

2026 CONCERT  
SERIES 2 WINTER



# 'THREE WORLDS: NATURE, RESONANCE, LOVE'

Saturday 27th June / 7.30pm  
Sunday 28th June / 2.30pm

Bowral Memorial Hall,  
Bendooley St, Bowral

## Junior

Patrons:

Ann Carr-Boyd AM  
Andrew Ford OAM

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The SHSO reserves the right to amend the advertised repertoire and venue.

Welcome to the Southern Highlands Symphony Orchestra's second concert of 2026! This booklet has been put together for you to read and interact with while you are listening. You will notice some **Watching & Listening Missions** throughout this programme. These are special challenges and times for you to pay close attention to the orchestra and the music.

## ORDER OF CONCERT

**Welcome and opening remarks** – Jenette Stiles

**Acknowledgment of Country** – Anne Donaldson  
with music composed by John Corley

**ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK**

*In Nature's Realm*

**ALFRED HILL**

*Concerto for Violoncello*

Soloist William Howard

## **INTERVAL**

**SERGEI PROKOFIEV**

*Romeo and Juliet Suite No.2*

**PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY**

*Romeo and Juliet Overture - Fantasy*



photograph by Steven Foster

## **THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

In 2014, a group of musicians had a big dream- to bring together the very best players from across the region to create a symphony orchestra. Led by Allan Stiles and Roma Dix OAM, that dream became the Southern Highlands Symphony Orchestra. Since their very first concert in September 2014, the orchestra has become an important and exciting part of life in the Southern Highlands. Many of the musicians have been playing together for years and they love sharing music with our community. When you look at the orchestra during this concert, you're seeing teamwork in action- strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion all working together to tell a story through sound.

### **Meet the Conductor: ALLAN STILES**

Every orchestra needs a leader! That's the conductor. Allan Stiles has been making music since he was a teenager. He has conducted orchestras, bands, choirs and even musical theatre productions. He has helped young musicians grow into confident performers and has travelled overseas with school orchestras. When you watch him, notice how:

- His hands show the speed of the music
- His gestures shape loud and soft sounds
- The orchestra watches him closely
- How many pages of music he has to read and turn!

**Watching & Listening Mission:** Can you spot a time when the conductor makes a very big movement? What happens in the music when he does?



### **Meet the Soloist: WILLIAM HOWARD**

William Howard has been playing the cello professionally for more than fifty years. He has performed in Australia and around the world and enjoys teaching young musicians as well as performing. William is also a composer and arranger who writes music and creates resources for cello students. The concerto is especially exciting because William has helped prepare this rare version of Alfred Hill's music for cello.

The cello is often described as the instrument that sounds most like the human voice because it can sing beautiful melodies and express many different emotions.

**Watching & Listening Mission:** Watch how William and the conductor communicate without speaking. Can you hear when the cello is singing above the orchestra and when it becomes part of the group?

## **ABOUT THE MUSIC**

Below is some information about the music you are going to hear. The composer's name (the person who wrote the music) has been written in capital letters. Underneath the composer's name is the title of the piece of music.

### **ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK**

#### ***In Nature's Realm, Op. 91***

Antonín Dvořák was a Czech composer who loved spending time outdoors. He enjoyed walking through forests, listening to birds and enjoying the beauty of the countryside. Nature inspired many of his musical ideas.

*In Nature's Realm* is a musical picture of the natural world. The music begins quietly, as if a forest is slowly waking up. As more instruments join in, the music becomes brighter and more energetic. Dvořák even included a melody inspired by folk calls that people would sing across valleys and hillsides.

As you listen, you might imagine forests, streams, birds, sunshine, or wide open landscapes. The music grows and changes but returns to the peaceful feeling from the beginning.

**Listening Mission:** What pictures of nature come into your mind while you listen? Which instrument sounds most like part of the natural world?

### **ALFRED HILL**

#### ***Concerto for Violoncello***

#### **Soloist – William Howard**

Alfred Hill was one of Australia's most important composers. He wrote music for orchestras, chamber groups and solo instruments and helped shape music education in Australia.

The concerto you will hear has a special story. (A *concerto* is a piece of music that features one or more solo instruments to play with an orchestra). Hill originally wrote this music for the viola and later, the music was adapted for the cello. This cello version has never been heard before in public until now!

You are going to hear three parts (called movements) to the concerto. In between movements there will be silence. If this is your first orchestral concert, it might surprise you that it is customary not to clap between movements, but only at the very end of the piece. This is very normal and gives the audience a chance to continue enjoying what they have heard in their minds and a chance for the soloist and orchestra to prepare quietly for the next movement.

**Listening Mission:** During the concerto there is a *cadenza* where the soloist plays alone to showcase their skills. Can you spot the moment when the orchestra becomes silent and the cello plays alone?

### **THE STORY OF ROMEO AND JULIET**

Before you hear the music by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky, it helps to know the story that inspired both composers.

*Romeo and Juliet* is one of the most famous stories ever written. It was written more than 400 years ago by William Shakespeare and is set in an Italian city where two families, the Montagues and the Capulets, have been enemies for a very long time.

Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet meet at a party and before long, they fall in love. The problem is that they belong to rival families.

A wise monk named Friar Laurence secretly marries them, hoping that their love might help bring peace between the Montagues and the Capulets.

But things do not go according to plan. Arguments between the families grow worse and Romeo is forced to leave the city.

Juliet and Friar Laurence try to come up with a plan so the couple can be reunited but unfortunately a message meant to explain everything never reaches Romeo. This leads to a series of misunderstandings and consequences that cannot be undone.

In the end, the two families finally realise that their hatred has caused great pain, and they make peace but only after it is too late to undo what has already happened.

## SERGEI PROKOFIEV

### *Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2*

Sergei Prokofiev turned the famous story of Romeo & Juliet into a ballet, where dancers tell the story through movement and music. You will hear four scenes from the ballet.

**1.Montagues and Capulets-** This is one of the most famous pieces Prokofiev ever wrote. Heavy footsteps and powerful brass instruments represent the proud and powerful families. The music sounds serious, strong and sometimes threatening. **Listening Mission:** Can you hear the steady marching rhythm? Which instruments make the music sound powerful?

**2.Juliet as a Young Girl-** This movement shows Juliet before she meets Romeo. The music is playful, energetic and full of excitement. You can almost imagine her skipping and dancing. **Listening Mission:** Listen for short, light notes in the strings. Do they remind you of skipping footsteps?

**3.Friar Laurence-** Friar Laurence is the wise monk who tries to help Romeo and Juliet. The music is slower and more thoughtful. Lower instruments create a calm and serious atmosphere. **Listening Mission:** Which low-pitched instruments can you hear?

**4.Dance-** This movement is full of energy and excitement. The music changes mood quickly, creating a sense of activity and movement. **Listening Mission:** How many sudden changes in mood can you hear? Does the music ever surprise you?

## PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

### *Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy*

Like Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky was inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Instead of writing a ballet, he composed a concert work for orchestra that tells the story through music.

At the beginning, we hear music representing Friar Laurence. Soon the mood changes as the orchestra depicts the conflict between the Montague and Capulet

families. Then comes one of the most famous love melodies ever written, representing Romeo and Juliet.

Throughout the piece, love and conflict battle against each other. The music becomes dramatic, emotional and powerful before ending with a moving farewell to Romeo and Juliet.

**Listening Mission:** Listen for the beautiful love theme. Can you identify three different moods in this piece? For example: peaceful, angry, romantic, mysterious, hopeful or tragic.

Notes by Elizabeth Dalton, edited by Rebecca Hampton

### **PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**

We often refer to composers by their last names but some of them sound quite different to what we think they might be.

**DVOŘÁK** say Dvor-ZHAHK (the /zh/ makes a sound like the /s/ in treasure)

**PROKOFIEV** say Pro-KOF-ee-ev

**TCHAIKOVSKY** say Chy-KOF-skee

### **AFTER THE CONCERT- TALK ABOUT IT!**

On the way home, talk about these questions with your family:

- Which piece of music was your favourite?
- 
- What scenes did you picture in your head as you were listening?
- 
- Were there any instruments you hadn't seen or heard before?
- 
- Which composer do you think you'd like to hear more music of?
- 
- Which version of *Romeo and Juliet* did you enjoy the most?

## **INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA**

Below are the names of the instruments or sections of instruments in our orchestra. Just like you, they have their own family! How many instruments and players can you see and hear?

### **String Family:**

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp

### **Woodwind Family:**

Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Cor Anglais, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon

### **Brass Family:**

Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Bass Trombone, Tuba

### **Percussion Family:**

Timpani, Other Percussion Instruments (which ones can you see in this concert?)

## **DRAWING/WRITING SPACE**

Music connects with us in different ways. As you're listening you might like to draw or write about what you're feeling.





# 2026 CONCERT SERIES 3 SPRING



Southern  
Highlands  
Symphony  
Orchestra

## ‘LA MUSIQUE MAGNIFIQUE’ - A FRENCH GALA

Saturday 19th September / 7.30pm  
Sunday 20th September / 2.30pm

Bowral Memorial Hall,  
Bendooley St, Bowral



FEATURED  
SOLOIST  
Tim Senior  
(Viola)

### SPRING REPERTOIRE

Jacques Offenbach | *Overture to Orpheus in the Underworld*  
Maurice Ravel | *Pavane for a Dead Princess*  
Georges Bizet | *Carmen Suite No.2.*  
Hector Berlioz | *Harold in Italy* (Soloist Tim Senior)

CONDUCTOR: Dr Allan Stiles

PATRONS:  
Ann Carr-Boyd AM  
Andrew Ford OAM



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