SYMPHONY SERIES 3 Longing for Home

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 SEASON 2021

July

Fri 2 & Sat 3 Festival Theatre





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Longing for Home	Fri 2 and Sat 3 Jul, 6.30pm Festival Theatre Nicholas Braithwaite Conductor Grace Clifford Violin	
Jack Buckskin & Jamie Goldsmith (arr./orch. Ferguson)	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY Pudnanthi Padninthi ('The Coming and the Going')	[2'30'']
Hyde	Adelaide Overture	[5']
Bruch	Violin Concerto No.1 in G minor, Op.26 Prelude: Allegro moderato Adagio Finale: Allegro energico Grace Clifford Violin	[24']
Interval		
Sibelius	Symphony No.2 in D, Op.43 Allegretto Andante, ma rubato Vivacissimo Finale (Allegro moderato)	[43']
Duration	This concert runs for approximately one hour and 45 minutes, including a 20 minute interval.	
Listen later	This concert will be recorded for later broadcast on ABC Classic. You can hear it again at 1pm on Sunday 12 September.	

The ASO acknowledges that the land we make music on is the traditional country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains. We pay respect to Elders past and present and recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that this is of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today. We extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are with us for this performance today.

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WELCOME

It's great to have your company for this beautiful program, in which we welcome back two musicians who have had important relationships with the ASO over the years: Nicholas Braithwaite as a former Chief Conductor and Grace Clifford as a former Emerging Artist in Association.

Miriam Hyde's role in Adelaide's – indeed in the nation's – musical history is hugely important, as pianist, teacher and as one of Australia's first significant composing women, and I'm delighted that, tonight, you'll hear an overture she created to mark the Centenary of South Australia's Proclamation. The ASO is also proud to have named the Miriam Hyde Circle – an initiative which seeks to ensure a greater representation of female composers in the Orchestra's work – after this inspiring figure. Our recent celebration of music by women, *She Speaks*, demonstrated how much work there is still to do to bring female voices centre stage in our musical life.

We've just launched our July-December offering which, among its many highlights, includes an event which could well be our most ambitious undertaking ever, the *Festival of Orchestra*, taking place over six nights at the Adelaide Showground. I hope you, and your family and friends, will be able to experience these spectacular performances, and enjoy the work of the ASO in a new and exciting setting.

With all good wishes for your enjoyment of this evening's concert.



Vincent Ciccarello MANAGING DIRECTOR

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CONDUCTOR Nicholas Braithwaite

Nicholas Braithwaite's career has been wideranging, musically and geographically. He has held positions as Music Director or Principal Conductor from Norway to New Zealand and many places in between, including the Tasmanian and Adelaide Symphony orchestras.

Concurrently with his Australian activities he was Principal Conductor of the Manchester Camerata. Other orchestral appointments have included Permanent Guest Conductor of the Norwegian Radio Orchestra, and Associate Conductor with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. A frequent guest conductor for all the major UK orchestras, he also toured Japan and Korea with the London Philharmonic Orchestra as Associate Conductor to Sir Georg Solti.

In addition to appearances with all the major Australian orchestras, he has appeared with, among others, the Orchestre National de France, the Oslo Philharmonic, Auckland Philharmonia, Danish National Radio Symphony and the Collegium Musicum Copenhagen.

He has conducted more than 80 operas, holding appointments as Associate Principal Conductor of Sadler's Wells/English National Opera, Music Director of Glyndebourne Touring Opera, and Musiksjef of Gothenburg's Stora Teatern. He has also conducted opera at Covent Garden, Hamburg, Norwegian Opera, Scottish and Welsh National Operas, and many companies in Australasia. With Lyrita Recorded Edition he has conducted more than 30 albums of music by English composers, conducting the London Philharmonic, London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, and Philharmonia orchestras.



VIOLIN Grace Clifford

In 2014, at the age of 16, Grace Clifford was awarded the ABC Young Performer of the Year Award following her performance of Beethoven's Violin Concerto with the Adelaide Symphony.

She is now one of Australia's finest young violinists, and is privileged to perform with many of its leading orchestras. Grace was appointed as the ASO's first-ever Emerging Artist in Association from 2018-2020, performing with them each consecutive season.

In addition, Grace has performed concertos with the Sydney, Melbourne, Tasmanian, West Australian and Canberra Symphony orchestras, and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. She recently made her debut with the Malaysian Philharmonic, at the invitation of conductor Mark Wigglesworth. In 2021 she looks forward to making her debut with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Equally committed to chamber music, Grace tours yearly as a guest with Selby and Friends, and looks forward to returning to the Australian Festival of Chamber Music later this year.

Grace is a graduate student at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, studying with Miriam Fried on a Presidential Scholarship. Grace holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Pamela Frank, Ida Kavafian, and the late Joseph Silverstein. Grace previously studied at the Sydney Conservatorium with Dr Robin Wilson, who continues to be a mentor.



The Miriam Hyde Circle is a new initiative committed to ensuring a greater representation of women composers – past, present and future – in the work of the ASO.

Miriam Hyde AO OBE (1913–2005) was one of Australia's foremost pianists, composers and music educators of the 20th century and, in naming the Circle after her, we honour her trailblazing spirit.

The inaugural chair of the Miriam Hyde Circle is the Hon. Catherine Branson AC QC.

As a member, you will be invited to special events to meet and hear from leaders from the cultural and business sectors. Through supporting performances by the ASO of lost and forgotten music of the past, and the creation of new music, membership in this giving circle makes a real difference to the representation of orchestral music by women.

Please consider an annual membership to the Miriam Hyde Circle in support of this important work.



To make an enquiry about joining the Miriam Hyde Circle, or to make a donation, please contact Annemarie Kohn, Senior Manager, Development on 08 8233 6263 or kohna@aso.com.au

1913-2005

Miriam Hyde



Adelaide Overture

In a lifetime spanning 92 years, Miriam Hyde lived 20 of them in Adelaide. Her relationship to the city was that of a grateful daughter, who warmly remembered its nurturing environment and the early opportunities that set her on the path of adulthood. At 19, having acquired all the skills of musicianship that Adelaide's resources and institutions could provide, she left for London, as many young Australian musicians of talent and ambition did, to advance herself.

Her years in the British capital were filled with excitement, opportunity and discovery, guided by eminent teachers including R.O. Morris and Gordon Jacobs, whose emphasis on traditional compositional skills suited Miriam, since her musical taste inclined towards the Romantics. Aside from the advanced learning, in London Hyde performed as soloist, presented her own compositions, and gathered several awards.

She came home first of all to Adelaide, but Arthur Benjamin, chief counsellor for Australian musicians in London, had advised her to move to Sydney, where there would be far more opportunity. She followed that advice within a year of arriving back, teaching at first at a private school, then marrying and beginning a life that sought to balance musical ambitions with the work of raising a family. Her orchestral output is limited to her early years, and through most of her life she composed only piano and chamber music. Hyde's compositions stayed firmly within the language of Romantic style, and at various stages were considered irredeemably 'old-fashioned', though she was never wanting for a loyal listenership.

The year of Hyde's return to Adelaide, 1936, was a jubilant one, marking both the Centenary of South Australia's Proclamation, and its gradual recovery from the Great Depression. The occasion offered 'impetus' for Hyde to display her talent: she was one of the stars of the celebrations.

The Adelaide Overture was composed in London, in the hope that the forthcoming Centenary in Adelaide would yield a performance opportunity. Her piece filled a need for something bright and uplifting for the 'State Centenary Concert' performed by the fledgling Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Malcolm Sargent, at the new Centennial Hall in October 1936. The reviewer in *The Advertiser* praised the work as a 'brilliant tour de force,' deserving the 'great ovation' it received. Afterwards, as Miriam set off from Adelaide for a new phase in her life, she felt that 'in the *Adelaide Overture*, I had left part of myself there.'

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PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Since its premiere in 1936, the ASO has performed *Adelaide Overture* on one other occasion: for the Orchestra's 75th anniversary Gala Concert in the Festival Theatre in November 2011. The conductor was Arvo Volmer.

1838—1920





Violin Concerto No.1 in G minor, Op.26

Prelude: Allegro moderato Adagio Finale: Allegro energico

Grace Clifford Violin

Max Bruch's First Violin Concerto is one of the greatest success stories in the history of music. The violinist Joseph Joachim, who gave the first performance of the definitive version in 1868, and had a strong advisory role in its creation, compared it with the other famous 19th-century German violin concertos, those of Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Brahms. Bruch's, said Joachim, is 'the richest, the most seductive'. (Joachim, a composer himself, was closely associated with the creation of Brahms' concerto, which he premiered in 1879.)

Soon Bruch was able to report that his concerto 'is beginning a fabulous career.' In addition to Joachim, the most famous violinists of the day took it into their repertoire: Auer, Ferdinand David, Sarasate. With his first important large-scale orchestral work, the 30-year-old Bruch had a winner.

The success of this concerto was to be a mixed blessing for Bruch. Few composers so long-lived and prolific are so nearly forgotten except for a single work. (*Kol nidrei* for cello and orchestra is Bruch's only other frequently performed piece, its use of Jewish melodies having erroneously led many to assume that Bruch himself was Jewish.) Bruch followed up this violin concerto with two more, and another six pieces for violin and orchestra. Although he constantly encouraged violinists to play his other concertos, he had to concede that none of them matched his first. This must have been especially frustrating considering that Bruch had sold full rights in it to a publisher for the paltry sum of 250 thalers.

In 1911 Bruch was asked why he, a pianist, had taken such an interest in the violin. He replied, 'because the violin can sing a melody better than the piano can, and melody is the soul of music.' It was the composer's association with Johann Naret-Koning, concertmaster of the Mainz orchestra, which first set Bruch on the path of composing for the violin. He did not feel sure of himself, regarding it as 'very audacious' to write a violin concerto, and reported that between 1864 and 1868 'I rewrote my concerto at least half a dozen times, and conferred with *x* violinists.' The most important of these was Joachim. Many years later Bruch had reservations about the publication of his correspondence with Joachim about the concerto, worrying that 'the public would virtually believe when it read all this that Joachim composed the concerto, and not I.'

Like Mendelssohn, Bruch had brought the solo violin in right from the start, after a drum roll and a motto-like figure for the winds. With the main theme launched by the solo violin in sonorous double-stopping, and a

contrasting descending second subject, a conventional opening movement in sonata form seems to be under way. The rhythmic figure heard in the plucked bass strings plays an important part. But at the point where the recapitulation would begin, Bruch, having brought back the opening chords and flourishes, uses them instead to prepare a soft subsiding into the slow movement, which begins without a pause. Bruch first called the first movement *Introduzione-Fantasia*, then *Vorspiel* (Prelude), and asked Joachim rather anxiously whether he shouldn't call the whole work a Fantasy rather than a Concerto. 'The designation "concerto" is completely apt,' replied Joachim. 'Indeed, the second and third movements are too fully developed for a Fantasy. The separate sections of the work cohere in a lovely relationship, and yet – and this is the most important thing – there is sufficient contrast.'

The songful character of the violin is to the fore in Bruch's *Adagio*. Two beautiful themes are linked by a memorable transitional idea featuring a rising scale; the themes are artfully and movingly developed and combined.

Although the second movement comes to a quiet, full close, the third begins in the same warm key of E flat major, with a crescendo modulating to the G major of the *Finale*, another indication of the tendency of Romantic composers like Bruch to think of a concerto as a continuously unfolding and linked whole.

The Hungarian or Gypsy dance flavour of the last movement's lively first theme must be a tribute to the native land of Joachim, who had composed a 'Hungarian' Concerto for violin. Bruch's theme was surely in Brahms' mind at the same place in the concerto he composed for Joachim. Bruch's writing for the solo violin, grateful yet never gratuitous throughout the concerto, here scales new heights of virtuosity. Of the bold and grand second subject, musicologist and composer Donald Tovey observes that Max Bruch's work 'shows one of its noblest features just where some of its most formidable rivals become vulgar.' In this concerto for once Bruch was emotional enough to balance his admirable skill and tastefulness. The G minor Violin Concerto is just right, and its success shows no sign of wearing out.

Edited from an annotation by David Garrett © 2004

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Haydn Beck was soloist in the ASO's first performance of Bruch's Violin Concerto No.1, performed in July 1939 under Georg Schnéevoigt. Most recently, the Orchestra played this work in November 2018, with soloist Natsuko Yoshimoto and conductor Karina Canellakis.

1865—1957 Jean Sibelius



Symphony No.2 in D, Op.43

Allegretto Andante, ma rubato Vivacissimo Finale (Allegro moderato)

'It is as if the Almighty had thrown down pieces of a mosaic from Heaven's floor and asked me to put them together.' Sibelius' description of his approach to symphonic composition might refer specifically to the first movement of this symphony, which shows how a series of musical fragments can be made into a coherent musical whole. Here Sibelius offers a series of disparate musical ideas, before gradually illustrating their capacity for unity; then, in the movement's final minutes, he draws the ideas apart again until they are reduced to their essentials.

As innovative as this would have sounded to the work's first audiences in 1902, there are many other ways in which this symphony has deep roots in the world of the Romantics. In fact, when the final bars of the Finale have sounded, you might feel that the 'darkness to light' progression of the musical events must be 'about' something.

Sibelius was already a national figure at this time to his Finnish compatriots, and an artist of some international standing. With Finland in the middle of a political crisis caused by Russian claims on the country's independence, this bold new symphony which concluded, so to speak, with the scent of victory in its nostrils, was bound to create the impression that it was a portrayal of Finland's struggle to assert its identity.

Yet Sibelius rejected all attempts by his well-meaning champions to project a nationalist agenda onto the music. His methodology, particularly in the symphony's first half, is subtle and intricate, and does not suggest itself as the work of someone out to write musical propaganda.

It was a trip to Italy in February 1901 that got him going on the composition of the Second Symphony. His mentor and patron, Axel Carpelan, felt the composer had sat at home long enough and that Italy would inspire him as it had inspired Tchaikovsky and Richard Strauss before him. Which it did, although the work caused him some difficulty. 'I have been in the throes of a bitter struggle with this symphony. Now the picture is clearer and I am now proceeding under full sail. Soon I hope to have something to dedicate to you,' he wrote to Carpelan in November 1901. Four months later Sibelius himself conducted the premiere, at which the work was an immediate success.

The symphony's initial theme might be called unassuming – a rising and falling 11-note theme for the strings. It is one of those rhythmic figures Sibelius contrives to behave like a tune, and soon blossoms into one, a pastoral theme given to the woodwinds. The horns then play a slower,

more lyrical version of the idea. Soon you encounter a more passionate, wide-ranging tune for the strings, punctuated by long pauses, and a theme for the woodwind emerging from a note held for nearly four bars. There is also a marvellous sequential theme for the strings, played pizzicato.

These individual themes are gradually dovetailed, superimposed and juxtaposed as Sibelius brings them closer together. And this is the meaning and purpose of this music: the creation of a logical musical argument out of the seemingly disparate fragments he at first presents to us. The drama is all in the music.

The movement climaxes in the development section – remember, this was unusual for a symphony at this time – after which the musical texture is gradually filleted away until all that is left is the theme-like rhythm with which the movement began.

The striking opening of the second movement – a timpani roll followed by the pizzicato tread of lower strings – is followed by a haunting chant-like figure marked *lugubre*, played by the bassoons. A feverish transformation of this bassoon theme leads to a passage of great intensity. The brass writing is notably dark and craggy, with particularly telling music for the tuba. The coda is magnificently bleak and abrupt.

The *Vivacissimo* movement contains two striking ideas: the scurrying string theme at the outset, and a wonderfully lyrical idea – commencing with nine repeated notes – first heard on the oboe and which soon bursts forth passionately on the strings.

Sibelius ends his *Vivacissimo* by linking it directly to the *Finale*. A rocking three-note figure forms a bridge to the final movement, and then turns out to be its main theme, played out over a grinding accompaniment, and followed by heroic trumpet fanfares. A wonderfully harmonised woodwind theme is then transformed into a lyrical passage for the upper strings. The atmosphere of pomp, ceremony and high-flown romance is interrupted only by a wistful woodwind theme given over a murmuring accompaniment by the lower strings. The sense of triumph renews itself, however, by way of exhaustive sequential development, and the symphony ends with grand rhetorical re-statements of the final three-note theme, now joyous and resplendent.

Phillip Sametz © 2002/2021

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

The ASO first performed Sibelius' Symphony No.2 in June 1946, conducted by Joseph Post. The Orchestra's most recent performance took place in April 2017, under conductor Eivind Aadland.

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Cameron Hill** Associate Concertmaster

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Joshua Oates** Renae Stavely~

Clarinets

Dean Newcomb** Mitchell Berick*

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Martin Phillipson~ Gregory Frick

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Colin Prichard** Ian Denbigh

Bass Trombone

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Shivani Marx, Mark Ferguson, Steven Peterka, Jack Buckskin, Grayson Rotumah

Acknowledgement of Country

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra recently commissioned a Kaurna Acknowledgement of Country that will be performed at the start of ASO concerts. Read on to learn about the significance of the piece.

The musical Acknowledgement is collaboration between Kaurna Narungga musicians and composers Jack Buckskin and Jamie Goldsmith with arrangements by Mark Simeon Ferguson. The result is titled *Pudnanthi Padninthi* ('The Coming and the Going'). As shared by Jack Buckskin, the pronunciation of the title in Kaurna language is Boodnandi Baadnindi.

ASO Managing Director Vincent Ciccarello says, "ASO's musical Acknowledgment of Kaurna Country is a step towards building respectful relationships, learning, and sharing cultures through music. Many months in the making, this project has been a true collaboration and forms part of our strategic priority to showcase and develop new Australian work and support the goals outlined in our Reconciliation Action Plan."

Composer Jack Buckskin said music, song and dance were an important part of Indigenous culture. "Music's just another educational tool. It's one thing to be told a story, but you can forget the story very quickly. Song is the next stage of learning". ASO Percussionist Steven Peterka plays the Wadnas in the acknowledgement, he says "The Wadnas make a unique and ancient sound, one we can't produce with standard orchestral percussion instruments. To be entrusted with the role of playing them in the orchestra is an honour, a humbling experience every time I hold them."

Shivani Marx, ASO General Manager, People, Culture and Operations, spoke of the importance of the musical acknowledgement and how it forms part of the ASO's greater commitment to reconciliation. She believes nothing is lost by the absence of words.

"In fact, what I hope is that something is gained by connecting it to what we do as an orchestra. We live and we make music on Kaurna land. And so for us, there's nothing more meaningful than using music to convey the connection to the land and to pay our respects," Shivani says.

ASO wishes to thank the project collaborators including Grayson Rotumah, Jack Buckskin, Jamie Goldsmith and Mark Simeon Ferguson for bringing this project to life.

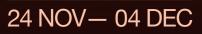
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