

CLASSICS
UNWRAPPED

A D E L A I D E
S Y M P H O N Y
O R C H E S T R A
S E A S O N 2 0 2 1

Royalty



March

Wednesday 24
Festival Theatre



Program

CLASSICS UNWRAPPED 1

Royalty

WILLIAM WALTON (1902—1983)

Crown Imperial

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685—1759)

Solomon: The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

GIUSEPPE VERDI (1813—1901)

Nabucco: Overture

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872—1958)

Fantasia on Greensleeves

IGOR STRAVINSKY (1882-1971)

The Firebird – Suite (1919): The Princesses' Round (Dance)

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685—1759)

Music for the Royal Fireworks: La Réjouissance

HENRY PURCELL (1659—1695) arr. STEWART

Funeral Music for Queen Mary: March and Canzona

JOHANN STRAUSS II (1825—1899) arr. WINTER

Emperor Waltz

WILLIAM WALTON (1902—1983)

Orb and Sceptre

DURATION ⌚

This concert will run for approx. 75 mins, no interval.



CONDUCTOR/PRESENTER

Guy Noble

Guy Noble has conducted the Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, West Australian, Tasmanian, Queensland and Canberra symphony orchestras, the Auckland Philharmonia, and the Hong Kong Symphony and Malaysian Philharmonic orchestras. He was the host and accompanist each year for Great Opera Hits (Opera Australia) at the Sydney Opera House, conducted Opera Queensland's 2014 production of *La bohème*, and loves to return as conductor and host for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's *Classics Unwrapped* series. In 1991 he was a network announcer on BBC Radio 3, host of *Breakfast* on ABC Classic from 1999 to 2001 and a presenter on ABC TV's *Dimensions in Time* series. He appeared four times on ABC TV's *Spicks and Specks*, in episodes which still air at odd hours of the day or night.

Guy has worked with a wide variety of international performers including Harry Connick Jr, Ben Folds, The Beach Boys, The Pointer Sisters, Dianne Reeves, Glenn Frey, Randy Newman, Clive James, Conchita, The Two Cellos, Alfie Boe and Olivia Newton-John. He was the first conductor and host for the *Symphony in the City* for the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and returns regularly to entertain upwards of 25,000 happy concertgoers in Perth's Langley Park.

Some career highlights include doing a raffle with Princess Margaret in London, sharing a chat in a lift with John Gielgud at BBC Broadcasting House, cooking pasta live on stage with Maggie Beer and Simon Bryant and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, and singing backing vocals with Kate Ceberano. Guy is pleased, after a covid-inspired hiatus, to return in 2021 for music and laughter with the ASO.

About the Music

Whether you're a monarchist or a republican, or simply a fan of Prince and/or Queen, at some point in your life you'll have sung along to – or tapped your toes to – music dressed in regal finery. Today's journey through the music associated with people who smile and wave is just as gripping as an episode of *The Crown*, but without the need to dress quite so formally.

Handel's sinfonia *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* is the best-known excerpt from his oratorio *Solomon* and describes the Arabian queen's arrival in Jerusalem, with a long caravan of camels bearing gold, precious stones and spices. And since every Bride is a Queen on her wedding day, is it any wonder that this glittering, celebratory music has accompanied so many women down the aisle? Fast-forward a few hundred years (roughly 587 BCE) to the setting of Verdi's *Nabucco*, in which the Jews' temple in Jerusalem is being threatened by the invading Assyrians, and you have a landmark opera with an exciting, turbulent overture; yet one which includes a lilting "sneak preview" of the opera's most beloved melody, that of the chorus *Va, pensiero*.

Handel composed music for living monarchs as well, most explosively for George II, in the *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, the first performance of which was pretty catastrophic: the fireworks didn't light properly, and the wooden building erected to shelter courtiers caught fire instead. Handel's glorious music has well and truly outlived the event.

While it's always good to get lit up, no royal occasion can be grander than a coronation; for the crowning of George VI in 1937 William Walton created his stirring march *Crown Imperial*, written in true 'Pomp and Circumstance' style. When Elizabeth II assumed the throne in 1953, lightning struck twice: Walton was asked to write a new march for the coronation service, and created the brilliant *Orb and Sceptre*.

Of course, royal occasions are not always joyful. Queen Mary, joint ruler with William III, died of smallpox in 1694, aged 32. Purcell provided music for her funeral – music which looks simple enough on the page, but is exceptionally moving in effect.

Legend once had it that an earlier (and much larger) monarch, Henry VIII, had composed the music for *Greensleeves*. It's now thought that he may have written the words; in any case, Vaughan Williams gave this beautiful "folk tune" one of its loveliest orchestral settings.

Where, in music at least, British royals march, it seems their Viennese counterparts would rather waltz, at least according to Johann Strauss II. Written in 1889, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Emperor Franz Josef's accession to the Austrian throne, the *Emperor Waltz* is a supreme example of Strauss' symphonic approach to the seemingly simple business of dancing 1-2-3.

Some kingdoms live entirely in the world of the imagination, like the Kingdom of Sweets in *The Nutcracker*, Arandelle in *Frozen* or Stravinsky's richly colourful score for the ballet *The Firebird*, in which a Princess is liberated from the clutches of an evil sorcerer. The *Round Dance* is lush, lyrical music that shimmers with the contours of Russian folk music.

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ADELAIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violins

Elizabeth Layton**
(Guest Concertmaster)
Cameron Hill**
(Associate Concertmaster)
Shirin Lim* (Principal 1st Violin)
Belinda McFarlane**
(Guest Principal 2nd Violin)
Lachlan Bramble~
(Associate Principal 2nd Violin)
Janet Anderson
Ann Axelby
Minas Berberyan
Gillian Braithwaite
Julia Brittain
Hilary Bruer
Elizabeth Collins
Jane Collins
Judith Coombe
Belinda Gehlert
Danielle Jaquillard
Zsuzsa Leon
Alexis Milton
Michael Milton
Emma Perkins
Alexander Permezal
Kemerl Spurr

Violas

Andrew Jezek**
(Guest Section Principal)
Justin Julian~
Martin Butler
Anna Hansen
Rosi McGowran
Carolyn Mooz
Michael Robertson
Cecily Satchell

Cellos

Ewen Bramble**
(Acting Section Principal)
Sherrilyn Handley~
(Acting Assoc. Principal)
Sarah Denbigh
Christopher Handley
David Sharp
Cameron Waters

Double Basses

David Schilling**
Jonathon Coco~
Harley Gray
Belinda Kendall-Smith
Sean Renaud

Flutes

Geoffrey Collins**
Lisa Gill

Piccolo

Julia Grenfell*

Oboes

Joshua Oates**
Renae Stavely~

Cor Anglais

Peter Duggan*

Clarinets

Dean Newcomb**
Darren Skelton

Bass Clarinet

Mitchell Berick*

Bassoons

Mark Gaydon**
Leah Stephenson

Contrabassoon

Jackie Newcomb*

Horns

Adrian Uren**
Sarah Barrett~
Emma Gregan
Timothy Skelly

Trumpets

Josh Rogan**
(Guest Section Principal)
Martin Phillipson~
Timothy Frahn

Trombones

Colin Prichard**
Ian Denbigh

Bass Trombone

Amanda Tillett*
(Guest Principal)

Tuba

Karina Filipi*
(Guest Principal)

Timpani

Andrew Penrose*

Percussion

Steven Peterka**
Amanda Grigg
Peter Overall

Harp

Suzanne Handel*

Organ

Peter Kelsall*
(Guest Principal)

**** Section Principal**
~ Associate Principal
*** Principal Player**

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