remarkable spectrum of symphonic repertoire coupled with Australia's most outstanding guest artists, as well as popular classics that inspire and uplift the community. The WSO also presents captivating children's programs – fun and inclusive concerts designed to introduce young people to the joy of classical music.

The WSO has been led since 2001 by internationally celebrated orchestral icon and local legend, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor, Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM.

WSO is a cultural activity of Willoughby City Council.

Find out more about the orchestra and learn how you can get involved at willoughbysymphony.com.au.



Professor Dr Nicholas Milton AM is the Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra. With an association spanning nearly forty years, he has led the orchestra through a dynamic period of artistic excellence, sustained audience growth, and deep community engagement. A hallmark of his leadership has been creating opportunities for Australian musicians at every stage of their careers—working with many of the country's most distinguished soloists and conductors, nurturing emerging artists, and fostering the next generation of composers. Under his direction, the orchestra has evolved into one of Australia's most respected and innovative ensembles, celebrated for the quality and vitality of its programming.

Milton is also Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Göttingen Symphony Orchestra in Germany and Professor of Orchestral Conducting at the Gustav Mahler University for Music in Austria. As Chief Conductor of the Klagenfurt State Opera House, Austria, he led a critically acclaimed production of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, earning a "Best Conductor" nomination in the 2025 Austrian Music Theatre Prize. In the same year, he was awarded the Grand Decoration of Honour by the State of Carinthia for his contribution to cultural life.

Milton has appeared at leading opera houses, including Deutsche Oper Berlin, Komische Oper Berlin, and Volksoper Vienna, conducting repertoire from Mozart to Wagner, Britten, Puccini, and Richard Strauss. He also maintains a regular collaboration with Opera Australia, appearing in productions of *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Tosca* at the Sydney Opera House. In 2026, he returned to Sydney to conduct a new production of *Turandot* as well as Brahms's *A German Requiem*.

Milton's principal appointments have included General Music Director of Saarbrücken State Opera House and the Jena Philharmonic, and Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. He has conducted many of Europe's major orchestras, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the Bruckner Orchestra Linz, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, and Sinfonia Varsovia. He also served as assistant to Mariss Jansons on a major tour of Europe and the United States with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Milton was the youngest concertmaster of any major Australian symphony orchestra, serving with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, and was violinist with Macquarie Trio Australia.

He studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music before continuing his training in the United States, earning four master's degrees in violin, conducting, music theory, and philosophy. Mentored by Otto-Werner Mueller at The Juilliard School and Jorma Panula at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Milton holds a doctorate in music from the City University of New York.

His honours include the Australian Centenary Medal and his appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the arts. His discography of more than 60 recordings includes a GRAMMY® Award nomination and major projects with leading European orchestras, reflecting a career of exceptional breadth, versatility, and distinction that continues to shape his artistic leadership of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra.

IMAGE: Göttinger Symphonieorchester





A passionate advocate for music as a force for change, Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith is a conductor and socially-engaged artist, and the Associate Conductor of Willoughby Symphony Orchestra. Sarah made her international debut at The Dallas Opera in 2018 through the Hart Institute for Women Conductors. She regularly travels to Europe as an assistant conductor, including collaborations with Italian conductor Carlo Montanaro for the past seven years, and two programs with Professor Dr Nicholas Milton and the Göttinger Symphonieorchester in 2026.

In 2024, Sarah was one of only six artists and arts workers nationally to be awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship. She has recently returned from researching socially-engaged orchestral and operatic models across Europe and the USA, including visits to Santa Fe Opera and the Pueblo Opera Program, the Fundación Barenboim-Said, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, and the Refugee Orchestra Project.

As part of the Symphony Australia Conductor Development Program, Sarah worked with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra under Maestri Asher Fisch, Johannes Fritzsche, Marko Letonja and Christopher Seaman. Her role as Assistant Chorusmaster with Sydney Philharmonic Choirs saw her working with many

conductors, including Maestri Brett Weymark OAM, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Lorin Maazel.

Sarah has held positions with several Sydney choirs, most recently as the founding Artistic Director & Principal Conductor of River City Voices, a symphonic choir in Western Sydney combining access to major choral classics with telling local stories. Her pioneering programs included 'All Aboard With Beethoven', a collaboratively-created children's prom concert, 'What The World Needs', an album of choral arrangements of work by the neurodiverse musicians of Club Weld, and 'Slam Messiah', where Handel's masterwork meets performance poets. She has conducted operas for several Sydney companies, as well as many Sydney orchestras.

Sarah is committed to expanding classical music's ability to offer social change and cohesion. She received a residency for socially-engaged artists with The Cad Factory, later joining projects in regional Australia. Sarah and her wife Melanie Penicka-Smith produce and direct socially-engaged music projects, including Pacific Pride Choir tours to Germany, Poland, Cambodia and Vietnam, and commissioning and co-creating 'OCDiva', Dr Eve Klein's one-woman opera for mezzo-soprano and OCD advocate Yasmin Arkinstall.



WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY YOUNG COMPOSER AWARD 2027

The Willoughby Symphony Young Composer Award is the longest-running Australian orchestral composition competition that guarantees the winning work both a concert performance and a recording. This annual national competition was established to provide emerging Australian composers with the opportunity to work with a symphony orchestra, a vital stepping-stone for many artists.

Applications for the 2027 Young Composer Award will open in October 2026, and close in February 2027. For more details, including 2027 award criteria, please visit willoughbysymphony.com.au.

WSO gratefully acknowledges benefactor Mark Wakely for his generous support of the award in memory of his late partner Steven Alward.





THE EXPERIENCE AT THE CONCOURSE



From the moment you arrive, attending a concert at The Concourse, Chatswood, is an unforgettable experience. An award-winning venue located in the heart of Chatswood, The Concourse is easily accessible by public transport and surrounded by exciting shops to explore and plenty of cafés and restaurants to enjoy before or after every performance. The Concourse also offers convenient onsite parking with direct lift access to the venue.

Arrive early to enjoy a drink at the bar, which opens one hour before the concert, and take in the views over Chatswood. When you hear the bell ring, make your way into the stunning Concert Hall and find your seat.



The Pat Reilly Concert Hall boasts world-class acoustics and a sensational atmosphere. Inspired by traditional European designs, it creates an intimate space with the high ceiling maintaining a sense of grandeur and opulence. Honoured with five awards from the Master Builders Association and a finalist in the Sydney Design Awards, The Concourse, Chatswood, is the premier performance venue on Sydney's North Shore.

Visit theconcourse.com.au for more information.

THE ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN

Maria Lindsay #
Angela Cassar*
Jared Atherton
Lidia Bara
Heather Burnley
Tess Duflou
Armine Gargrtsyan
Lizzy Greenhalgh
Carolyn Griffin
Harmonnia Junus
Adrian Keating
Sheau-Fang Low
Tania Ma
Jenny Mee
Helen O'Sullivan
Katrina Papallo
Sarah Ross
David Saffir
Anna Smith
Elisabetta Sonogo
Caroline Sweeney
Anthea Taylor
Philippa Tomkins
Sophia Vasic
Lorraine Woods

VIOLA

Freyja Meany*
Robyn Brookfield
Liz D'Olier
Kirsten James
Rosemerry Johnston
Jonathan Karanikas
Josephine Lumanau
Benjamin Moh
Phil Ross
Amayah Ryan
Jane Silcock
Eda Talu
Mark Thieben
Eunice Wong

CELLO

Sarah Jameson*
Emily Cavey
Stephanie Chun
Julienne Guerbois
Caroline Hobbs
Sarah Ingham
Jenean Lee
Margaret Machamer
Nazli Sendurgut
Emily Wang
George Yang

DOUBLE BASS

Daniel Dean*
Paignthor Acevedo-
Martin
Jessica Hildebrandt
Eric Hutchens
George Machado
Michael McNamara
Elsen Price

FLUTE

Katrina Kelvin*
Katherine Keeler
Lucie Benz
Adrienne Hanslow

OBOE

Rie Tamaru*
Harry Wagstaffe
Frank Giraldo

CLARINET

Sam Kelson Gray*
Greg Larielle-Jones
Evan Guy
Lorenzo Italiano
Alice Morgan

BASSOON

Joshua Reynolds*
Tamasin Meller
Harry Pritchard
Nicholas Zengoski

SAXOPHONE

Simon Watts

FRENCH HORN

Graham Nichols*
Robyn Smiles
Adrian Hallam
Tina Brain

TRUMPET

Lars Mehlan*
David Gresham
Matthew Carter
Ray Cassar
Raphael Harvey
Richard Sandham
Sam Thompson
Michael Tierney

TROMBONE

Gregory Bennett*
Oscar Lewis
Max Gregg

BASS TROMBONE

Arthur Johnson*
Harry MacPherson

TUBA

Aidan Purdy
Benjamin Clarke
Campbell Egan
Ashton Parris

TIMPANI

Chiron Meller*

PERCUSSION

Joshua Hill
David Kimpton
Steven Machamer
William Naayen
J.B. Smith
Bryn Wood

HARP

Justina
Varkuleviciute

PIANO

Josephine Allan

#Concert Master
*Principal

DONATIONS AND CIVIC PLACE TRUST

The Civic Place Trust is helping to build a vibrant and inclusive cultural future for Willoughby. Established by Willoughby City Council in 2004, the Trust raises and distributes funds to support arts programs, cultural facilities, emerging talent, and world-class artistic experiences that enrich community life and make creativity accessible to all including Willoughby Symphony Orchestra.

Arts and culture bring people together, strengthen community connections, celebrate diverse voices, and inspire creativity across generations. By supporting the Civic Place Trust, you are investing in opportunities for local artists, musicians, and audiences, helping to ensure that arts and cultural experiences continue to thrive and make a lasting impact throughout our community.

Your tax-deductable gift of any amount is gratefully received.

Visit willoughby.nsw.gov.au/civicplacetrust or email civicplacetrust@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

OUR 2026 DONORS

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Philip Bell	Keith and Eileen Ong
Graeme Cruise	Delia Taylor
Rita Felton	Mark Wakely
Judy Hunt	

The trustee for Civic Place Trust is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

ABN 83 724 051 956

Pat Reilly Concert Hall
The Concourse
Level 1, 409 Victoria Ave Chatswood

wso@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
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theconcourse.com.au

