SPECIAL EVENT

Mahler 5 / Adès

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March

Sat 14, 7.30pm & Sun 15, 3pm Adelaide Town Hall



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Mahler 5 / Adès

March

Thomas Adès

Sat 14, 7.30pm & Sun 15, 3pm Adelaide Town Hall Nicholas Carter Conductor Anthony Marwood Violin

Violin Concerto Concentric Paths

I. Rings

II. Paths

III. Rounds

Anthony Marwood Violin

Interval

Mahler

Symphony No.5 in C sharp minor

Part I Trauermarsch (In gemessenem Schritt. Streng. Wie ein Kondukt)

Stürmisch bewegt. Mit grösster Vehemenz

Part II Scherzo (Kräftig, nicht zu schnell)

Part III Adagietto (Sehr langsam)

Rondo-Finale (Allegro)

Duration

This concert runs for approximately 2 hours including a 20 minute interval.

Listen Later

This concert will be recorded for delayed broadcast on ABC Classic. You can hear it again at 1pm on Tuesday 24 March.

The ASO acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and future.



Vincent Ciccarello

Welcome to our concert.

The ASO is delighted to be able to present this performance as part of the Adelaide Festival's 2020 program.

From the Festival's inception, music has been central to its success and appeal. The ASO (or the South Australian Symphony Orchestra, as it was known for a time) is proud to have played an important part in Festivals from the very beginning. In his history of the Festival, Derek Whitelock writes that the highlight of the music program in the first Festival, in 1960, was the opening ceremony concert in The Advertiser Sound Shell, in which the Adelaide orchestra combined with the Sydney Symphony -117 musicians in all, performing Liszt's symphonic poem, Les préludes, as well music by Wagner.

Some of you will recall the ASO's performance in the 2010 Adelaide Festival of Mahler's Symphony No 8, with our colleagues of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, in the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

And then, of course, there are the very many special Festival operas and other events which featured the ASO, right up to and including this year's Mozart's Requiem.

Today's concert is a celebration, of sorts, of many different friendships – with the Adelaide Festival, with our former Principal Conductor, Nicholas Carter, and with our guest soloist, Anthony Marwood. We welcome back Nicholas for the first time as a guest. Nicholas is firmly ensconced in the northern hemisphere for now and has many exciting engagements ahead of him, including his debut at New York's famed Metropolitan Opera, but we're thrilled he's here again, to conduct repertoire that's very close to his heart.

Anthony Marwood has been a welcome guest of the ASO for many years, more often than not appearing in a dual role, as a soloist directing the orchestra from the violin, so to speak. In this Festival program, his role is purely as soloist, in a major work of our time, created especially for him.

I'm very much looking forward to hearing these two masterworks, written a century apart, performed by friends, for friends. I extend my thanks to Neil Armfield, Rachel Healy, Rob Brookman and the entire Adelaide Festival team, for inviting us to be a part of their festival programs.

My best wishes for your enjoyment of the concert.

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Nicholas Carter

Chief Conductor of the Stadttheater Klagenfurt and the Kärntner Sinfonieorchester, Nicholas Carter leads three new productions per season and appears regularly in the orchestra's concert series. In the 2019/20 season he conducts *Tannhauser, Simo Boccanegra, Cendrillon* and regular symphonic concerts including Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 and Schubert's Symphony No. 8. Opera performances in his first season included *Rusalka, La Clemenza di Tito* and *Pelléas et Mélisande.*

Plans for the 2019/20 season include his UK opera debut with Glyndebourne Opera and further debuts with Atlanta Symphony, Wiener Staatsoper and Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. He makes return visits to Orchestre Metropolitain), and to Deutsche Oper Berlin. The 2021/22 season will see his Metropolitan Opera debut with Brett Dean's *Hamlet*.

Nicholas was Principal Conductor of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra from 2016 - 2019. He has established a reputation as a conductor of exceptional versatility, equally at home in the concert hall and opera house, and fluent in a diverse repertoire. In Adelaide he became the first Australian to be chosen as Principal Conductor of an Australian orchestra in more than 30 years. Between 2011 and 2014, he served as Kapellmeister to Simone Young in Hamburg, before moving on to a two-year engagement as Kapellmeister and Musical Assistant to Donald Runnicles at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, a house where he enjoys a rewarding ongoing association.

Highlights of recent seasons include his concert debut with the Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin (including Brett Dean's Pastoral Symphony) and further debuts with MDR Leipzig, Oregon Symphony, Florida Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Orchestre National de Lille and Santa Fe Opera. Return visits have included Deutsche Oper am Rhein, the orchestra of the Australian National Academy of Music, West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, and to Deutsche Oper Berlin. Recent work with Adelaide Symphony Orchestra has included Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and a commercial recording of the complete Beethoven piano concertos with Jayson Gillham.

In Australia, he has collaborated regularly with many of the country's leading orchestras and ensembles and led the 2018 Adelaide Festival's acclaimed staging of Brett Dean's *Hamlet*.

In 2010, before embarking on his European career, his wide-ranging musical interests led him to found a period orchestra in Sydney focusing on the music, instruments and historical performance practices of the early 19th century, while his three-vear association with the Svdnev Symphony, first as Assistant Conductor. later as Associate Conductor, aave him the opportunity to work closely with Vladimir Ashkenazy and a number of the orchestra's auest conductors. At the invitation of Donald Runnicles he also served as Associate Conductor of the Grand Teton Music Festival in Wvoming from 2010 to 2013



Anthony Marwood

Anthony Marwood enjoys a wide-ranging international career as soloist, director and chamber musician. Recent solo engagements include performances with the Boston Symphony, St Louis Symphony, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, New World Symphony and Sydney Symphony.

Current invitations include the London Philharmonic at the Royal Festival Hall (Adès Concerto); Schumann with the Adelaide Symphony; his concerto debut in Budapest (Beethoven violin concerto and triple concerto) at the Liszt Academy, conducted by András Keller; his debut with the Spanish National Orchestra in Madrid; and his debut at the Tanglewood Festival, playing Ligeti's violin concerto. He will also return to Les Violons du Roy in Canada, where is Principal Artistic Partner. and the Amsterdam Sinfonietta (Mendelssohn double concerto with pianist Alexander Melnikov).

He has worked with conductors Valery Gergiev, Sir Andrew Davis, Thomas Søndergård, David Robertson, Gerard Korsten, Ilan Volkov, Jaime Martin, and Douglas Boyd. The 2019/2020 season includes recitals with pianist Aleksandar Madzar in Serbia and London, and with accordionist James Crabb in Australia and New Zealand. Anthony will appear at festivals in the USA (Yellow Barn, La Jolla Music Society SummerFest) and Brazil (Illumina Festival São Paulo).

Many leading composers have written concertos for him, including Thomas Adès, Steven Mackey, Sally Beamish and Samuel Carl Adams. Anthony is a prolific recording artist, and his most recent release – his 50th on the Hyperion label – is a recording of Walton's Violin Concerto with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Martyn Brabbins. The disc received wide critical acclaim, including a five-star review in *The Guardian* and a 'Recommended Recording' in *The Strad Magazine*, whilst the *Sunday Times* described him as "a thrilling, virtuosic soloist".

Anthony studied with Emanuel Hurwitz and David Takeno in London. He has collaborated with numerous actors, Indian classical dancer Mayuri Boonham, Irish singer-songwriter Sinead O'Connor, sculptress Nicole Farhi and South African guitarist Derek Gripper. He was the violinist of the Florestan Trio for 16 years and won the Royal Philharmonic Society Instrumentalist award in 2006.

Anthony is co-Artistic Director of the Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival in East Sussex, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2018. He performs annually at the Yellow Barn Festival in Vermont and enjoys a close association with the Australian National Academy of Music in Melbourne. He was appointed an MBE in the 2018 Queen's New Year's Honours List and was made a Fellow of the Guildhall School of Music in 2013. He plays a 1736 Carlo Bergonzi violin, kindly bought by a syndicate of purchasers, and a 2018 violin made by Christian Bayon.



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Cameron Hill** (Associate Concertmaster) Shirin Lim* (Principal 1st Violin)

Lachlan Bramble** (Acting Principal 2nd Violin) Julia Brittain ~(Acting Associate Principal 2nd

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Simon Cobcroft** Ewen Bramble~ Sarah Denbigh Christopher Handley Sherrilyn Handley Gemma Phillips David Sharp Cameron Waters

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Contra Bassoon Jackie Newcomb*

Horns Adrian Uren** Sarah Barrett~ Sebastian Dunn Emma Gregan Thalia Huston Benjamin Messenger Philip Paine*

Trumpets

Sarah Butler**(Guest Principal) David Khafagi**(Guest Principal) Martin Phillipson~ Gregory Frick Trombones Colin Prichard** Ian Denbigh

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

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In tonight's program, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Natsuko Yoshimoto will be playing 'The Adelaide' violin. Crafted in Milan in 1753-7 by Giovanni Batista Guadagnini. Natsuko is the current custodian of 'The Adelaide' which is held in trust by UKARIA.

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B.1971 Thomas Adès

Violin Concerto Concentric Paths

- I. Rings
- II. Paths
- III. Rounds

According to British critic Ivan Hewett, the English have a need to discover a wunderkind young composer every decade or so. or. at least. have done since the time of Benjamin Britten. For a while, Thomas Adès was regarded in that light (following Oliver Knussen and George Benjamin, according to Hewett). He first came to public attention in 1991 while still a student at Cambridge with his Chamber Symphony (as a pianist he had been runner-up in the BBC's Young Musician of the Year 1990). And the third movement of his 1997 orchestral work Asyla, with its pounding evocation of club music, enhances the impression of a bright young spark engaging a youthful audience. But Adès could not now be classed as a young composer - he is too established. In 2018, approaching his late-40s, he was awarded a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).

Certainly, Adés attracted early attention. Asyla won the prestigious Grawemeyer Award and was programmed by Sir Simon Rattle – in a sign of his high estimation of Adès' talent – as part of Rattle's final concert as Music Director with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and his first concert as Principal Conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic. Adès' first two operas also attracted great attention; Powder Her Face, an irreverent satire drawn from tabloid stories that chronicled the fall from arace of Margaret, Duchess of Argyll, the centre of a scandalous divorce trial in 1963: and Adès' sensational adaptation of Shakespeare's The Tempest, a Covent Garden commission, whose Ariel is echoed in the high-pitched violin part of this concerto. Adès's third opera The Exterminating Angel, based on Luis Buñuel's 1962 film, was premiered in Salzburg in 2016 - '...hyperactivity mingled with rapt beauty and brilliant moments of parody', said the UK's *Telegraph*, a description that seems to capture Adès' characteristic contrasts.

Adès's music might be summed up as a search for stability, notwithstanding the enthusiastic embrace of volatility. He has also described composition as 'the residue of an endless search for stability'. Says Hewett: 'This search has led him in recent years towards large-scale harmonic structures that underpin the hectic surface variety'. In discussing *The Tempest*, Thomas May talked of Adès learning to 'tame the maelstrom of energies churning through his earlier scores; at the same time, his work of recent years seems to enrich the composer's unassailable gifts for colour, lyricism, and jump-cutting excitement with a more sustained humane coherence.' Critics have noted that one of the pleasures of listening to Adès' music is the feeling of tradition behind it. The echoing-through of older concertos gives this violin concerto much of its poignancy. And as recently as last

year, in discussing his new orchestral work for ballet, *Inferno*, based on Dante, Adès admitted the influence of Liszt who wrote his own 'Dante' music, and said that 'the music in "Inferno" moves from absolutely 100% me, to 100% Liszt and every gradation in between'.

Concentric Paths was a joint commission of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Berliner Festspiele and was premiered in September 2005 at the Berliner Festpiele and BBC Proms by Anthony Marwood and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the composer conducting. It is a leaner and more austere work than many of Adès' earlier pieces. Its brief duration possesses 'a high density of musical thought per square inch' and requires intense concentration on the part of the soloist.

In three movements, the work's traditional references are altered by Adès when he throws the emotional weight on the middle movement 'Paths', which is more than twice the length of the outer movements. Why is the work subtitled 'Concentric Paths'? As Adès points out, each of the movements proceeds according to its own circular design.

'Rings', the first movement, begins with pinched high notes, and revolves around aerial oscillations and gliding instrumental lines. The stratospherically high violin part will remain characteristic of the work throughout its shimmering length, but may also hark back to Ariel's part in *The Tempest*.

Adès describes the second movement, 'Paths', as involving 'two large, and very many small, independent cycles, which overlap and clash, sometimes violently, in their motion towards resolution'. The intensity of the movement is signalled at the outset by the intermittent outbursts of compressed (simultaneous) solo violin and brass timbres. There is a sense of huge movement and weight. Thomas May speaks of the movement's 'seismic, grinding, relentless energy'. Critics have noted the strain of lyricism which has come through in more recent Adès' works and this movement ends in virtual song.

Songlike lyricism appears also in the final movement, not long after the lumbering opening. As the first movement came to a sudden, though appropriate end (we sense the closing of the circles), so too does this concerto.

Mention has been made of the way Adès' music reflects tradition. Given that the lyrical modernism of this work may at times remind one of Berg, Ligeti, or even, perhaps, Prokofiev, this work belongs comfortably in the pantheon of great modern concertos.

Gordon Kalton Williams © 2012/20

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

This is the first performance of this concerto by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

() DURATION

20 minutes



1860—1911 Gustav Mahler

Symphony No.5 in C sharp minor

Part I

Trauermarsch (In gemessenem Schritt. Streng. Wie ein Kondukt) [Funeral march (With measured pace, stern, like a funeral procession)]

Stürmisch bewegt. Mit grösster Vehemenz [Stormy, with utmost vehemence]

Part II Scherzo (Kräftig, nicht zu schnell) [Strong, not too fast]

Part III Adagietto (Sehr langsam) [Very slow]

Rondo-Finale (Allegro)

Mahler's first four symphonies were more or less programmatic in their intention, drawing their inspiration from folk poetry, incorporating themes from songs, and (in all but the first) using the human voice in one or more of the movements. The Fifth, on the other hand, revealed no obvious program and was scored for orchestra alone.

It was written in 1901-02 around the time of Mahler's meeting with, and rather hasty betrothal to, Alma Schindler. While no period in Mahler's life could be described as unequivocally happy there is no doubt that the Fifth Symphony was conceived at a time of substantial personal and professional satisfaction. Yet any sign of outward pleasure or optimism tends to be avoided, at least early on in the symphony – pointedly, and notoriously, it begins with a funeral march. Mahler worked on the first two movements and part of the third during the summer of 1901 (summer being the only opportunity he had to compose because of his conducting duties in winter). The rest of the symphony was completed the following summer, by which point Alma was very much part of his life.

By the autumn of 1902 the work was complete and Mahler played it for his new wife. In her memoirs she recalled: 'It was the first time that he played a new work for me. Arm in arm we walked solemnly up to his studio in the woods.'

At the premiere in Cologne on 18 October 1904, the reception was mixed. The great conductor and early champion of Mahler's music, Bruno Walter later recalled:

I clearly remember the premiere of the Fifth...for a particular reason: it was the first and, I think, the only time that a performance of a Mahler work under his own baton left me unsatisfied.

Revision after revision ensued, and so thorough was Mahler's reworking that, while the symphony's popularity grew, each performance was nevertheless different from the last. 'The Fifth is an accursed work,' Mahler wrote. 'No one understands it!'

The symphony follows Mahler's principle of 'progressive tonality', working its way from C sharp minor to a conclusion in a triumphant D major. It passes through a vast range of moods – 'passionate, wild, pathetic, sweeping, solemn, gentle, full of all the emotions of the human heart' in Bruno Walter's memorable description. A massive work, it is in three parts and five movements.

The opening movement begins with a distinctive trumpet call which recurs as the movement proceeds. As if to belie the claim that the symphony is 'absolute' rather than 'programmatic' music, the main theme is based on a song by Mahler (*Der Tamboursg'sell*) about a drummer boy facing execution. There are two trios: the first in B flat minor with a brief violin theme, the second a quieter section in A minor following the return of the march theme. After an impassioned climax, the movement dies away amid echoes of the opening trumpet call.

Mahler leaves no doubt as to the intended mood of the second movement – marked 'Stormy, with utmost vehemence'. Much of the material derives from that in the first movement and there is a distinct reminiscence of the march rhythms.

The Scherzo's main thematic material is in the form of a joyous *ländler*. Ideas tumble over themselves in an inventive contrapuntal display while a slower waltz theme is juxtaposed with the main material. Contrasting trios add a more sombre note and in one of these there occurs a striking obbligato passage for the principal horn.

The Adagietto – arguably the most famous single movement in all the Mahler symphonies – is essentially a song without words. Scored for harps and strings alone, it is closely related to Mahler's song *Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen* (I am lost to the world). According to Mahler's colleague, Dutch conductor Willem Mengelberg, the *Adagietto* was intended as a declaration of love for Alma and was composed shortly after they met. Mengelberg wrote in his score: Instead of a letter, he sent her this manuscript without further explanation. She understood and wrote back that he should come! Both have told me this...If music is a language, then this is proof. He tells her everything in tones and sounds in music.

The Adagietto gained a wider audience when used in the soundtrack for Visconti's film *Death in Venice*.

The Rondo-Finale shares material with each of the previous four movements. particularly with the Funeral March and the Adagietto. Merging elements of fugue and sonata form into a unified whole, it is a joyous celebration which begins with a series of folk-like figures on solo wind instruments. (The opening of the movement quotes the witty Lob des hohen Verstandes [In Praise of Higher Understanding] from Des Knaben Wunderhorn.) The main rondo theme is first stated on the horns and the other ideas are woven contrapuntally around this. When the main melody from the Adagietto returns it is so transformed with energy that it is practically unrecognisable. The development is elaborate, and the movement as a whole works its way towards the ecstatic brass chorale of the conclusion - as close as the melancholy Mahler ever came to writing an 'Ode to Joy'.

Martin Buzacott Symphony Australia © 1997

💾 PERFORMANCE HISTORY

The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra performed Mahler's Fifth for the first time in 1979 with conductor Elyakum Shapirra, and most recently in November 2014 with Mark Wigglesworth.

(L) DURATION

1 hour, 8 minutes

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Vincent Ciccarello Managing Director

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