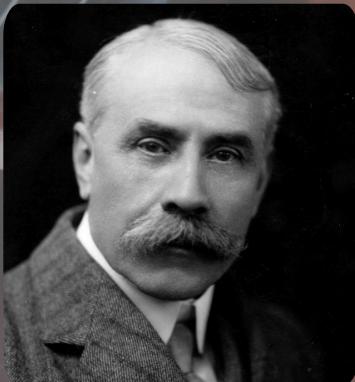


Portraits

The launch of the
Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra

CONDUCTED BY JESSIE SWAN



17 May, 2025 at 7:30pm

Galvin Hall

Wodonga Senior Secondary College

AWSO
ALBURY WODONGA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A note from our Artistic Director

Welcome to the launch concert of the Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra. This launch event comes from years of thinking about what a community orchestra would look like for this area. I can't think of a better way to introduce a new orchestra than with the composers we have collected for you today.



The Brahms Academic Overture was written at the very beginning of his career, and set the foundations for the amazing work he had yet to come. It was written when he was at university, and he was bright and fresh, and looking forward.

It's so exciting, and so important to showcase composers from our country and also from our region. Elena Kats-Chernin is such an important composer in Australia, and we are lucky to have her work available to us. Even more exciting for us as Albury/Wodongans is that we have our very own composer growing here, and it's a privilege to play William Paffen's orchestral work for you tonight.

This evening will conclude with the iconic Enigma Variations by Elgar. A collection of work that showed, for him, the strengths of his own friends, is so appropriate for us as we showcase the strengths of our own community in a musical way. There are so many things to listen out for in this work: quirky bike riders; enterprising innkeepers; romantic entanglements; the strength that comes from an amazing partnership. There is much for the listener to enjoy in this work.

Thank you so much for being here. Without the audience, the orchestra is incomplete - you are an essential part of this community too.

Enjoy the concert!

Jessie Swan

Portraits

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BRAHMS

ACADEMIC FESTIVAL
OVERTURE, OP.80

KATS-CHERNIN

DANCE OF THE PAPER UMBRELLAS

PAFFEN

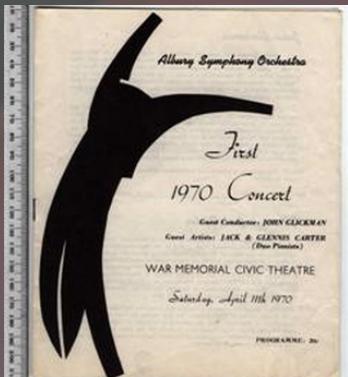
WALTZ OF THE BEES - WORLD PREMIERE!

ELGAR

ENIGMA VARIATIONS, OP.36



The history of the Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra



The Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra is not the first orchestra of its kind in this city. In 1857, there was a German String Band and in the following year, a German Harmonic Society was formed with 25 members.

1899 saw the formation of the Albury Grand Orchestra by Frederick Edward Quintrell, and their first performance with 30 performers was held at the Mechanics Institute on June 28, 1899. Jump ahead to the formation of the Albury Symphony Orchestra (1960-1970), a program of which you can see in the picture (left).

Even more recently there existed an Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra which initially rehearsed at Albury Public school and then the old Albury High School Boys' Hostel on Guinea Street. Members of the orchestra carpeted and painted this space to make it usable, before it became the Riverena Music Centre in 1979 under the leadership of John Ross, who was also one of its conductors. Other conductors included Kevin Williams, Greg Lewis and Paul Tasker. This orchestra was made up of a number of professional players, amateur musicians, and school-aged students. We are honoured to have some of its members performing with us today, many of whom remember Elena Kats-Chernin coming to workshop one of her own pieces with them nearly 20 years ago. How poignant that we are performing her music for you tonight.

In the words of local writer and historian Greg Ryan, "When Albury was growing from a small village to become a large regional centre, live music played a critical role in bringing people together...it is not unusual to read reports of many hundreds and sometimes a thousand or more turning up to listen to performances."

The Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra hopes to nurture such enthusiasm by creating joy through orchestral music.



Albury & District Historical Society. 2016. "Murray Conservatorium | Albury & District Historical Society Inc." alburyhistory.org.au.

Albury Library Museum. 1970. Albury Symphony Orchestra. Concert Program. Albury Library Museum Exhibition. <https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/leisure/museum-and-libraries/exhibitions>.
Ryan, Greg. 2015. "Early Band Music in Albury, 1855 - 1925." Albury History. Albury & District Historical Society. <https://alburyhistory.org.au/>.

Tasker, Paul, and Isbister, Helen. Email to Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra. 2025. "AWSO History." Email, May 8, 2025.

The Orchestra

Strings

Violin 1

Tara Chambers**
Alanna Clark^
Rachel Pringle
Alexandra Sutherland~

Violin 2

Bohdan Krowicky*
Rosie Bulmer
Emily Lescun
Vanessa Page^

Viola

Catriona Byles*

Cello

Billy Paffen*
Ian Whitaker
Ethan Porter
Lurene Johnston
Zahra Bourne
Janet Chapman
Paul Humphries

Double Bass

Susan Karaffa*

Woodwind

Flute

Caoimhe McMillan*
Katie Clarke
Steve Scott

Piccolo

Robyn Watts

Oboe

Kim Lewis*
Therese Scarfe
Priya Jones

Clarinet

Terence Goh*
Michelle Revelant
Penny Dawkins^

Bassoon

Stephen Draper*
Judith Hudson^
Fiona Williams^

Brass

French Horn

Heather Street*
Judy Foley
Esther Little
Helen Vincent^

Trumpet

Billy Stewart*
Jeremy Kerr
Matthew Schultz~

Trombone

Trevor Cooper*
Graeme Stewart

Bass Trombone

Mardi Sergi

Tuba

Fenella O'Sullivan~

Percussion

Percussion &

Timpani

Joash Little*
Rory Baines
Sean Howison

Piano

Lisa Bektash~

Harp

Esther Little

**Denotes Concertmaster

*Denotes Section Leader

~Denotes Guest Musician

^Absent for concert

Committee

Jessie Swan
PRESIDENT



Tara Chambers
VICE PRESIDENT



Katie Clarke
SECRETARY



Graeme Stewart
TREASURER



Catriona Byles
GENERAL COMMITTEE



Caoimhe McMillan
GENERAL COMMITTEE



Lisa Bektash
ORCHESTRA MANAGER



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Border Music
Camp

Wodonga Brass

Murray Concert
Choir

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Save the date

OUR NEXT CONCERT IS ON
AUGUST 10TH, 2.30PM
AT THE CUBE, WODONGA

AWSO is thrilled that our next concert will be conducted by one of Australia's leading maestros, Fabian Russell. With a distinguished career spanning decades, Fabian is renowned for his dynamic artistry and inspiring leadership. He has conducted some of Australia's best ensembles including the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Australian National Academy of Music Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra National Youth Orchestra, Corpus Medicorum, Australian Youth Orchestra, Victorian Opera, and The Orchestra Project. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to experience his brilliance with the Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra.



Creating joy
through
orchestral music.

