

THE
ALBURY WODONGA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PRESENTS

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

Artwork by Robert N. Oddy



CONDUCTED BY JESSIE SWAN

ALSO FEATURING MUSIC BY
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, ARTHUR BENJAMIN,
ALEXANDER BORODIN AND LEONARD BERNSTEIN!

MAY 2ND, 2026 | 7.30PM
THE CUBE, WODONGA

THE ORCHESTRA

FIRST VIOLINS

Tara Chambers

Concertmaster

Orlando Bulmer

Liling Patterson

Margaret Hurd

Rosie Bulmer[^]

SECOND VIOLINS

Damien Jones

Bohdan Krowicky

Kaitlyn Ferrer

Mona Liu

Rachel Pringle

Emily Lescun

Alexandra Sutherland[^]

VIOLAS

Cheryl Lewis

Toby Lewis

Catriona Byles[^]

Vanessa Page

Isabelle Ford

CELLOS

Ian Whitaker

Billy Paffen

Maddi Willie

Lurene Johnston

Zahra Bourne

Janet Chapman

Paul Humphries

DOUBLE BASS

Susan Karaffa

FLUTES

Katie Clarke

Caoimhe McMillan

Priya Jones

PICCOLO

Robyn Watts

OBOES

Kim Lewis

Hamish Spicer~

Steve Scott[^]

Therese Scarfe[^]

COR ANGLAIS

Kim Lewis

CLARINETS

Terence Goh

Penny Dawkins

BASS CLARINET

Michelle Revelant

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Michelle Revelant

BASSOONS

Fiona Williams

Judith Hudson

Stephen Draper

HORNS

Kelly McGuinness

Heather Street

Judy Foley

Helen Vincent

Esther Little

TRUMPETS

Billy Stewart

Katherine Martin~

Miles Martin~

Jeremy Kerr[^]

TROMBONES

Trevor Cooper

Graeme Stewart

BASS TROMBONES

Ella Wilson ~

Mardi Sergi[^]

TUBA

Fenella O'Sullivan~

PERCUSSION

Rory Baines

Katja Jorgensen

Joash Little

Ruth Little~

CELESTE/HARP

Lisa Bektash

HARP

Ruth Little~

Bold Principal

~ Guest Musician

[^] Absent for concert



AWSO
ALBURY WODONGA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PROGRAM

JESSIE SWAN Conductor

LEONARD BERNSTEIN
Overture to Candide

ARTHUR BENJAMIN
Jamaican Rumba

ALEXANDER BORODIN
In the Steppes of Central Asia

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Egmont Overture, op.84

INTERVAL

MODEST MUSSORGSKY, ARR. MAURICE RAVEL
Pictures at an Exhibition

Promenade

i. *Gnomus (Gnome)*

Promenade

ii. *Il Vecchio Castello (The Old Castle)*

Promenade

iii. *Tuileries (the Parisian gardens)*

iv. *Bydlo (Polish Oxcart)*

Promenade

v. *Ballet des Poussins dans leurs Coques (Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks)*

vi. *Samuel Goldenberg und Schmuyle*

vii. *Limoges - Le Marché (the Market)*

viii. *Catacombs; Con Mortuis in lingua mortua (With the Dead in a dead language)*

ix. *La Cabane sur des Pattes de Poule - Baba Yaga (the Hut on Chicken Legs - Baba Yaga)*

x. *La Grande Porte de Kiev (the Great Gate of Kiev)*



YOUR CONCERT AT A GLANCE

LEONARD BERNSTEIN (1918-1990)

Overture to Candide (1956)

Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* was a neo-classical operetta based on the French satire written by Voltaire, a philosopher of the Age of Enlightenment. Much like Voltaire's hero, the operetta had a troubling history. Composed at a time in Bernstein's life when he was involved in many theatre projects, *Candide* unfortunately closed less than three months after it opened - for Broadway, this was considered a flop.

Bernstein's *Overture to Candide*, however, is one of his most performed works. Demonstrating all the optimism of its hero, as well as the exaggerated and fantastic world depicted by Voltaire, it begins with a typically Bernstein fanfare before we stumble into the 'Battle Scene' of the operetta. We are then whisked into a lyrical contrast from the duet 'Oh Happy We', and the section is repeated with lighter orchestration before we are treated to the end of the aria 'Glitter and be Gay'. The Overture concludes with an amalgamation of everything we have just heard in a bombastic, spectacular finale.

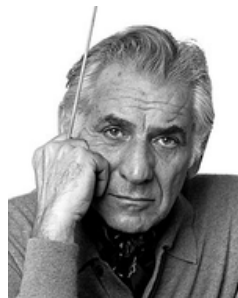


Image by Jack Mitchell

ARTHUR BENJAMIN (1893-1960)

Jamaican Rumba (1938)

Born in Sydney, Arthur Benjamin's incredible biography consists of musical accomplishments and accolades, as well as a horrific experience as a prisoner of war in Germany when his plane was shot down during World War I. After the war, Benjamin returned to Australia to become Professor of Piano at the New South Wales State Conservatorium of Music, Sydney. He later held a position as an adjudicator, during which he toured Australia, Canada and the West Indies. In 1925 he returned to England and joined the faculty of the Royal College of Music, where his piano pupils included Benjamin Britten and Peggy Glanville-Hicks.



Image by Lida Moser
National Portrait Gallery, London

Benjamin's compositions are described as 'stylistically eclectic.' In *Jamaican Rumba*, we experience vibrant melodies and rhythms which reflect the taste he developed for American and Latin American sounds during his travels.

ALEXANDER BORODIN (1833-1887)

In the Steppes of Central Asia (1880)

Alexander Borodin was a distinguished chemist and professor at the Medical-Surgical Academy in Saint Petersburg. As well as making genuine contributions to organic chemistry, Borodin secured himself a place among Russia's greatest composers.

In the Steppes of Central Asia was composed to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Tsar Alexander II's reign. As the Russian empire extended its influence deep into Central Asia, Borodin chose to honour this anniversary with a meditation on cultural encounter and peaceful coexistence. He wrote his own program note to guide his listeners:

"In the silence of the monotonous steppes of Central Asia, we hear the peaceful song of a Russian traveler and the distant melody of an Eastern caravan."



YOUR CONCERT AT A GLANCE

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Egmont Overture, op.84 (1809)

When Beethoven received a commission to compose incidental music for Goethe's play, *Egmont*, he was thrilled - Goethe was one of Beethoven's personal heroes. Count Egmont is a historical personage of the 16th century, serving in the Netherlands under King Philip II of Spain and trying to free his country from tyranny - a subject Beethoven was deeply interested in.



Beethoven's overture begins with a slow introduction, setting the ominous tone of tragedy. Here, the rebellious and righteous Egmont is depicted. The tone is then transformed into the more heroic second theme. As we approach the end of the overture, Beethoven's ominous chords return. Just as we feel the depths of despair, the final section begins to build, gradually surrounding us with a majestic fortissimo. In the play this becomes the 'Victorious Symphony,' played as Egmont mounts the execution block, utters his final words, and with his death signals a rebellion against tyranny and oppression.

MODEST MUSSORGSKY (1839-1881)

ARR. MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937)

Pictures at an Exhibition

Modest Mussorgsky wrote of his composition *Pictures at an Exhibition*, "Ideas, melodies, come to me of their own accord...I can hardly manage to put it all down on paper fast enough." Inspired by the art of his dear friend Victor Hartmann, who had died suddenly at the age of 39, Mussorgsky created an homage in the form of musical depictions of ten of the artist's canvases.



Modest Mussorgsky

In 1922, Maurice Ravel was urged by the conductor Serge Koussevitzky to create an orchestral transcription of the piano set. According to Orrin Howard of the LA Philharmonic, "The results do honor to both composers: The elegant Frenchman did not deprive the music of its realistic muscle, bizarre imagery, or intensity, but heightened them through the use of marvelously apt instrumentation."



Maurice Ravel

At the beginning of *Pictures* we hear what will become the ever-returning 'Promenade,' presented by the trumpets and then joined by the rest of the orchestra. The promenade's typically Russian irregular rhythm and modal inflection depict the composer walking through the gallery. We are gradually introduced to each of the canvases, including a nutcracker in the form of a wizened gnome, a satirical conversation between a rich and a poor man, the bustle of a French market, and finally the majestic gate of Kiev.

AWSO
ALBURY WODONGA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A NOTE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to the launch of AWSO's 2026 Season! We are so excited to bring you a wonderful selection of symphonic music throughout the year at the Cube, Wodonga.

When I was creating this program, I knew I wanted to have "Pictures at an Exhibition" at the centre. My first experience of this majestic piece was when I was 18 years old in my first year at the Elder Conservatorium, and I was awestruck by the enormity of the orchestra and the intensity of its sound. An orchestral favourite, it traverses the full soundscape of the orchestra with haunting characters in the winds, soaring melodies in the strings and deeply moving brass chords. The piece is rooted in Eastern European culture, and both Ravel and Mussorgsky were inspired by the land, architecture and people of Ukraine and Russia.

I couldn't get the image of a hot air balloon, floating over Russia and letting the wind carry it over the world, out of my head. It was this image that inspired the rest of the program, which starts with the joyous sounds of South America that are so characteristic of Bernstein's music. "Overture to Candide" is an orchestral favourite for a reason - a unique, wonderful fusion of classical form and texture with the rhythms and melodies of Latin America.

We float on to Jamaica, thanks to the work of Australian composer Arthur Benjamin. In the piece "Jamaican Rumba", he uses the folk tune 'Mango Walk' as a basis for this short orchestral dance. Continue our travels over the wide expanse that separates Asia and Russia with Borodin's Symphonic poem "In The Steppes of Central Asia," which tells the journey of two caravans as they traverse the ancient trade route. The first half of our performance concludes with the epic Egmont Overture by Beethoven. The piece hooks you in with its powerful opening F minor chord, and has you on the edge of your seat until the jubilant finale.

I would like to thank every person here who has supported the Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra over the past year - as a player, audience member, patron, sponsor, volunteer, or participant in our online spaces. It is such a joy to be able to serve this wonderful community by creating symphonic music. Enjoy the concert!



Jessie Swan

Artistic Director & Conductor

THANK YOU

THE COMMITTEE

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Tara Chambers *Vice President*

Katie Clarke *Secretary*

Graeme Stewart *Treasurer*

Catriona Byles *General Committee*

Caoimhe McMillan *General Committee*

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VOLUNTEERS

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Sam Langlands

Catherine Little

Timele Stewart

Jessica Stewart

Ben Turner

Lucy Turner

MARKETING

Tara Chambers

SUPPORTERS

Fabian Russell

Alistair McKean

Mitch Clarke

Fenella O'Sullivan

ORCHESTRA MANAGEMENT

Lisa Bektash

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Sam Langlands

Catherine Little

Lauren Schmutter

Olwen Steel

Lucy Turner

Cassandra Walters

Doug Westland

LIBRARY

Catriona Byles

Emily Lescun



SAVE THE DATE

The Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra invites you
to our next performances at The Cube, Wodonga!

August 16th | 2.30pm

December 6th | 2.30pm



**The Cube
Wodonga**

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tickets!



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