FAMILY CONCERTS
Sunday 5 November, 2pm
### Classical

**Dramatic Shostakovich**

- **SHOSTAKOVICH**
  - Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk: Passacaglia
  - Violin Concerto No.1
  - Symphony No.5

- **Vladimir Ashkenazy** conductor
- Ray Chen violin

**Special Event**

- **Fri 10 Nov, 8pm**
- **Sat 11 Nov, 2pm**
- **Mondays @ 7**
- **Mon 13 Nov, 7pm**
- **Sydney Opera House**

**Gripping Shostakovich**

- **SHOSTAKOVICH**
  - Cello Concerto No.1
  - Symphony No.8

- **Vladimir Ashkenazy** conductor
- Daniel Müller-Schott cello

**APT Master Series**

- **Wed 15 Nov, 8pm**
- **Fri 17 Nov, 8pm**
- **Sat 18 Nov, 8pm**
- **Sydney Opera House**

**Beethoven One**

- **Marwood and the SSO Fellows**
  - *BEETHOVEN* Symphony No.1
  - VASKS Distant Light – Violin Concerto
  - Anthony Marwood violin-director • SSO Fellows

**Tea & Symphony**

- **Fri 17 Nov, 11am**
- complimentary morning tea from 10am
- **Sydney Opera House**

**Belshazzar’s Feast**

- **EÖTVÖS** Halleluja – Oratorium balbulum

- **AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**
  - **WALTON** Belshazzar’s Feast
  - **David Robertson** conductor
  - Michelle DeYoung mezzo-soprano
  - Topi Lehtipuu tenor
  - Andrew Foster-Williams bass-baritone
  - Martin Crewes narrator
  - Sydney Philharmonia Choirs
  - Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Chorus

**Emirates Metro Series**

- **Fri 24 Nov, 8pm**
- **Great Classics**
- **Sat 25 Nov, 2pm**
- **Sydney Opera House**

**Souvenirs**

- **SSO Fellows**
  - **LIGETI** arr. Howarth Mysteries of the Macabre
  - **PÄRT** Fratres for chamber ensemble (2007)
  - **RAUTAVAARA** Octet for Winds
  - **GLAZUNOV** In modo religioso for brass quintet
  - **TCHAIKOVSKY** Souvenir de Florence
  - Roger Benedict conductor • **David Elton** trumpet
  - SSO Fellows

**Sun 26 Nov, 3pm**

- **Verbrugghen Hall**

**Bluebeard’s Castle**

- **With Bach & Brahms**
  - **BRAHMS** Alto Rhapsody
  - **JS BACH** Cantata No.82 – Ich habe genug
  - **BARTÖK** Bluebeard’s Castle

- **David Robertson** conductor
- Michelle DeYoung mezzo-soprano
- Andrew Foster-Williams bass-baritone
- John Relyea bass
- Don Hany narrator
- Opera Australia Chorus

**APT Master Series**

- **Wed 29 Nov, 8pm**
- **Fri 1 Dec, 8pm**
- **Sat 2 Dec, 8pm**
- **Sydney Opera House**

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8215 4600 Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

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Welcome to our final family concert for 2017!

Music stirs our emotions, excites our imaginations and tells stories. In difficult times music can cheer us up. This new Australian work began as music for eight musicians with singer-narrator Susan Ferguson in South Australia. Today the Sydney Symphony Orchestra brings to life the different birds of the Australian bush in the story of The Bush Concert. Listen to the orchestra and see if you can recognise the bird songs as they audition for a very special concert.

This afternoon we invite you to meet the people who created The Bush Concert – just climb up to the northern foyer and follow the purple carpet down the stairs to the Kids Activity Zone.

Before the concert you’ll be able to meet singer and storyteller Susan Ferguson to learn the ‘Gum Tree Song’. After the concert we’ll also be joined by author-illustrator Helga Visser, creator of The Bush Concert, and the pictures from her book will be displayed on the foyer screens before and after today’s concert. Composer Mark Simeon Ferguson wrote the music and he will be our special guest at the Composing Wall after the concert.

We hope you’ve enjoyed this year’s series of Family Concerts and that you’ll be back next year for more music-making.

Linda Lorenza
Director of Learning & Engagement
Sydney Symphony Orchestra
THE BUSH CONCERT

Toby Thatcher conductor
Barry Conrad narrator

The Bush Concert
Based on the book by Helga Visser
Music and orchestrations by Mark Simeon Ferguson
Lyrics by Ferguson and Visser

It Hadn’t Rained
Committee of Galahs
Performers Wanted
Hullabaloo
Tap, Tap! Tap, Tap!
Concert Night
Misguided Magpie-Lark
Entry of the Gladiators [original music by Julius Fučík]
Pelican-can [original music by Jacques Offenbach]
Acrobats
Magician
Gum Tree Song – Please join in the singing!
La Régouissance [original music by George Frideric Handel]
Rain – Please join in the singing!

The concert will be performed without interval and will conclude at approximately 3pm.

Based on the book The Bush Concert written and illustrated by Helga Visser. Text and illustrations © Helga Visser 2011. First published by Omnibus Books, a division of Scholastic Australia Pty Ltd in 2011. This production produced under licence from Scholastic Australia Pty Limited.

COVER IMAGE: Illustration by Helga Visser © 2011

Join us in the Northern Foyer after the concert for our musical Activity Zone for kids!
ABOUT THE BUSH CONCERT

The Bush Concert began life as an illustrated book by Helga Visser, who lives on the north coast of NSW. As a commercial artist she didn’t always get to draw what she wanted, but now that she is retired she has time for the art (and stories) that she loves.

The book was inspired by Australian birdcalls and 71 different birds make their appearance in the story. As Helga recalls: ‘It had been raining for a number of days, it was cold and dreary, and my bird friends were sitting outside looking wet and miserable. Then they started singing, first only a few notes and then finally they all joined in. They thoroughly enjoyed their singing, and so cheered themselves up.’

This musical adaptation of The Bush Concert brings to life some of those birdcalls and composer Mark Simeon Ferguson has marked their names into the sheet music. Many of the birdcalls are played by instruments from the woodwind section – listen carefully for the piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon. The other instruments get to play birds as well: for example, the french horn is the Southern Boobook and the trumpet is the familiar Noisy Miner and a Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo.

In basing his music on birdcalls, Mark follows in the footsteps of composers such as Frenchman Olivier Messiaen and Australian Peter Sculthorpe. (When Messiaen visited Australia he made a special early-morning excursion into the bush to hear the lyrebird!) Mark spent months researching and writing down the melodies and rhythms of the birdcalls and then chose themes or ‘hooks’ from these while developing original music to represent the different scenes.

In a few scenes, Mark quotes from popular orchestral pieces. Perhaps you’ll recognise the Entry of the Gladiators, a march by Czech composer Julius Fučík (1872–1916), which quickly become famous as entry music for circus clowns. Or the Can-Can music, which is the Infernal Galop that Jacques Offenbach (1819–1880) wrote for the finale of his operetta Orpheus in the Underworld. And before the final song, ‘Rain’, Mark includes La Réjouissance (The Rejoicing) which comes from the Music for the Royal Fireworks by George Frideric Handel (1685–1759).

The Creators

Helga Visser studied at the National Art School in East Sydney and with fine artist and sculptor Arthur Murch. During this time she assisted with the mural painting at the Overseas Terminal at Circular Quay. She has worked as commercial artist in Australia, Indonesia, Holland and Hong Kong, and now concentrates on art that she loves. Portraiture was a particular interest and nature has always been an inspiration. Trips to Central Australia, and the mid-north coast of NSW, where she now lives, have inspired much of her recent work. She works mostly in oil paint and pastels. Some years ago she took up clay sculpting and has produced a number of prizewinning works. Her sculptures mostly comment on the mores and trends of today’s society. The Bush Concert is her first children’s book.

Did you know that Helga...

• rode a bicycle to school in Germany but caught the train in winter when it snowed
• always came last in running races at school – occasionally second last
• spent six weeks on a ship when migrating to Australia
• loves animals – but not spiders

So there’s the idea of the story – when things are looking down, look up, cheer up…sing a song, dance or crack a joke. It will make you feel better.

HELGA VISSER
They love the Red gum, Blue gum, Grey gum, Ghost gum, Scribbly gum, Spotted gum, even Lemon Scented gum.

Stringy bark, Paper bark, Iron bark, Half bark. Even when it’s fallen they still love it as a log!

**GUM TREE SONG**

Red gum, Blue gum, Grey gum, Ghost gum, Scribbly gum, Spotted gum, Seven Flowered Mountain gum.

Stringy bark, Paper bark, Iron bark, Half bark. Any type of bark, just not the bark of a dog! Ruff!

**RAIN**

Drought is broken Rain is here Joyful music brings us cheer. Hooray!

**Did you know that Mark...**

- has a crazy Kelpie-cross dog from the pound called Frankie
- flew in a helicopter over the Bungle Bungles (WA) and was so sick his face turned blue
- started a band called Marmalade Five with his wife Susan and their three children
- was thrilled when he first heard a Green Cat Bird in the wild in Port Macquarie; his other favourite birdcalls are the Wompoo Fruit Dove and the Magpie

Mark Simeon Ferguson was born into a musical family in Whyalla, SA, and as a boy studied piano and composition. He developed an interest in jazz at high school and later studied jazz performance at the University of Adelaide, where he now lectures. He has performed with leading international jazz and cabaret artists and has been heavily involved with the Adelaide Cabaret Festival. Mark’s first major tours were with children’s entertainer Peter Combe and children’s music has been an important feature of his career, including touring for 12 years alongside his singer wife Susan for Musica Viva In Schools. In addition to several commissions for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, he has composed for the SA Public Primary Schools Music Festivals and the JazzSA Youth Superbands.

In today’s concert, the orchestra comprises pairs of flutes (playing piccolo too), oboes, clarinets, bassoons, horns, trumpets and trombones; a tuba; percussion instruments [including vibraphone, temple blocks, snare drum, bass drum, maracas, triangle, various cymbals and a large rain stick]; and strings [violins, violas, cellos and double basses].

This narrated musical production of *The Bush Concert* was commissioned by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and premiered in its original chamber ensemble format in 2015. A full orchestral version was commissioned by Symphony Services International in 2016, and this is the version the SSO is performing today.

PHOTO: BRENT LEIDERITZ
**Composing Wall**
Guest Composer, Mark Simeon Ferguson (post-concert only)

**Exotic Instruments**
Explore some bird sounds

**Mobile Orchestra**
Venture into the sound zone of birdsong

**Percussion Club**
Get your groove on and play some rhythms from music in The Bush Concert

**Bird Selfie Corner – Southern Foyer**
Capture your musical bird selfies at the SSO selfie wall. Share your photo on social media with hashtag #sydsymph

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THE ARTISTS

Toby Thatcher
conductor

Toby Thatcher was born in Melbourne and raised in Sydney, where he studied at the Conservatorium of Music and participated in the Symphony Australia Young Conductor Development Program. He subsequently completed a Master’s degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he studied oboe as well as participating in international conducting masterclasses. In his final year he performed with the London Philharmonia Orchestra and London Sinfonietta, and was offered a trial with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for the position of Principal Cor Anglais. After graduating, he was a finalist and prize winner at the 2015 Georg Solti International Conducting Competition. That same year he won a Neeme Järvi Prize at the Menuhin Festival and was appointed Assistant Conductor to the SSO. In 2016 the University of Sydney named him winner of the Outstanding Achievements of Young Alumni Award and he received the Brian Stacey Award for Australian Conductors. This year he was invited by the Salzburg Festival to apply for their prestigious Young Conductors Award. He is also the founder and director of the London-based orchestra Ensemble Eroica and conductor of Ensemble x.y. This year he has conducted the SSO in the Playlist, Family, and Mozart in the City series, as well as on tour in NSW.

Did you know that Toby...
• spent childhood holidays in a log cabin in northern NSW
• did work experience at Taronga Zoo
• was a cub and scout, and the leader of the winning patrol at State Rally
• recently climbed Mt Snowdon, second-highest mountain in the UK

Barry Conrad
narrator

Barry Conrad’s career spans music, acting, fitness and fashion. As a musician he has opened for Brian McKnight, Craig David, Eric Benet and K-Ci & JoJo, toured globally with the world-renowned Darlene Zschech and Grammy-winning Israel Houghton, written songs for an array of artists, been a background singer for artists such as Jessica Mauboy, Stan Walker and Sebastian, and even sung for the Pope. He landed a role on FOX’s Power Rangers: Ninja Storm and featured in numerous TV commercials before making the leap to feature films in The Sapphires. In 2013 he was a finalist on The X-Factor, winning new fans and ensuring his placed as one of Australia’s most exciting talents. He made his musical theatre debut as Flick in the Australian premiere production of Violet. He then toured nationally playing Seaweed in Hairspray: Arena Spectacular, and Kenickie in the national tour of Grease: The Arena Experience. That show reunited him with fellow X-Factor alumna and Eurovision superstar Dami Im. He has since joined the Australian cast of Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, marking his fourth consecutive musical in 18 months. Barry Conrad is also a passionate advocate for health and fitness, and as a philanthropist he is a proud ambassador for R U OK?, Compassion Australia and Cancer Council.

Did you know that Barry...
• was born in South Africa to an African-English father and a German-Indonesian mother
• is a superhero fanatic and dreams of being in a Marvel movie
• chose to go by the name of Barry Conrad (his middle name) because Barry means ‘sharp’ and ‘spear’ and Conrad means ‘brave’ and ‘wise’
SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

DAVID ROBERTSON
THE LOWY CHAIR OF
CHIEF CONDUCTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PATRON Professor The Hon. Dame Marie Bashir ad cvo

Founded in 1932 by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has evolved into one of the world’s finest orchestras as Sydney has become one of the world’s great cities. Resident at the iconic Sydney Opera House, the SSO also performs in venues throughout Sydney and regional New South Wales, and international tours to Europe, Asia and the USA have earned the orchestra worldwide recognition for artistic excellence.

Well on its way to becoming the premier orchestra of the Asia Pacific region, the SSO has toured China on four occasions, and in 2014 won the arts category in the Australian Government’s inaugural Australia-China Achievement Awards, recognising ground-breaking work in nurturing the cultural and artistic relationship between the two nations.

The orchestra’s first chief conductor was Sir Eugene Goossens, appointed in 1947; he was followed by Nicolai Malko, Dean Dixon, Moshe Atzmon, Willem van Otterloo, Louis Frémaux, Sir Charles Mackerras, Zdeněk Mácal, Stuart Challender, Edo de Waart and Gianluigi Gelmetti. Vladimir Ashkenazy was Principal Conductor from 2009 to 2013. The orchestra’s history also boasts collaborations with legendary figures such as George Szell, Sir Thomas Beecham, Otto Klemperer and Igor Stravinsky.

The SSO’s award-winning Learning and Engagement program is central to its commitment to the future of live symphonic music, developing audiences and engaging the participation of young people. The orchestra promotes the work of Australian composers through performances, recordings and commissions. Recent premieres have included major works by Ross Edwards, Lee Bracegirdle, Gordon Kerry, Mary Finsterer, Nigel Westlake, Paul Stanhope and Georges Lentz, and recordings of music by Brett Dean have been released on both the BIS and SSO Live labels.

Other releases on the SSO Live label, established in 2006, include performances conducted by Alexander Lazarev, Sir Charles Mackerras and David Robertson, as well as the complete Mahler symphonies conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy.

This is David Robertson’s fourth year as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director.
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David Campbell
Alanna Jones

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Lisa Osmialowski
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David McGregor

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Christopher Haycroft

HORNS
Rachel Silver
Alice Yang

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Paul Goodchild
Associate Principal
Jenna Smith

TROMBONES
Scott Kinmont
Associate Principal
Amanda Tillet

TUBA
Steve Rossé
Principal

PERCUSSION
Sami Butler

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