

bella italia



NORWOOD
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

sunday 8 september 2024
norwood concert hall



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Norwood Symphony Orchestra acknowledges the Kaurna people, traditional custodians of the land on which we perform today. We pay respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.

Conductor's message

Dear friends and family of the Norwood Symphony Orchestra, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our third season concert for 2024—*Bella Italia*. We have a thrilling Italian-themed concert for you today with music by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Mendelssohn and Rossini—we had to have an Italian in there as well!

This is truly a treasure trove of terrific music and we are thrilled to welcome back our Italian-born friend Stephen van der Hoek as the piano soloist in the Rachmaninoff Paganini variations.

Our next concert, also Italian-themed, will feature operatic favourites from Puccini to mark the centenary of his death! We will be welcoming back some of our favourite friends from the opera community: Jeremy Tatchell, Lisa Cannizzaro and Danielle Ruggiero as well as making some new friends: Jamie Moffatt and Jaicheng Ding. It's going to be super spectacular and I am already thoroughly thrilled just thinking of it and hope to see you there!

Thanks as always to all the musicians for their dedication, to the committee of the NSO for their hard work behind the scenes, to the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters for their support, to our front of house volunteers and of course all of you, our dedicated audience, for your support and patronage.

Michael Milton

Norwood Symphony Orchestra welcomes
our soloist Stephen van der Hoek to present *Bella Italia*.

Overture to *L'italiana in Algeri (The Italian Girl in Algiers)*
Gioachino Rossini

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Opus 43
Sergei Rachmaninoff

Soloist: Stephen van der Hoek, piano

INTERVAL

Symphony No 4 in A major, Opus 90, *Italian Symphony*
Felix Mendelssohn

Allegro vivace ❖ *Andante con moto* ❖
Con moto moderato ❖ *Presto and Finale: Saltarello*

Capriccio Italien, Opus 45
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Conductor: Michael Milton

Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served from the
bars during interval. Other drinks and snacks will be on sale.

Norwood Concert Hall, 8 September 2024

Program Notes

Norwood Symphony Orchestra takes us on a journey through the sunny regions of Italy, viewing the scenery through the eyes of Italian composer Rossini, and tourists Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff & Mendelssohn.

Overture to *L'italiana in Algeri* (*The Italian Girl in Algiers*)

Gioachino Rossini (1792–1868)

Gioachino Rossini was already a seasoned composer when he wrote *L'italiana in Algeri* at the age of 21. The opera premiered in Venice in 1813, and was very successful. The overture is notable for Rossini's tribute to Haydn's surprise Symphony No 94, with the soft pizzicato string opening followed by a crashing chord.

The opera has a Middle Eastern setting, enabling Rossini to incorporate Turkish style music, made popular by the Ottoman Empire's military marching bands—so we hear lots of percussion along with the brilliance of Rossini's signature melodies.

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Opus 43

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

We are thrilled to welcome back local pianist Stephen van der Hoek, joining the orchestra to perform Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. Nicoló Paganini was the original virtuoso, writing intricate music to display his dazzling technique on the violin, and touring Europe to great acclaim.

One of his most well-known works is the *Caprice Number 24* for solo violin, where he starts with a simple theme, and creates more and more complex variations around it. Sergei Rachmaninoff decided to expand upon this theme, using his mastery of the piano and a full orchestra to show his own virtuosity.

The result is a complex work full of light and shade, travelling from a simple melody with a bare bones accompaniment at the beginning, through forceful syncopated sections, and the famous 18th variation, where Rachmaninoff changes to the major key, inverts the melody and gifts us the most sublime treatment of the thematic material. He also manages to incorporate the *Dies Irae* melody, resulting in a showstopping bravura finale.

Symphony No 4 in A major, Opus 90, Italian Symphony

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Felix Mendelssohn enjoyed his travels through Europe, gaining inspiration for his compositions. He wrote to his sister Fanny that he felt his fourth symphony was ‘the jolliest piece that I have ever done, especially the first movement’.

The work certainly starts with a burst of exuberance, the orchestra rollicking along with plenty of colour and Italian spirit. The two inner movements represent a solemn procession with soaring melodies and an elegant court dance in the style of a minuet. Finally, the fourth movement, takes us whirling off in a dramatic dance of stamping feet styled on the saltarello and tarantella folk dances.

Capriccio Italien, Opus 45

Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)

Pyotr Tchaikovsky travelled to Italy with his brother Modest in the late 1870s, visiting Rome during Carnival. *Capriccio Italien* is a travelogue of sorts, detailing music he heard there: the military bugle calls from the army barracks next to his hotel, the tunes played by street musicians, a lively tarantella and a Tuscan folk tune.

Many audience members will recall one of the melodies as the theme music for the ABC’s Four Corners program during the 1970s and 80s.

Guest Artists

Stephen van der Hoek

Stephen van der Hoek was born in Florence and grew up in Adelaide. He took up piano at an early age and studied privately, mostly with Irina Lioubimova.

During his teenage years, he attended Marryatville High School, and won various prizes for piano and composition, including the Adelaide Eisteddfods, the *Young Composers' Award* and the *McDonald's City of Sydney Performing Arts Challenge*. He also studied harpsichord and organ, and has conducted various choirs in the Adelaide area.

In 2008, Stephen won first prize for the *Adelaide Eisteddfod Piano Concerto Competition* with his performance of Medtner's Piano Concerto No 2, and also first prize at the *Young Performer of the Year Award* in Sydney, with his performances of Bach, Ligeti, Liszt and Rachmaninoff. Stephen regularly gives solo concerts in Adelaide on the piano and organ. He teaches piano and accompanies many musicians around Adelaide.

In 2023, Stephen performed *Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No 2* with the Norwood Symphony Orchestra.



Norwood Symphony Orchestra

Conductor—Michael Milton

First Violins

Perrin Walker
Tori Spooner
Melanie Harrald
Matthew Hong
Julie Czarnecki
Clara Seung
Rebecca Kemp
Naomi Cain
Conrad Gittins

Second Violins

Lai Wei
Emily Nordestgaard
Amanda Roeger
Catherine Loye
Margaret Stratton
Tony Miller
Barbara Tiffin
Christopher Rawlinson
Kristin Hsu
Ann Miao Ng
Xuan Vu
Hedley Hansen
Therese Janus

Violas

Samantha Thorne
Iarla Bastians
Steve Salamon
James Zhang
Christine Batty
Eve Tancibudek

Cellos

Theo Tran
Brandon Cooper
Anna Piland
Rosalie Day
Kathy Wozniczka
Janis Svilans
Annie Schilling
Ingrid Asenstorfer

Double Bass

Ella Conboy
Zhiyue (Daniel) Li
Tammy Papps

Flutes

Jasmin Feneley
Danielle Pedler

Piccolo

Masako Kondo

Oboes

Anthony Radogna
Jill Noble

Cor Anglais

Alison Stewart-Klein

Clarinets

Sheryl Fox
Alison Stuart

Bassoons

Josie Hawkes OAM
Kathryn Lucas

Horns

Kevin Jones
Joshua Liu
Abigail Sutherland
Andrew Heitmann

Trumpets

John Kerry
Ian Roberts

Trombones

Greg Tillett
Paul McDonald
Daniel Shephard

Tuba

John Rofe

Timpani

Michael Holland

Percussion

Belinda Allevi
Vivienne Bradtke
John White

Harp

Joyce Kwok

Credits and Acknowledgements

NSO Committee

President – Andrew Heitmann; **Secretary** – Amanda Roeger;
Treasurer – Jill Noble; **Librarian** – Samantha Thorne; **Conductor** – Michael Milton

Committee members: Iarla Bastians, Jasmin Feneley, Anthony Radogna, Ian Roberts, Barbara Tiffin

NSO Artistic Team

Poster/flyer designs – Naomi Cain; **Web manager and photography** – Anthony Radogna; **Program notes** – Samantha Thorne; **Friends of NSO** – Suzanne Edwards

NSO Concert Team

Front-of-house volunteers: Suzanne Edwards, Michael Janus, Paul Roeger, Andrew Spargo, Keith Stuart and Rosa West

Norwood Concert Hall management Norwood Symphony Orchestra thanks the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters for their generous support.

NSO 2024 SEASON DATES (Norwood Concert Hall)

2.30pm Sunday 24 March 2024 *Old Masters, New Visions*

2.30pm Sunday 30 June 2024 *Journey to the Stars*

2.30pm Sunday 8 September 2024 *Bella Italia!*

2.30pm Sunday 15 December 2024 *Passionate Puccini*

To find out more about our upcoming concerts, join our mailing list and donate to our development fund, please visit our website norwoodorchestra.com. To stay in touch regarding upcoming NSO concerts, please contact us with your name, address and email address.

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