

Notes on the Program

Academic Festival Overture - Johannes Brahms (1811-1891)

In 1879 the University of Breslau conferred upon Brahms an honorary Doctorate in Music. Brahms was flattered and sent a postcard of thanks to the faculty. A letter from his friend Bernhard Scholz, Director of Music in Breslau, made it clear that the university expected him to express his gratitude in musical form. While vacationing at Bad Ishil during the summer of 1880, Brahms penned his musical "thank you" - the Academic Festival Overture.

With a masterful balance of serious and light-hearted elements, the emphasis is on the "festival" rather than the "academic". Brahms himself described the piece as "a very boisterous potpourri of student songs". Indeed, excerpts from four student beer-hall tunes play a significant role in the orchestral texture.

The composer himself conducted the premiere in Breslau on 4th January, 1881.

Méditation from *Thais* - Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

...performed by Queenwood Orchestra with soloists Alexandra Mew (violin) and Annabelle Ewen (harp).

Massenet was born in Montaud, France, and died in Paris. A prolific opera composer, he also wrote ballets, orchestral works and several oratorios.

The famous *Méditation for Violin and Orchestra* is from Massenet's three-act opera *Thais* and is often performed, as it is today, as a concert piece in its own right. It appears also in arrangements for many other combinations of instruments. After *Manon* and *Werther*, *Thais* is one of Massenet's most performed operas, but is not part of the standard operatic repertoire.

Piano Concerto No. 21 KV467: *Andante* - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

...performed by Queenwood Orchestra with soloist Amy Cui (Piano)

Mozart composed his *Concerto No.21* in March of 1785, completing it merely one month after his previous concerto. This concerto is among the most technically demanding of all Mozart's concerti. Today, it is less frequently remembered for its difficulty than for its lyrical second *Andante* movement, which was prominently featured in the 1967 Swedish film, "Elvira Madigan."

Interval

Symphony No. 6 in F major op. 68, "Pastorale" - Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

...performed by Mosman Orchestra

- I. Erwachen heiterer Empfindungen bei der Ankunft auf dem Lande (*Awakening of joyous feelings upon arrival in the country*): Allegro ma non troppo.
- II. Szene am Bach (*Scene by the brook*): Andante molto mosso.

III. Lustiges Zusammensein der Landleute (*Happy gathering of country folk*): Allegro

IV. Gewitter. Sturm (*Thunderstorm; Storm*): Allegro

V. Hirtengesang. Frohe und dankbare Gefühle nach dem Sturm (*Shepherd's song; cheerful and thankful feelings after the storm*): Allegretto

Beethoven annotated his sketches for his *Pastoral* Symphony thus: "More an expression of feeling than a painting in sound". However, the titles he gave to each of its five movements evoke images of rural life. In the first, Beethoven's arrival in the countryside is signalled by a suitably rustic drone from the violas and cellos, while the violins introduce the serene but lively first theme. The bucolic mood is maintained with uncharacteristically simple harmonies and textures, and themes evocative of peasant dances. In the second movement the strings give a quiet flowing motion to the *Brook* which is frequented by quails, cuckoos, and nightingales, evoked by the woodwinds towards the end of the movement. In the third movement, Beethoven turns to human inspiration for a portrayal of a village dance. Like all merry-making, this party too comes to an end; in this case with a change in the weather as the fourth movement, *Thunderstorm*, arrives. The storm rages away throughout the orchestra, then gradually subsides with its last rumblings and emerging sunlight, to herald the beginning of the joyful fifth movement. The last three movements are played without pause, and the entire symphony ends on a tranquil note.

Please join us for a glass of champagne after the concert

Queenwood Orchestra

The Queenwood Orchestra is one of the Senior School's premier ensembles and performs at most official school functions as well as concerts and other special occasions. The members range across the Senior School from Years 7 – 12 and must have a minimum standard of 4th Grade and be reasonably good sight readers. The repertoire performed by the orchestra is quite varied, ranging from the classics, to film music and even specially commissioned works. This year some of the more advanced students will be given the opportunity to perform concertos with the orchestra.

Mary Carter - Conductor

Mrs Carter has been the Head of Music at Queenwood School for the past 6 years and has been a music educator in schools and universities for nearly 30 years. She has a B Mus Ed and an A Mus A (piano), and is currently working on an M Mus Tech. Over the years Mrs Carter has conducted and performed in many different types of instrumental and vocal ensembles and was fortunate enough to attend conducting master classes with Sir John Hopkins. She was principal oboist for the Wollongong Symphony Orchestra and later the Tamworth Regional Orchestra, before relocating to Sydney. Currently Mrs Carter is a member of the Cathedral Singers.

Featured Artists from Queenwood School

Alexandra Mew last year gained her L.Mus A in *Violin*. She is in Year 11, but doing Music 2 and Extension for her HSC this year. Alexandra is the leader of the Queenwood Orchestra, and also leads its String Ensemble and String Octet, and is a member of a piano trio operating at the school. **Annabelle Ewen** is in Year 12 and is doing Music 2 and Extension. Annabelle is not only an accomplished *harpist*, but also a very creative composer, one of her works having recently been performed by the Sydney Sinfonia. Annabelle is the principal harpist of the SYO. **Amy Cui** gained her A Mus A in *Piano* eighteen months ago. Amy has participated in Queenwood music ensembles and has been pianist and percussion player for a number of years with the Queenwood Orchestra.

Members of Queenwood Orchestra

First Violin: Alexandra Mew, Stephanie Dietz, Edwina Tidmarsh, Georgia Sullivan, Yasmin Ainkaran, Rebecca Chan. **Second Violin:** Laura Foster, Melissa Dullege, Yuri Kato, Olivia Gotch, Lauren Sarjeant, Georgina Gotch. **Viola:** Dayna Anderson, Mayumi Kato, Eloise Ewen, Georgina Castle. **Cello:** Isabella Williams, Alexandra Stead, Isabelle Gotch, Felicity Nelson, Stephanie O'Connor. **Double Bass:** Amanda Stead. **Flute:** Pru Anstice, Katrina Garner, Melissa Kulic, Julia Park, Tess Mailman, Harriet Watson. **Oboe:** Alice Truswell. **Clarinet:** Rachel Donnelly, Jasmine Hyatt, Eden Knight, Katherine Pearce. **Trumpet:** Tess Dixon, Georgia Flint, Freya Edwards-Fitzsimmons, Olivia Slip, Melanie Werner. **Trombone:** Sarah Ludowici. **Euphonium:** Rebecca Challenor, Fiona Knapman. **Percussion:** Amy Cui, Catharine Sarjeant, Camilla Collins, Erika Takemoto.

Mosman Orchestra

Andrew Del Riccio - Musical Director

Andrew Del Riccio holds degrees in performance from the NSW State Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney and in conducting from the University of British Columbia (Canada). He has received scholarships that enabled him to study at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland, The Boston Conservatory, and conducting master courses in the Czech Republic and in London.

Andrew has performed with many of Sydney's leading ensembles including the Sydney Symphony and Opera Australia, as well as founding the Blues Point Brass Quintet. His conducting interests have led to the formation of ensembles in Australia and Canada. With the Mosman Orchestra Andrew has conducted world premieres of works by Michiel Irik and Mathew Chilmaid. In 2003, he was a guest conductor at University of NSW, giving performances with the Symphony Orchestra & Wind Band.

Andrew is the Coordinator of Brass & Percussion at Trinity Grammar School, and has a busy private teaching practice.

Members of Mosman Orchestra

First Violin: Kathryn Crossing* (concertmaster), Geoff Allars, Julian Dresser, Berengere Farris, Beres Lindsay, Manuela Mignot, Glen Preston, Clare Ryan, Aya Shirai, Nick Sifniotis. **Second Violin:** Heather Shannon, Chris Bladwell, Denis Brown, Bob Clampett, Ruth Day, David Healy, Ann Kanaan, Andrew Parkin, Robert Timmins. **Viola:** Holly Doyle, Samuel Loukas, Lihn Ly, Jill Quin. **Cello:** Shona Liney, Lindsay Wood, Elena Clark, Mark Haughton.

Bass: Moya Molloy, Mark Szeto, Peter Thwaites. **Flute:** Carolyn Thornely, Jacqueline Kent.

Piccolo: Kaori Iijima. **Oboe:** Val Densmore. **Clarinet:** Danika Allars, Antony Westwood.

Bassoon: Bob Chen, Graham Cormack. **French Horn:** Luke Midena, Rana Wood.

Trumpet: Ken Allars, Edwin Laidler. **Trombone:** Vicki Sifniotis, Paul Young.

Timpani/Percussion: Ben Taylor

*Kathryn Crossing's chair proudly sponsored by The Learning Group.



MOSMAN ORCHESTRA

Patron: The Hon Joe Hockey MP

Member for North Sydney and Minister for Human Services

Musical Director Andrew Del Riccio

..is once again combining with

Queenwood School Orchestra

Directed by Mary Carter

to present

BEETHOVEN AND THE PIRATES!



Friday, 7th April, 2006 8.00 pm.

Sunday, 9th April, 2006 2.30 pm

Mosman Art Gallery and Community Centre

Pirates of the Caribbean: Medley of the film music - Badelt arr. Ricketts

Meditation from Thais - Massenet

Andante from Piano Concerto No 21 - Mozart

Symphony No 6 Pastoral - Beethoven