

50

The Big 5-0!

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR SADAHARU MURAMATSU
IN MEMORY OF RICHARD GILL





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HAPPY OCCASION
OVERTURE
MIRIAM HYDE

*

REDMYRE SUITE
ELENA KATS-CHERNIN

I ♦ II ♦ III

*

SYMPHONY NO. 7
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

I *Poco sostenuto - Vivace* ♦ II *Allegretto*
♦ III *Presto - Assai meno presto* ♦
IV *Allegro con brio*

*

PLUS A FEW BIRTHDAY
SURPRISES!

Approximate running time:

4 - 17 - Interval - 40

Refreshments served at interval

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

* * *

The Strathfield Symphony Orchestra is an integral part of our community that brings joy and delight through the gift of music. The orchestra not only aims to provide entertainment with enjoyable concerts and music programs throughout the community but also nurtures young musicians to develop their talent and showcases the works of Australian composers.

As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra, tonight is an opportune time to reflect on how the journey began. The orchestra was first formed by a local resident and esteemed music educator, Emily Finn in 1969. Since then, the orchestra has made incredible progress and continues to be actively present in the Strathfield community providing residents access to classical music at affordable rates.

Strathfield Council is proud of their accomplishments and encourages the community to support local musical groups and organisations such as the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra or, if you have hidden talent in music to join the growing team! I extend my sincere congratulations and wish Strathfield Symphony Orchestra all the very best in the future.



Cr Gulian Vaccari
Mayor of Strathfield Council



FROM THE PARTY PLANNER

This concert was conceived 8 years ago over a glass of red wine after a concert, as was usual practice of the core committee at the time. I had been putting together the brand new website for the orchestra and had been trawling through the history files for interesting things to include. When I realised that Richard Gill had been the founding conductor of the orchestra in 1969, I boldly declared "We are going to get Richard back to conduct the fiftieth birthday!" and there started the journey.



It was with great sadness that we learnt of Richard Gill's passing. He had responded to our invitation to return and conduct part of our fiftieth anniversary concert with enthusiasm and excitement, proud that the orchestra he conducted in their first concert in 1969 was still learning, growing and providing musical experiences to the local community. We are extremely proud to present the concert today in his memory, remembering his long held belief that music is an essential experience for all people.

Personally, this year marks my twentieth year playing with Strathfield Symphony and I can not overstate what an important part of my life it has become. It has enriched my life through the connections it has brought to the community and of course to music. I hope I am fortunate enough to be around for the next 50 years.

LAURA JAMIESON

FROM THE PRESIDENT

* * *

Strathfield Symphony Orchestra would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we meet and perform on, the Wangal people of the Durag tribe. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Happy Birthday Strathfield Symphony Orchestra!

Welcome to our third concert season for this year, celebrating 50 years of making music in the Strathfield Community. I am really delighted that you have chosen to join us in celebrating this magnificent milestone.

This celebratory year began with two concerts that were retrospective in nature, looking back at the music of two major classical periods and reviewing our rich heritage through music. This concert aims to continue that theme while celebrating our significant anniversary, celebrating the here and now.

The music selected for this concert may on the surface look somewhat eclectic but it has been specifically chosen for its relevance to the musical history of the Orchestra and some of the key players involved. We also hope to interject the program with a few musical surprises along the way, after all that is what birthdays are all about.

From humble beginnings, the Orchestra was founded in 1969

CRAIG GILES

aiming to give local musicians and audiences alike access to a classical repertoire, on a regular basis at a reasonable price within the community. I am delighted that 50 years down the track, we still have this same focus.

A community Orchestra is like a marriage without the vows and with many people involved. There will be good times, and there will be not so good times, however with a lot of hard work, determination and persistence from players, volunteers, supporters and ever hard-working committee members, here we are. I am grateful to all of those who have come before and hope I honor their legacy of hard work to deliver a sustainable orchestra for the future.

Right from the start, we have enjoyed the very generous support of Strathfield Municipal Council who provide us with a home base to rehearse and perform from. Our sincere thanks must go to the Council, their generous support enables us to make the connections with people in our shared community and we are honored to have them as a long-term partner.

This is a musical journey we are on, with no specified end date or destination. Sometimes they are the best travel plans and we hope you will join us well into the future to help us make the journey memorable.

OUR HISTORY



1969

Our inaugural concert: 5 July 1969, conducted by Richard Gill



1971

The first short history of the orchestra is written, just three years after the first concert!



1979

Stratfield Youth Orchestra founded



1983

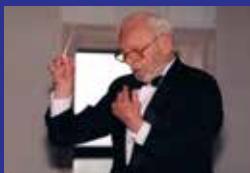
Beethoven, Bangers & Bubby: a new, casual approach to classical music concerts. Not so popular with the conservative Stratfield audience!

CONDUCTORS

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Richard Gill | 1969 | Leonard Burtenshaw | 1971 |
| | | Richard Gill | 1972-74 |
| | | Graeme Russell | 1975-76 |
| | | John Liddy | 1977 |
| | | Peter Crane | 1977-80 |
| | | Anatole Korobko (choral) | 1978 |
| | | Richard Gill | 1978-79 |
| | | Elizabeth Jones (Choral) | 1980 |
| | | Ted Smith (guest) | 1981 |
| | | Rita Fin | 1981-84 |

PRESIDENTS *

Emily Finn (1969-71) | Bruce Dunlop (1971-73) | Geoffrey Fox (1974-75) |
Cliff Reay (1976) | Geoff Widmer (1977-88)



1985

Conservative
SSO players are
shocked at the offer
to play *Jesus Christ
Superstar* with
South Strathfield
High. Despite their
reservations, it was
a raging success



1995

During
Solomon Bard's
directorship,
the orchestra
made a particular
effort to play
contemporary
Australian
compositions



2000

Strathfield
String quartet
formed and
begins playing
at council
functions
including
citizenship
ceremonies, ably
wrangled by Roger
Barker



2003

With a
renewed focus
on the local
community,
Strathfield
present their
first family
concert



2005

The orchestra
tours to Goulburn
for the Southern
Highlands music
festival. Playing in
the cathedral, we
were religiously
renamed to
St Rathfields!

Carl Hammond **1985-86**

Matthew Krei **1986-94**

Solomon Bard **1995-2004**

Ivan Ungar (guest) **1999**

Edie Rens (guest) **2001**

Erick Fackert (guest) **2002**

Matthew Wood (guest) **2004**

Carolyn Watson (guest) **2004**

Philip Chu (guest) **2004**

Paul Dhasmana **2005**



2007

In a world première, the SSO present a multimedia extravaganza with Westlake's Antarctica Suite and a re-edit of the original IMAX film



2008

Long-time member Ted Davies gifts a quartet of instruments made by a local amateur instrument maker, John White.



2009

Bruce Lane commissions Elena Kats-Chernin to write the *Redmyre Suite* for the orchestra to celebrate its 40th anniversary



2011

The orchestra played to its largest audience to date at sunrise on Bondi Beach as part of the Crave Festival, conducted by Bernard Walz



2013

A long term collaboration with Excelsia choir kicks off with a sold out performance of Bach's *B Mass minor*. Sakura Choir joined the choir collaboration in 2016

Sarah Grace Williams 2006-10

Chris Elenor (2001-2010)

Cristian Cimei (guest) 2010
Bernard Walz (guest) 2010
Cristian Cimei (guest) 2011
Geoffrey Gartner (guest) 2011
Sadaharu Muramatsu (guest) 2011
Bernard Walz (guest) 2011

Sadaharu Muramatsu 2012-

Bruce Lane (2011-15)



2014

A fantastic year of creativity with Mahler's *Song of the Earth*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* with actors and a collaboration with Rockdale Opera to perform *The Merry Widow*



2018

We partner with local NSW Public school youth orchestra, Symphonia Jubilate, renewing our contribution to the local community and youth music development

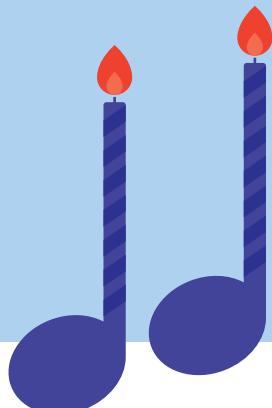
HELP US
CELEBRATE OUR BIG

5-0!

Buy us a birthday present!

Did you know our orchestra typically has 65 music stands on stage? Ours are getting on a bit (just like us!) and we need to buy some new ones. This is an expensive exercise for a full Symphony Orchestra as each stand costs around \$170.

If you would like to buy us a birthday present, we would love a music stand (or part of one!). We are a registered charity, so any donations over \$2 are tax deductible. You can donate online or at the front desk. We appreciate your support.



HAPPY OCCASION OVERTURE

* * *

Miriam Hyde has been an important figure throughout the history of the orchestra. Her husband and daughter both played first violin and served on the committee and Miriam performed as a soloist with the orchestra on five occasions. Her works have featured even more heavily in Strathfield Symphony programs with various works being programmed in 11 separate concerts over our 50 year history with concerts dedicated to her on her 90th birthday, commemoration of her death and the centenary of her birth. Miriam performed her 2nd Piano Concerto with us many times, including just before her 90th birthday and also hand wrote program notes specifically for some Strathfield performances. Our collection of correspondence regarding her works has been added to the extensive Miriam Hyde collection at the National Library in Canberra..

Strathfield last performed the Happy Occasion Overture in 2003 in celebration of Miriam Hyde's 90th birthday, under the baton of Solomon Bard. Incidentally, this was also the very first concert that our current concertmaster, Paul Pokorny appeared in (noted in the program that he was on loan from Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra, we seem to have never returned him!).

The overture was first performed in 1994 on the occasion of the orchestra's 25th anniversary under the baton of Matthew Krel.

MIRIAM HYDE
(1913 - 2005)

NOTES FROM THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

In 1958 the newly formed Australian Youth Orchestra gave its inaugural performance under the baton of John Bishop. Wishing to present a new Australian composition in this first concert the directors of the orchestra turned to Miriam Hyde, a composer who had actively supported youth and amateur music-making throughout her long career. For Hyde, the easiest part of the commission was inventing a suitable title, since the AYO promised to lead the way in providing exciting and happy experiences for countless young Australian musicians. While the music is clearly the work of a mature musician, Miriam Hyde has filled it with the spiritedness and optimism of youth, evident in the overture's brisk rhythms and uplifting melodies.

- Yvonne Frindle, 1994

The Happy Occasion Overture which closes our concert tonight will herald in the twenty-sixth year of music making in the Strathfield area. We recognise the valuable assistance and support of the many Society Members, musicians, and concert-goers who have enabled Strathfield Symphony Orchestra to continue performing, and we welcome your continued support which will allow the orchestra to do what it likes best: making music.

- Geoff Widmer, 1994, program for the 25th Anniversary of Strathfield Symphony



REDMYRE SUITE

* * *

When Bruce Lane first approached me about this commission, I was very excited about writing for a community orchestra for the first time. This orchestra was celebrating its 40th Birthday, a big milestone. I wanted to write a piece which evoked the past and had lyrical as well as celebratory moments. As in Wild Swans, the form of the suite enabled me to realise different moods.

In the first movement which starts in E major I look back at the music of Bach, his famous Air with the walking pizzicato (plucked strings) of the bass and Chopin (Etude in E major) and merge the two pieces. It was a little bit like a conversation that Bach and Chopin might have been having had they met across the centuries and countries! I think that while looking at the musical past, I am also finding my way into the musical present. Here the strings have the biggest role in setting up the texture, with horns and trumpets sharing the melody with the woodwinds, the melody then moving between sections of the orchestra. This movement is about calmness and contentedness, looking back in pride.

Movement two has more to do with the Strathfield train station and my personal experiences with that train station. Just before I started writing my middle son Alexander, who suffers from schizophrenia, was found wandering the train tracks at Strathfield train station at night, luckily, he was noticed by a superintendent on watch at the time – and this was a strong influence in this movement. Strathfield's development is strongly linked to the railway, and I wanted to describe the rhythm of the city on the move, in almost a dramatic way.

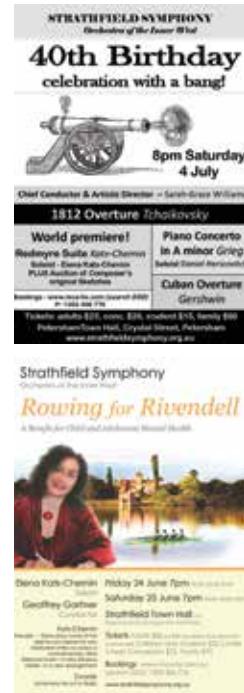
ELENA KATS-CHERNIN
(1957 -)

Movement three has more of a celebratory nature. It starts with brass chords to salute the birthday. Then we have a section moving in a challenging irregular metre of 10/8 (10 quavers to a bar). The brass saluting chords return towards the end of the piece, the piece itself ending in a somewhat light, reflective and optimistic manner. As usual with my music, there are changing shades of darkness and lightness in the texture, harmony and orchestration.

It was fabulous to revisit the piece recently (July 2019) with the orchestra's conductor Sada and Laura, one of the players.. . Going through the score of the Redmyre Suite was like meeting an old friend again and reliving the memorable and moving times with this piece, especially its second performance which was to raise funds for Rivendell, something I felt very strongly about.

While I am in Berlin during its September 2019 performance, I will, of course, be emotionally present at the September celebration concert and I wish everyone a wonderful joyful concert and am sending the very best wishes and my gratitude for the dedication and musicianship of all involved.

— Elena Kats-Chernin, July 2009, revised July 2019



STRATFIELD SYMPHONY
Orchestra of the Junior School

40th Birthday
celebration with a bang!

8pm Saturday
4 July

Chief Conductor & Artist Director – Sarah-Green Williams

1812 Overture Tchaikovsky

World premiere!
Redmyre Suite Kats-Chernin

Soloist – Elena-Kats-Chernin
PLUS Arrangements of Composer's
Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor

Piano Concerto in A minor Grieg

Belvoir String Quartet

Culian Overture Gershwin

www.stratfieldsymphony.org

Stratfield Symphony
Orchestra of the Junior School

Rowing for Rivendell
A Benefit for Child and Adolescent Mental Health



Denia Kats-Chernin Friday 24 June 7pm www.stratfieldsymphony.org

Geoffrey Gethin Saturday 25 June 7pm www.stratfieldsymphony.org

Stratfield Town Hall

Friday Denia Kats-Chernin Friday 24 June 7pm www.stratfieldsymphony.org

Saturday Geoffery Gethin Saturday 25 June 7pm www.stratfieldsymphony.org

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Saturday Geoffery Gethin Saturday 25 June 7pm www.stratfieldsymphony.org

Stratfield Town Hall

SYMPHONY NO. 7

* * *

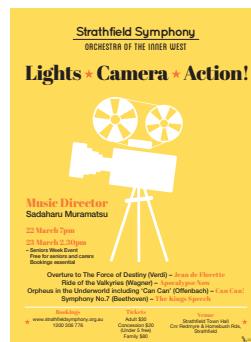
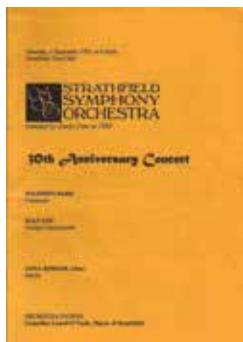
Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7* coincides with some important milestones in the orchestra's history. First performed by the orchestra under the baton of founding conductor, Richard Gill some time in the early 70s (no records survive unfortunately), the work has popped up once a decade since then. When we asked Richard Gill what he would like to choose for the program for this concert, he told us that back in the 70s when it was first performed, they only performed one movement of the Symphony. Richard thought it would be great to be able to return for our 50th birthday and finally get to finish the whole Symphony nearly 50 years later. To our great sadness, Richard is no longer with us, but we present this Symphony in his memory and are pleased to be able to play the whole work in his honour.

The 7th Symphony is also connected to another significant anniversary for the orchestra having been performed in 1999 at the 30th anniversary concert under the baton of our longest serving conductor, Solomon Bard. The 30th Anniversary concert also featured a work by Miriam Hyde (*Heroic Elegy*) in recognition of her importance to the orchestra's history.

Symphony No. 7 was again performed by Strathfield Symphony in 2004 conducted by guest conductor, Matthew Wood. This was the orchestra's first concert after farewelling Solomon Bard and marked the beginning of many guest conductors until the appointment of new Artistic Director Sarah-Grace Williams in 2006.

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
(1770 - 1827)

Our next outing with the 7th Symphony came about in 2014 in the 3rd year with our current Artistic Director, Sadaharu Muramatsu. The concert was titled *Lights, Camera, Action!* and was a movie music themed concert. The opening of the second movement was featured in the movie 'The King's Speech' as Colin Firth recreated King George VI's speech to the country as Britain entered the second world war.



AMAZINGLY IMPORTANT PEOPLE

* * *

Over 50 years, there are so many people to thank for extraordinary contributions, but it has to be said that there are a few standouts.

The **Edwards** family – **Marcus** was our first treasurer. **Miriam (Hyde)** served on the committee, donated money for music purchases, not to mention composing and performing her own extraordinary works (one of which we are playing tonight). **Christine Edwards** served on the committee, played first violin for many years and still attends all of our concerts.

The **Bernie** family – **Charles** and **Joyce** were our librarians for years and **Ross** played oboe and was the longest serving treasurer in the orchestra's history. Ross still attends our concerts, travelling from New Zealand!

It goes without saying that our longest serving volunteer and secretary, **Shirrley Mahableshwarwalla** has been absolutely integral to keeping the orchestra running. She is the keeper of our history and now travels from Kiama by train to attend our concerts.

Presidents of the committee have always been key in setting the tone and direction of the orchestra. **Emily Finn**, founder and first president was succeeded in 1971 by **Bruce Dunlop** who was still helping the committee in 2000 when I became treasurer. I credit Bruce for teaching me double entry book keeping! **Geoff Widmer**, president for over 10 years, kept the orchestra running through some lean times and also served as handyman. Geoff built the risers that our French Horns

SHIRRLEY MAHABLESHWARWALLA
& LAURA JAMIESON

sit upon to this day. **Chris Elenor** who became president in 2001 passionately advocated for the importance of the orchestra's mission to be friendly and provide all amateur players the opportunity to participate, cementing our socialist credentials. **Bruce Lane** presided over the most exciting period for the orchestra in terms of programming with new works, commissions and collaborations with choirs and actors featuring strongly. **John Trezise** led boldly through a period of uncertainty during the council amalgamations. **Craig Giles** has picked up the baton with flair, bringing our collaboration with the local council and community back to the forefront of what we do.

We have also had many extraordinary players over the years. There are three players that joined the orchestra in the 1980s that are still playing with us today - **Rohini Thavaravy** (who also served as president for 3 years from 1989-1992), **David Young** (trumpet), and **Alex Thorburn** (Bassoon). **Joe Singles** used to travel by public transport from the eastern suburbs, his violin case covered in a blanket and carried in a garbage bag to deter thieves! **Ted Davies**, keeper of the keys and tea for over 20 years. **Vincent Leonard** and **Roger Barker**, founding members of the string quartet and jacks of all trade. **Behram Taleyarkhan** travelled from Balgownie, and when he could not drive, his wife drove him to rehearsals and his daughter sold tickets on concert days. Behram used to say that he travelled so far to play with Strathfield because we are the friendliest orchestra in Sydney, a claim we are proud to continue to this day.

SADAHARU MURAMATSU

Born in Aichi, Japan and based in Sydney, Australia, Dr Sadaharu Muramatsu (Sada) is the Artistic Director of Strathfield Symphony Orchestra, Guest Conductor of Symphonia Jubilate (2019 – 2020), Lecturer and Conductor at Excelsia College (formerly Wesley Institute), Conductor of Suzuki Cello Ensemble and Artistic Director of Sydney Sakura Choir. Recently, he also conducted the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra and Central Aichi Symphony Orchestra in Japan, and has concerts planned in Japan for 2020.

Sada completed a Masters of Music in Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and a fellowship to study conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney under the Japanese Government Overseas Study Program for Artists.

His accomplishments include a commendation from the Japanese Foreign Minister (2019), Consul-General of Japan's Commendation Award in Sydney (2018), an Honorary Doctorate in Music from his alumnus Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, UK (2011); second prize in the Vienna Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival with the Wesley Institute Choir in the Golden Hall, Musikverein, Austria (2011); finalist and awarded Special Prize of the Jury at the Emmerich Kalman International Conductor's Competition at the Budapest Operetta Theatre, Hungary (2007); semi-finalist in the 2nd Bartok Bela International Opera-Conducting Competition in Romania (2007); Mortimer Furber Prize for Conducting in Manchester, UK (2005); and First prize at the ISIS Conducting Competition in Cambridge, UK (2001).

Sada studied conducting under Imre Pallo, Kurt Masur, Sir Mark Elder CBE, Hirofumi Misawa and Kazuki Sawa.



OUR PLAYERS

VIOLIN 1

Paul Pokorny*#
Garth Andrews
Christian Antoniak
Volf Frishling
Zofia Majak
Sarah Ng
Chantal Nguyen
Melissa Ong
Richard Willgoss

VIOLIN 2

Philip Hazell*
Kico Imai Arnold
Rosslyn Irvine
Laura Jarimba
Aimee Palfreeman
Rohini Mulford
Agnieszka Rypel
Judy Whitlock

VIOLA

David Angell**
Chris Elenor
Andrew Heike
Laura Jamieson
Haruki Muramatsu
Vosco Nguyen
Harriet O'Donnell

CELLO

Alicea Gedz*
Anna Bray
Vanessa Chalker
Craig Giles
Jane Ryu

DOUBLE BASS

Victoria Su

FLUTE

Rebecca Brown
Bruce Lane
Alex Davidson

OBOE

Adele
Haythornthwaite*
Hinako Matsuo

CLARINET

Lucy Tokuoka
Trish Santoso

BASSOON

John Fletcher*
Alex Thorburn

FRENCH HORN

Sarah Gulyamova
Stephen Smith
Annalisa Solinas
Amanda Whitfield

TRUMPET

David Young
Janette Vardy

TROMBONE

Lindsay Smartt*
Phil Dunkley

TUBA

Gary Levin

TIMPANI / PERCUSSION

Steve Machamer*
Will Hemsworth
Alex Masso
Mason Pun

HARP

Leigha Dark

PIANO

Paul Cheung

* Principal | ** Acting Principal

Concertmaster | ^ Deputy Concertmaster

OUR COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Craig Giles

LIBRARIAN

Alicea Gedz

VICE PRESIDENT

Alicea Gedz

ORCHESTRA

MANAGER

Vacant

TREASURER

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Dorothy Sercombe

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SECRETARY

Laura Jamieson

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Sadaharu Muramatsu

CONCERTMASTER

Paul Pokorny

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Vincent Leonard

Bellissario Hernandez

Margaret Shirley

Marie Hodsdon

Chris Elenor

Geoff Widmer

Laura Jamieson

Shirrley Mahableshwarwalla

Bruce Lane

AND...

STAGE MANAGER

Craig Giles

CONCERT CATERING

Richard Sercombe

PROGRAM NOTES

Laura Jamieson

ART DIRECTION/

DESIGN

Zoë Barber

STRATHFIELD SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA APPRECIATES
THE SUPPORT OF





PAUL POKORNY, CONCERTMASTER

Our Concertmaster Paul Pokorny has also appeared as soloist for the Strathfield Symphony. He has played in many of the orchestras in Sydney including the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra (as Concertmaster) and also regularly plays with The Metropolitan Orchestra, Balmain Sinfonia and the Bourbaki Ensemble.

Paul also leads the Strathfield String Quartet, performing at many Strathfield Council functions, as well as weddings and other events. Paul often plays for musical and opera societies, and enjoys singing and playing piano.



ABOUT THE SSO

Strathfield Symphony Orchestra first performed under the baton of Richard Gill in 1969 and are excitedly celebrating our golden jubilee in 2019. Lead by our Artistic Director, Sadaharu Muramatsu, our 50th year is a season of exciting programs and very special guests.

Strathfield Symphony is a not-for-profit, community orchestra run by its members. We benefit from the ongoing support of Strathfield Council, which has provided rehearsal and concert venues throughout our long history.

Strathfield Symphony is dedicated to giving local audiences access to exciting and challenging classical programs, and providing opportunities for local players to perform under the direction of our inspiring Artistic Director, Sadaharu Muramatsu.



SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

7PM

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SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

2.30PM

STRATHFIELDSYMPHONY.ORG.AU

Strathfield Symphony
Orchestra of the Inner West