



Penrith
Symphony
Orchestra



The Americas

Music for Eternity

Orchestral Masterworks

The Elixir of Youth

Operatic Favourites

Pops for Tots



Concert Season 2012

22nd Annual Subscription Series | Patron Myer Fredman

2012 Season

Penrith Symphony Orchestra

There is a strong thread of discovery woven through this year's program, and as always there is something for every musical taste.

In the subscription series, **The Americas** captures the diversity and frontier spirit of North and South American musical traditions, while **Music for Eternity** presents a range of dramatically contrasting musical responses to death and the afterlife. In **Orchestral Masterworks**, three great European composers push some formal, harmonic and political boundaries, while in **The Elixir of Youth**, the craft of young composers still exploring their artistic voice is on display.

Soloists this year include some of Australia's most distinguished artists as well as some rising stars from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. In addition to a solo performance by the 2011 Sydney Conservatorium High School Outstanding Student of the Year, this season sees the orchestra perform its first commissioned work, under the new Penrith Symphony Orchestra Support for Young Composers Scheme.

On the podium there will be both familiar and new conductors, including Artistic Director Paul Terracini, popular **Pops for Tots** conductor and presenter George Ellis, and Sydney-based young Italian conductor, Cristian Cimei.

In addition to the subscription series, an exciting new venture this year is **Operatic Favourites**, presented in the Q Theatre in December. More than a program of arias and orchestral highlights, this performance also includes a full, semi-staged production of Pergolesi's short opera *La serva padrona*, a seminal work written at the dawn of the Classical opera period.

We gratefully acknowledge continuing support in 2012 from Penrith City Council, the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, our generous business sponsors and individual donors. Without this support it would not be possible to present orchestral performances on this scale.

Even with volunteer management, the costs of running a symphony orchestra are high and the funding environment is uncertain. If you would like to help support the orchestra and secure its long-term future, I urge you to do two things:

- Show your commitment to fine music in Western Sydney by subscribing. (Subscribers receive benefits amounting to savings of up to 31% on a four-concert early bird subscription.)
- Consider making a tax-deductible donation, as outlined in this brochure.

We look forward to having you join us for an exciting musical experience in 2012



David Cervi
President, Penrith Symphony Orchestra

at a glance

Subscription Series

Saturday 17 March

The Americas

Stravinsky, Copland, Ginastera, Gershwin and more

Saturday 26 May

Music for Eternity

Rimsky-Korsakov, Saint-Saëns, Liszt and Fauré

Saturday 1 September

Orchestral Masterworks

Beethoven, Saint-Saëns and Mendelssohn

Saturday 10 November

The Elixir of Youth

Britten, Howes, Gershwin and Tchaikovsky

Saturday 1 December

New! Operatic Favourites

Pergolesi's *La serva padrona* and operatic highlights, semi-staged in the Q Theatre

Pops for Tots – interactive concerts for children

Springwood
Penrith

Sunday 17 June
Sunday 24 June

Subscription Concert 1 The Americas

Saturday 17 March, 8pm
Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre

Paul Terracini conductor
Jenny Liu soprano
Robert McDougall baritone

Many strands of North and South American musical tradition are brought together in this rich and varied program. Aaron Copland, often described as the quintessential American composer, is heard in two orchestral works derived from ballet scores originally for much smaller forces. Stravinsky, on the other hand (a Russian émigré who adopted the United States as his homeland), wrote his *Circus Polka* for a circus ballet performance involving 50 elephants and 50 ballerinas! No musical overview of the Americas would be complete without tribute to the jazz and popular song traditions of the 1930s, as heard here in Gershwin standards including *Summertime* and songs by Johnny Green, Sammy Fain and Gordon Jenkins. The ballet suite *Estancia* by Argentinian composer Alberto Ginastera (a student of Copland), exemplifies the composer's integration of Argentinian folk idiom into his modern classical style.



STRAVINSKY

Circus Polka

COPLAND

Variations on a Shaker Melody
(from *Appalachian Spring*)

COPLAND

Billy the Kid Suite

GERSHWIN, GREEN,
FAIN and JENKINS

Classic songs from the 1930s

GINASTERA

Suite *Estancia*

Jenny Liu and Robert McDougall are among a talented generation of young singers emerging from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Jenny has been a finalist in eisteddfods and several prominent singing competitions, and has performed, broadcast and toured in recitals, opera and oratorio with the Conservatorium. With a broad background in music theatre and jazz as well as classical singing, Robert has more recently appeared in opera and concert performances with the Conservatorium, as well as performing in music theatre and for numerous corporate events.



Subscription Concert 2 Music for Eternity

Saturday 26 May, 8pm

Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre

Paul Terracini conductor

Cowley Fu piano

Boy soprano soloist

Alexander Knight baritone

Penrith City Choir

Penrith City Youth Choir

Four great composers, four vastly different perspectives on eternity. Drawing on melodies from Russian Orthodox liturgical chant, Rimsky-Korsakov (himself a non-believer) portrays a transition from the solemnity of Passion Saturday to the celebration of Easter morning. In *Danse Macabre*, Death (represented by a diabolical fiddle) calls the dead from their graves at midnight each Halloween to dance their nocturnal dance of death. *Totentanz* is one of many works inspired by Liszt's morbid fascination with death, an obsession which is said to have led him to frequent hospitals and prisons to observe those condemned to die. Fauré's setting of the Roman Catholic Mass for the Dead, with its sublime "Pie Jesu", concludes the concert with an altogether more serene and uplifting view of eternity.



RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

Russian Easter Festival Overture

SAINT-SAËNS

Danse Macabre

LISZT

Totentanz

FAURÉ

Requiem



Alexander Knight is currently completing an Advanced Diploma of Opera at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. As well as appearing with Penrith Symphony Orchestra in Handel's *Messiah* (2010) and Haydn's *Nelson Mass* (2011), he has recently appeared with the Sydney Symphony (*Peer Gynt*) and with Sydney Chamber Opera as the Gamekeeper in Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Fifteen-year-old Cowley Fu was named 2011 Sydney Conservatorium High School Outstanding Student of the Year, earning him this solo appearance with Penrith Symphony Orchestra. His early successes include progressing to Stage II of the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards, and being selected to participate in masterclasses at the Shanghai World Expo and with Lang Lang at the Sydney Opera House.



Subscription Concert 3 Orchestral Masterworks

Saturday 1 September, 8pm

Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre

Cristian Cimei guest conductor

David Pereira cello

Beethoven's *Egmont* overture was composed as part of incidental music for Goethe's play of the same name, commemorating the heroic sacrifice of a sixteenth-century Flemish nobleman whose execution for opposing political oppression sparked the national uprising that eventually led to the independence of the Netherlands. The first cello concerto of Saint-Saëns also defied convention (albeit with much less cataclysmic consequences!) when the composer

eschewed traditional three-movement concerto form in

favour of a continuous structure and playful dialogue

between soloist and orchestra. Mendelssohn's

"Italian" Symphony, despite his lifelong dissatisfaction with the score, is one of his liveliest and most popular works, eloquently evoking the sunlight, jubilation and dance rhythms of Italy that he so enjoyed during his Grand Tour of Europe.



BEETHOVEN

SAINT-SAËNS

MENDELSSOHN

Egmont Overture

Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor

Symphony No 4 in A major (Italian)



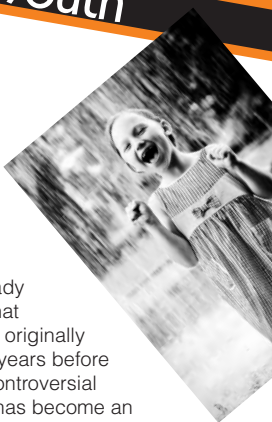
David Pereira is outstanding lead versatile cellist who is in wide demand as a soloist and chamber musician. He was for eleven years the cellist of the Australia Ensemble, for seven years Principal Cello with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and for three years Principal Cello with the Sydney Symphony. His solo performances and extensive discography feature numerous contemporary works, including many by Australian composers, as well as the classic cello repertoire. In 2010 he received a Canberra Critics' Circle Award and the CityNews Artist of the Year Award for his Canberra-based David Pereira Cello Series.

Subscription Concert 4 The Elixir of Youth

Saturday 10 November, 8pm
Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre

Paul Terracini conductor
Michael Kieran Harvey piano

Precocious compositional talent is to the fore in a program featuring three works conceived by composers under 26. In *Soirées Musicales*, based on piano pieces by Rossini, Britten already gives a glimpse of the masterly orchestration that would become his hallmark. *Rhapsody in Blue*, originally written for solo piano and jazz band almost 20 years before the version most often performed today, was controversial in its fusion of classical and jazz elements but has become an enduring favourite in the symphonic repertoire. Andrew Howes, the inaugural recipient of a commission under the Penrith Symphony Orchestra Support for Young Composers Scheme, is attracting attention as one of Australia's most gifted young composers. Alongside these three striking, youthful works, Tchaikovsky's fourth symphony stands as one of the mighty pillars of the nineteenth-century orchestral literature.



BRITTEN

Soirées Musicales

HOWES

New work

GERSHWIN

Rhapsody in Blue

TCHAIKOVSKY

Symphony No 4 in F minor



In an international solo and chamber music career notable for its diversity and wide repertoire, Sydney-born pianist and composer Michael Kieran Harvey has especially promoted the works of Australian and contemporary composers.

Both his performances and his compositions have been recognised through numerous prestigious awards overseas, including the Ivo Pogorelich and the Debussy Medal, Paris, the Centenary Medal and the 2009 APRA award for Distinguished Services to Australian Music.

Michael Kieran Harvey is currently Adjunct Professor at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music, and in 2006 the Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship was established to encourage future directions in Australian keyboard art music.

Bookings and Subscriptions

How to book

Subscriptions can be booked in three ways.

- Online at **www.pso.org.au**
- By phone (credit card payment only) on **1300 789 118**
- By mail (complete the form in this brochure and send with payment)

Individual tickets must be booked through the JSPAC Box Office.

- Subscription concerts: Adult \$35, Pensioner \$32, Family (2+2 school-age) \$90, Under 20s \$20
- Operatic Favourites: All tickets \$40
- Online at **www.jspac.com.au**
- By phone on **02 4723 7600**

Two types of subscription are available for 2012.

Four-concert subscription

- Bookings will be processed in order of application.
- Applications received by 31 January qualify for our **Early Bird Offer** – preferential seating and a complimentary additional ticket for the concert of your choice (while availability permits).

Three-concert subscription (choose-your-own package)

- Attend any three subscription concerts of your choice.
- Applications will be processed strictly in order of receipt (so get in early!). Processing will occur after the cut-off date for four-concert preferential seating (31 January).
- **With three-concert subscriptions there is no guarantee of the same seat for each concert, and no complimentary additional ticket.**

Further information

Phone: 1300 789 118

Postal: Penrith Symphony Orchestra

PO Box 659, Kingswood NSW 2747

Web: www.pso.org.au

Email enquiries: manager@pso.org.au



Penrith
Symphony
Orchestra

Please mail your booking form to :
 Penrith Symphony Orchestra,
 PO Box 659, Kingswood NSW 2747

Subscription and Booking Form

A. Your details

Name:

Telephone: (day) (evening)

Postal address:

..... Postcode:

Email:

Please tick if you are a new subscriber

Please tick to receive email version of PSO's newsletter *Noteworthy*

B. Four Concert Subscription

I would like to purchase the following subscriptions:

	Number of tickets	Cost
Adult @ \$120		\$
Pensioner @ \$110		\$
Family (2+2 school-aged) @ \$300		\$
Under 20s @ \$75		\$
Sub-total (B)		\$

C. Three Concert Subscriptions

Select your own choice of **three** concerts from the options below.
 Please tick your preferred concerts.

- CONCERT 1: The Americas (Saturday 17 March)
 CONCERT 2: Music for Eternity (Saturday 26 May)
 CONCERT 3: Orchestral Masterworks (Saturday 1 September)
 CONCERT 4: The Elixir of Youth (Saturday 10 November)

	Number of tickets	Cost
Adult @ \$90		\$
Pensioner @ \$85		\$
Family (2+2 school-aged) @ \$250		\$
Under 20s @ \$55		\$
Sub-total (C)		\$

D. Complimentary ticket offer (optional)

(One only per adult full-price or pensioner subscription to four concerts, see Section B, while supplies last. Book early to secure this limited offer.)

Yes, I would like to receive a complimentary ticket for the following concert(s):

- CONCERT 1: The Americas (Saturday 17 March)
 CONCERT 2: Music for Eternity (Saturday 26 May)
 CONCERT 3: Orchestral Masterworks (Saturday 1 September)
 CONCERT 4: The Elixir of Youth (Saturday 10 November)



Penrith
Symphony
Orchestra



Penrith Symphony Orchestra

Recognised as the leading orchestra in Western Sydney, Penrith Symphony Orchestra plays an important role in the cultural life of the region. It is the only ensemble to present an annual concert season offering local audiences regular opportunities to experience full symphony orchestra and oratorio performances.

The orchestra's programs include well-loved favourites from the repertoire as well as new and less familiar works. Working with internationally experienced conductors and soloists, virtuoso solo performances are a regular highlight of its performances.

Since its formation in 1988, Penrith Symphony Orchestra has also been an incubator for emerging musical talent and several of its former players now work in Australia and overseas as professional instrumentalists, conductors, music educators and arts administrators.

This tradition continues under artistic director Paul Terracini. Through partnerships with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and a new Support for Young Composers Scheme, several of the orchestra's performances this year showcase some of the most exciting young musical talent in Australia today.

Penrith Symphony Orchestra also collaborates regularly in performances with local choirs, as well as presenting an annual series of Sunday morning concerts (Pops for Tots) for families with young children. These highly accessible, interactive performances provide younger children with an excellent introduction to live orchestral music.

Penrith Symphony Orchestra includes both professionally trained and gifted amateur players and was the inaugural winner of the community orchestra of the year award.

The orchestra is managed by a volunteer board and receives funding from Penrith City Council as well as support from its principal performing venue, the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, and from generous local business sponsors.

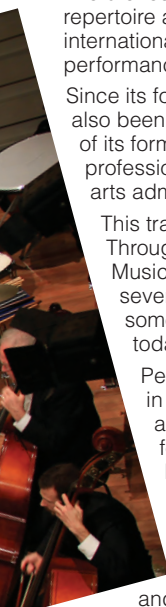
Further information about the orchestra can be found at www.pso.org.au

Would you like to support Penrith Symphony Orchestra through a donation?

Donations make a vital contribution to the operation of the orchestra, and to the cultural life of the Penrith district.

Penrith Symphony Orchestra is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient, and donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. Donations are acknowledged in the orchestra's programs for a year following their receipt.

If you would like to support the orchestra in this way, you can do so at www.pso.org.au/donations.html or by phoning 1300 789 118.



New!

Operatic Favourites

Saturday 1 December, 8pm
Q Theatre, Penrith

Paul Terracini conductor

Vocal soloists from the Sydney Conservatorium Opera School

In a new venture for Penrith Symphony Orchestra, this program presents an evening of opera that includes a semi-staged production of a complete small-scale opera as well as a selection of arias and orchestral excerpts from the operatic repertoire.



The Sydney Conservatorium of Music Opera School is one of Australia's leading training grounds for the vocal and stagecraft skills of future generations of opera singers. This performance will showcase the artistry of several of the finest young performers from this program.

Booking Information

This performance is a separately ticketed event from the 2012 Subscription Series.

Tickets: \$40

Subscriber special: \$36 *

* Limited-time offer available only to subscribers booking before 31 January. Select this option on your subscription booking form to apply.

La serva padrona: a milestone in opera

Pergolesi's "opera buffa" or comic opera *La serva padrona* (The Servant Turned Mistress), was originally written as an intermezzo to his more serious "opera seria" *Il prigionier superbo* (The Proud Prisoner). The two works were premiered together in Naples in 1733. The composer was just 23 years old.

Il prigionier superbo was unsuccessful in its day and did not find a lasting place in the operatic repertoire. *La serva padrona*, on the other hand, went on to enjoy fame throughout Europe long after Pergolesi's premature death at the age of 26, and has come to be regarded as a pivotal work in the transition from Baroque to Classical opera.

With only two singing characters (a master and his maid) and one silent role (his servant), the 45-minute work is an archetypal farce, complete with the deception and disguise for which opera is renowned. The arrogant maid schemes to trick her master, an elderly bachelor, into marrying her so that she becomes the true mistress of the household.

This light-hearted and engaging work is a masterpiece in miniature and will be a performance not to be missed.

Complementing the Pergolesi on the program will be several of the most beautiful and popular arias from Classical and early Romantic operas by Mozart, Rossini and Donizetti. Love, comedy and melodrama will be the order of the day as these fine young operatic singers strut their stuff.

The orchestra will also be featured alone in overtures by Mozart (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Rossini (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*).

PERGOLESI *La serva padrona* (The Servant Turned Mistress)

**MOZART, ROSSINI
and DONIZETTI** Selected arias and orchestral excerpts



Pops for Tots



Pops for Tots

George Ellis conductor and presenter

Sunday 17 June, 11am
Springwood Civic Centre

Sunday 24 June, 11am
Q Theatre, Penrith

TICKETS \$15 (Babes in arms free)

Bring your children or grandchildren along to Pops for Tots and see their eyes light up with joy and fascination as they watch and listen to a live symphony orchestra at close quarters.

Since 1998, Penrith Symphony Orchestra's annual Pops for Tots performances have entertained and inspired thousands of children and families with the sounds of the orchestra, experienced through a blend of children's melodies and popular highlights from the orchestral repertoire.

As educational as it is entertaining, this is a perfect Sunday outing for families with children aged from 2 to 7.

Bookings and enquiries

www.pso.org.au or phone 1300 789 118



Conductors

Paul Terracini Artistic Director



Paul Terracini is an Australian conductor, composer and arranger who now lives in the Blue Mountains after spending almost 20 years living and working in Europe. He was appointed Artistic Director of Penrith Symphony Orchestra in 2010 and is in constant demand as a guest conductor and instructor.

Paul has previously held positions as Principal Trumpet in the Australian Opera and Ballet

Orchestra; Lecturer at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music; and Solo Trumpet in the Danish Chamber Players, with whom he performed throughout Europe, South America and Asia. He has also been guest professor and conductor at several conservatoriums in Europe and China. As a trumpet soloist, he has performed in Europe, the USA, England and Asia, as well as with the Melbourne, Queensland, Tasmanian and West Australian symphony orchestras. As a conductor, he has recorded ten CDs with the Prague Symphony Orchestra and conducted operas and orchestral concerts in Germany, Denmark and Italy.

Paul's compositions have been performed by ensembles including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass, the Prague Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. He has composed widely for film and television, including the internationally acclaimed TV series *Hymns of the Forefathers I & II* and *Classical Destinations*.

In 2011, Paul Terracini was guest composer/conductor at Northwestern University, Chicago, and guest conductor/arranger with the Prague Symphony Orchestra. His arrangement of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, for piano and brass quintet, commissioned by the Australian Brass Quintet, was premiered at the 2011 Melbourne International Festival of Brass. His Mass, commissioned by St Vincent's College, Sydney, was premiered in September 2011. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass will premiere another of his works in December 2011 at Orchestra Hall, Chicago.

Cristian Cimei Guest Conductor



Following studies in piano, composition and conducting, Italian conductor Cristian Cimei performed widely as a solo pianist, chamber musician and maestro's assistant for opera, ballet and concert performances in Europe. He moved to Sydney to undertake a Masters in Conducting under Imre Palló at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, which he completed with high distinction in 2008.

Cristian has been assistant conductor for Opera Australia productions of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and *La Bohème*, has twice received the Goossens Fellowship for Conducting, and in 2009 was a finalist in the Hephzibah Tintner Conducting Fellowship. He has conducted several community orchestras and choirs in Sydney, including the Strathfield Symphony and Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestras, as well as orchestral, choral and operatic performances at the Conservatorium.

George Ellis Conductor, Pops for Tots



George Ellis is well known as conductor and presenter of Penrith Symphony Orchestra's popular annual children's concerts, Pops for Tots. He has presented concerts for children around Australia, was director of the Babies Proms at the Sydney Opera House from 2002 to 2007, and in his work with children has appeared on national television and radio. In 2009 he returned to the Sydney Opera House as composer and conductor for the Orchestral Babies Proms series.

In 2000, George conducted the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Millennium Choirs for the Sydney Olympic Games and in 2004 he was musical director of the Millennium Choir for the Athens Olympics. He has been an Assistant Conductor for Opera Australia and maintains a busy freelance career conducting for stage and film as well as on the concert platform. He has conducted the major state orchestras of Australia, as well as the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. His recent film credits include conducting music for *Mao's Last Dancer*.



Acknowledgments

Penrith Symphony Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following organisations, as well as all its business and local area sponsors.



the **Joan**



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