

WollCon Presents

A classical journey



7PM SAT
29 JUNE 2024

WOLLONGONG
TOWN HALL

around the world

WOLLONGONG
CONSERVATORIUM
OF MUSIC

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PROGRAM

WollCon Symphony Orchestra
conducted by Mikaela Johnson
with *guest soloist* Matthew Ardern

Five Islands String Orchestra
conducted by Adrian Davis

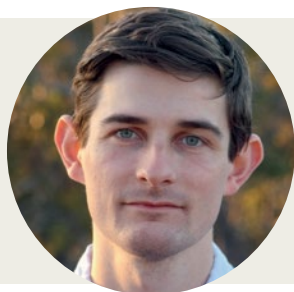
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Wollongong Conservatorium is located on Dharawal country. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, celebrate their continuing culture and the contribution First Nations people make to the life of this region and our country.

WELCOME

Embark with us as we journey to distant locations and explore the panoramic scenery sonorously. From folk dances to luscious landscapes to New York City, this itinerary of well-loved pieces is sure to delight both seasoned concert-goers and new explorers.

- David Francis, CEO of WollCon



Soloist

MATTHEW ARDERN

Performing Chopin - Piano Concerto No. 1

Matthew Ardern, a homegrown talent from the Central Coast, has been making waves in the music scene. Last year, he showcased his skills with a challenging movement from Rachmaninoff's 2nd Concerto, performing alongside the Symphony Central Coast. His local roots and talent make him a pianist to watch.

Matthew is in the final stage of his journey to becoming a Master of Music under the guidance of Ludmila Beliavskaia at Excelsia College. A testament to his unwavering dedication, despite initially studying chemistry and geology at Macquarie University, he discovered his true passion is music. In 2019, he made the bold decision to pursue piano studies at Excelsia College, recognising it as the path to his future. Throughout his studies, he has often been highly commended by the Sydney Eisteddfod across multiple categories, including the concerto category.

Matthew's performances are not just about playing the piano, but about creating an immersive experience for the audience. He invites you on a musical journey to delve deep into the rich meaning of music and discover the intricacies of sounds cleverly composed by Chopin in his first movement of the piano concerto No.1.

Program

FIVE ISLANDS STRING ORCHESTRA

conducted by Adrian Davis

Concerto in D Minor.....Antonio Vivaldi

I. Allegro

II. Largo

III. Allegro

Westward Motion.....Doug Spata

Central Coach Special.....Calvin Custer

Robin Hood Variations.....Matthew Hindson

I. Robin Hood and His Merry Men

II. The Sounds of Sherwood Forest

III. Fight Scene, and Robin's Triumphant Song

Libertango - Astor Piazzolla.....Astor Piazzolla

arr. James Kazik

Interval

WOLLCON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

conducted by Mikaela Johnson with soloist Matthew Ardern

Piano Concerto No.1 in E Minor.....Frederic Chopin

Allegro maestoso

Symphonic Dances.....Edvard Grieg

Norwegian Dance No. 2

Norwegian Dance No. 3

Rhapsody in Blue.....George Gershwin

arr. Jerry Brubaker

Dance of the Paper Umbrellas.....Elena Kats-Chernin

Finlandia.....Jean Sibelius

arr. Owen Goldsmith

The Lord of the Dance.....Ronan Hardiman

arr. Larry Moore



Five Islands String Orchestra

conducted by Adrian Davis

VIOLIN 1

Erno van Alphen
Helen Chalk
Stephanie Hill
Jill Buchan

VIOLIN 2

Colleen Baxter
Stephen McGuire
Melanie Makuch
Linda Tucker

VIOLA

Libby Ackers
Alan Craggs
Tom Hunt
Judy Mitchell

CELLO

Lu Allen
Jennifer Hollis
Virginie Croft
Andrea Groeller
Jules McCue
Anne Wisdom
John Daly
Julia Schira

DOUBLE BASS

Neil Cairns

PIANO

Lisa Baraldi



Conductor

ADRIAN DAVIS

Adrian Davis, a violist hailing from America, embarked on his musical journey at the tender age of four, starting with the piano. His musical path led him to the viola, which he began studying in his public school's string program at the age of eight. Since then, he has enriched his musical knowledge with a diverse education in both the United States and Australia.

He has held teaching positions at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, The University of Colorado Boulder, The Lovett School, and Sydney Catholic Schools. Adrian is currently teaching at the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, where he serves as head of the junior string program. He strongly believes in junior music education and advocates a holistic approach to music education. In addition, Adrian is the current Principal Violist and Acting Artistic Director of Steel City Strings.

Adrian has a Bachelor of Music from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa and a Master's degree in viola performance from the University of Colorado Boulder. He has participated in many summer festivals, such as The Sewanee Summer Music Festival, Hot Springs Music Festival, and Gateways Music Festival. His principal teachers have been Dr. Daniel Sweaney, Hillary Herndon, Erika Eckert, and Geraldine Walther.





WollCon Symphony Orchestra

conducted by Mikaela Johnson

VIOLIN 1

Erno van Alphen
Clare Blakemore
Michela Castagnone
Nyrie Davis-Raiss
Louise Manning
Judy Mitchell

VIOLIN 2

Pip Aitken
Lottie Berriman
Anne-Marie Boxall
Declan Greer
Leticia Nott
Johanna Thomas

VIOLA

Ian Butler
Alan Craggs
Kathy Michelmore

CELLO

Lu Allen
Rodney Berriman
Darcy Cullen
James Norton
Anne Wisdom

DOUBLE BASS

Luke Tierney

TYMPANI

Greg Knight

PERCUSSION

Sue Bonner
Vic Jankulovski
Paige Martin

FLUTE

Monique Findlay
Natalia Hanley
Beth Mayland
Thomas Karbowski

OBOE

Isabelle Ryan
Mima Schwarz

CLARINET

Helena Groves
Rhiannon Morgan
Naomi Kostoski

BASSOON

Julie Baratta

BASS CLARINET

Helena Groves

FRENCH HORN

Naomi Arnold
Victoria Beyer
Brian Richards

TRUMPET

Datu Begley
David Berry
David Heins
David Rooney

TROMBONE

Catherine Hewitt
Stephen Kinsella

TUBA

Neil Cairns

KEYBOARD

Cameron Langfield



Conductor

MIKAELA JOHNSON

Mikaela Johnson is a conductor and educator passionate about community music and bringing people together. Beginning piano and flute at a young age, she was mentored by teachers who inspired her to nurture her skills and share them with the community. This led to performing in ensembles such as the Penrith Youth Orchestra and the South Pacific Concert Band.

Mikaela's dedication to her craft led her to pursue a Bachelor of Music in Flute at Excelsia College, studying under Svetlana Yaroslavskaya. This experience inspired her to further her studies with a Master of Music in Conducting under the esteemed Sadaharu Muramatsu. Her time at Excelsia College was marked by numerous accolades, including the prestigious Valedictorian award. Mikaela has conducted the Penrith Youth Orchestra, Strathfield Symphony Orchestra, Excelsia College Choir, and currently serves as the musical director at WollCon Symphony Orchestra and Bankstown City Choir, a testament to her exceptional talent and dedication.

In this concert, Mikaela will lead you on a captivating, sonorous journey to explore distant locations. This itinerary of well-loved pieces has been both a challenge and a delight to rehearse with the orchestra and a truly wonderful showcase of their continued development.



AND FINALLY...



Our sincere gratitude to David Rooney

Nine years ago David set up and nurtured the Community Orchestra within his extensive portfolio of Community Bands and Orchestras.

Without David's intervention, the 80 year old tradition behind a Symphony Orchestra for Wollongong could have been lost.

Thank you to our Significant Donors

(local supporters over \$500)

Rodger Paton

Tom Hunt

And you, our wonderful audience tonight

Thank you so much for your interest and donations which are vital for us to be able to continue to develop and improve.

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