

MSO

NAIDOC WEEK PROGRAM

MSO + SPINIFEX GUM

9 July / 2pm & 7.30pm
Arts Centre Melbourne, Hamer Hall

Artists

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Benjamin Northey conductor

Lyn Williams AM choral director

Marliya

Emma Donovan

Ollie McGill

Felix Riebl

Gondwana Voices

With musicians from **Melbourne Youth Orchestras**

Ross Irwin, Felix Riebl and **Ollie McGill** arrangements

Deborah Brown choreography

Spinifex Gum has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body and the Major Festival Initiative in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festival Inc., Adelaide Festival, Sydney Festival and Monash Academy of Performing Arts; Ryan Cooper Family Foundation, The Aranday Foundation, The Myer Foundation, The Yulgilbar Foundation, Limb Family Foundation, SALT Catalyst, Mamoma Foundation, Annamila Foundation, Lightfolk Foundation, The Humanity Foundation, Canny Quine Foundation, Igniting Change, many generous individuals, and by Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund and ACF Boost and The Dara Foundation.

 **Equity Trustees**

Electric Fields + MSO is proudly presented by Equity Trustees.

Program

Acknowledgement of Country

Spinifex Gum

Wandangarli

Mine Steal Tender Ore

Yurala

Battle Cry

Sisters

Lang Interlude

Make it Rain

Ghosts Whisper

Ganalili

Ready or Not

Dream Baby Dream

Voice Treaty Truth Now

My Island Home

Gawarliwarli

Ms Dhu

Locked Up

The Children Came Back

Marliya

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra is a leading cultural figure in the Australian arts landscape, bringing the best in orchestral music and passionate performance to a diverse audience across Victoria, the nation and around the world.

Each year the MSO engages with more than 5 million people through live concerts, TV, radio and online broadcasts, international tours, recordings and education programs. The MSO is a vital presence, both onstage and in the community, in cultivating classical music in Australia. The nation's first professional orchestra, the MSO has been the sound of the city of Melbourne since 1906. The MSO regularly attracts great artists from around the globe including Anne-Sophie Mutter, Lang Lang, Renée Fleming and Thomas Hampson, while bringing Melbourne's finest musicians to the world through tours to China, Europe and the United States.

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra respectfully acknowledges the people of the Eastern Kulin Nations, on whose un-ceded lands we honour the continuation of the oldest music practice in the world.

Benjamin Northey *conductor*

Since returning to Australia from Europe, Benjamin Northey has rapidly emerged as one of the nation's leading musical figures. He is currently the Principal Resident Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and was appointed Chief Conductor of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra in 2015.

His international appearances include concerts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, the Malaysian Philharmonic and the New Zealand Symphony and Auckland Philharmonia.

He has conducted *L'elisir d'amore*, *The Tales of Hoffmann* and *La sonnambula* for SOSA and *Turandot*, *Don Giovanni*, *Carmen* and *Così fan tutte* for Opera Australia.

Limelight Magazine named him Australian Artist of the Year in 2018. In 2021, he conducts the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Christchurch Symphony and all six Australian state symphony orchestras.

Lyn Williams *AM choral director*

Lyn Williams is widely regarded as one of the finest conductors of choirs around the world. For over 30 years, Lyn has harnessed the incredible power of young voices through her world-renowned ensembles: the Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana Voices, the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Marliya. Her choirs have appeared with the world's leading orchestras and conductors and at festivals including the BBC Proms and Polyfolia.

Lyn has commissioned over 200 works from composers across Australia and around the world and her ability to forge innovative and meaningful collaborations is widely recognised. She continues to foster strong relationships with First Nations artists across Australia, bringing together cultural custodians and composers to create new works which preserve and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island languages and cultures.

In 2017, Lyn received the Australia Council for the Arts' Don Banks Music Award for outstanding and sustained contribution to music in Australia, in recognition of her lifework as founder and director of Gondwana Choirs. In 2021, Lyn received the Sir Bernard Heinze Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to Australian music.

Marliya

Marliya is a group of young Indigenous singers based in Cairns whose music goes straight to the heart. Led by Lyn Williams, Marliya have performed *Spinifex Gum* all across Australia, from the outback in Roebourne to the Sydney Opera House. Composed and arranged by Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill, the music is part political and part aspirational, exploring a mix of hard-hitting issues, with choreography by Deborah Brown.

Marliya was first formed from members of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, based in Cairns, to perform *Spinifex Gum* by Felix Riebl. Marliya has appeared at the Adelaide and Sydney Festivals, at Dreamtime at the G, and the closing ceremony of the Invictus Games. In 2019 *Spinifex Gum* was nominated for Best New Australian Work in the Helpmann Awards and toured in August and September with performances at the Garma Festival and in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. Recent performances of *Spinifex Gum* include Live the Bowl in Melbourne in 2021 and BluesFest Byron Bay in 2022.

Marliya has recorded two albums – *Spinifex Gum* (2017) and *Sisters* (2019).

Emma Donovan

Emma Donovan is an acclaimed Australian soul singer and songwriter best known for her work with rhythm combo The Putbacks and prior to this, The Black Arm Band project.

Emma has toured and recorded with Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter, *Spinifex Gum*, Christine Anu, Yothu Yindi, Jimmy Little and Paul Kelly among others.

Starting her singing career at age seven, Emma appeared in family band The Donovans. On her mother's side, Emma is part of the famed Donovan family of singers of the Gumbaynggirr people from Northern NSW. On her father's side, Emma is of the Yamatji people in Western Australia.

In 2004, Emma was the subject of SBS documentary *Gumbaynggirr Lady* and in 2007 she joined The Black Arm Band, reproducing iconic songs of the Aboriginal resistance movement in a theatrical setting. The Band, consisting of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists was an enormously important group, producing a number of shows which toured internationally and helped establish the careers of a new generation of Indigenous singers.

Felix Riebl

Melbourne artist Felix Riebl is a man of many hats; award-winning artist, globe traverser, family-man, footy fanatic, leader, gardener, chef. He has found comfort in chaotic spaces, performing to sold-out stadiums across the world, and in small domestic moments whilst surrounded by family and friends.

Through his authenticity, Felix has built a career on his broad and colourful music palette – never being type-cast in to one music genre, yet somehow always finding an audience. Across his projects, *The Cat Empire*, Felix Riebl, and *Spinifex Gum* there is a thread that ties all three together and that's a sense of community, collaboration, and respect for the craft.

In his most recent work, Felix celebrates the wonder and obscurities of life, by shining a light on the interplay of insular domestic moments and very extrovert overflowing international moments that present themselves, with joy and exuberance.

Ollie McGill

Ollie McGill is a genius behind the piano. For over two decades, McGill has shown his authentic versatility as a musician through composing, songwriting and being a vibrant player at the keys.

Whilst McGill is best known for his work as a founding member of *The Cat Empire*, the pianist's stylistic and raw musical works can be seen and heard across collaborative sessions and compositions with musicians around the world.

McGill has enjoyed his chaotic touring and recording life over the past two decades, performing in a number of bands and toying with musical genres spanning neo classical, fusion, avantgarde, jazz, electronic and improvisational compositions.

Ever-present in the music world, whether this is touring, composing, recording or writing advertising songs (McGill composed the award-winning *Dumb Ways to Die* for Metro Trains Melbourne in 2012), the artist is not one to sit still when it comes to music projects.

Silhouettes of Mockingbirds is Ollie McGill's latest solo piano release, an intimate EP of four tracks inspired by the ocean to be released in April 2022.

Gondwana Voices

Gondwana Voices is Australia's national children's choir for treble singers aged 10–17. It regularly performs with the country's leading ensembles and has built a reputation for performances of outstanding musicianship. Gondwana Voices is conducted by Gondwana Choirs Founder and Artistic Director Lyn Williams AM and Mark O'Leary.

The choir tours nationally and internationally and has taken part in international choral festivals including the World Symposium on Choral Music, Rotterdam; America Cantat, Mexico City; Polyfolia, Normandy; and Festival 500, Newfoundland.

In 2007 Gondwana Voices was the first Australian children's choir to perform at the BBC Proms.

Recent tours include a 20th anniversary trip to the Baltic States and Iceland in 2017, which included a collaboration with the acclaimed TIARA Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir and a tour of northern Queensland in October 2018, performing in Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Innisfail and Cairns.

In 2019, Gondwana Voices performed Brett Dean's *Vexations and Devotions* with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra under maestro Vladimir Jurowski at the Berlin Philharmonie.

Sam Allchurch, choral preparation
Lara Miller, choreography preparation

Melbourne Youth Orchestras

Melbourne Youth Orchestras (MYO) brings young Victorian musicians together to participate in ensemble music-making. Through their educational program, MYO continues to unleash creativity and empower tomorrow's leaders through a commitment to excellence, ultimately inspiring its members to reach their potential through music.

MYO plays a leadership role in collaborating with education and music partners to ensure that a high-quality music education is available for all students in Victoria.

MYO is recognised as one of Australia's leading centres for ensemble music making and training, and a meeting place for young musicians and their families who travel from all over metropolitan and regional Victoria to participate.

Deborah Brown

Deborah Brown is a director, choreographer and award winning dancer.

She spent 15 years years as a Senior Artist at Bangarra Dance Theatre, where she created works including short dance film *dive* in 2013 and *IBIS* for Bangarra's national tour of lore in 2015. She won the 2013 Helpmann Award, Best Female Dancer in a Dance or Physical Theatre Production, *Terrain*.

She has created, *hide*, for Campbelltown Arts Centre and has choreographed and collaborated on *Spinifex Gum*. Deborah was assistant director on STC's *The Long Forgotten Dream*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Wonangatta* and Belvoir's *Winyanboga Yurringa*.

Deborah has a Masters in Screen Directing at The Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS). Her capstone film *Bala* has featured at film festivals around the globe and is currently screening on ABC iView. She has directed for the new NITV children's series, *Barrumbi Kids*, set to be released in 2022.

Michael Woodley

Michael Woodley is the Chief Executive Officer of the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC), a Registered Native Title Body Corporate, and co-founder of the Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation (JGAC), Yindjibarndi's language and cultural recording organisation, as well as being a Yindjibarndi spokesperson, Bindarra Law carrier, and community leader.

His leadership has a history of more than a decade in the Yindjibarndi community, and more generally in the community of Roebourne. Prior to this Michael has undertaken training through Rio Tinto's Aboriginal Training and Liaison (ATAL) division, and from 2002–11 took JAC from a small organisation to a thriving archiving, publishing, digital media, television broadcasting, media training, cultural consultancy, and advocacy enterprise.

In 2007 Michael was appointed as CEO of YAC where his responsibilities included heritage management, policy and research services, and retaining professional legal and anthropological services to strengthen Yindjibarndi's position in being a leader in Native Title development, self-determination and sustainability. Through Culture, Community and Commerce, Michael is advancing change through real partnerships and long-term commitments.

Your MSO

Jaime Martín

*Chief Conductor
Dr Marc Besen AC and the
late Dr Eva Besen AO**

Xian Zhang

Principal Guest Conductor

Benjamin Northey

*Principal Conductor
in Residence*

Carlo Antonioli

*Cybec Assistant
Conductor Fellow*

Sir Andrew Davis

Conductor Laureate

Hiroyuki Iwaki †

*Conductor Laureate
(1974–2006)*

FIRST VIOLINS

Dale Barltrop

*Concertmaster
David Li AM and Angela Li**

Sophie Rowell

*Concertmaster
The Ullmer Family
Foundation**

Tair Khisambee

*Assistant Concertmaster
Di Jameson and
Frank Mercurio**

Peter Edwards

Assistant Principal

Kirsty Bremner

Sarah Curro

Peter Fellin

Deborah Goodall

Lorraine Hook

Anne-Marie Johnson

Kirstin Kenny

Eleanor Mancini

Mark Mogilevski

Michelle Ruffolo

Kathryn Taylor

SECOND VIOLINS

Matthew Tomkins

*Principal
The Gross Foundation**

Robert Macindoe

Associate Principal

Monica Curro

*Assistant Principal
Danny Gorog and
Lindy Susskind**

Mary Allison

Isin Cakmakcioglu

*Tiffany Cheng
Glenn Sedgwick**

Freya Franzen

Cong Gu

Andrew Hall

Isy Wasserman

*Philippa West
Andrew Dudgeon AM**

Patrick Wong

*Roger Young
Shane Buggle and
Rosie Callanan**

VIOLAS

Christopher Moore

*Principal
Di Jameson and
Frank Mercurio**

Lauren Brigden

Katharine Brockman

*Anthony Chataway
Dr Elizabeth E Lewis AM**

Gabrielle Halloran

Trevor Jones

*Anne Neil**

Fiona Sargeant

CELLOS

David Berlin

*Principal
Hyon Ju Newman**

Rachael Tobin

Associate Principal

Nicholas Bochner

*Miranda Brockman
Geelong Friends of the MSO**

*Rohan de Korte
Andrew Dudgeon AM**

Sarah Morse

Angela Sargeant

*Michelle Wood
Andrew and Judy Rogers**

DOUBLE BASSES

Benjamin Hanlon

*Frank Mercurio and
Di Jameson**

Rohan Dasika

Suzanne Lee

FLUTES

Prudence Davis

*Principal
Anonymous**

Wendy Clarke

Associate Principal

Sarah Beggs

PICCOLO

Andrew Macleod

Principal

OBOES

Thomas Hutchinson

Associate Principal

Ann Blackburn

*The Rosemary Norman
Foundation**

COR ANGLAIS

Michael Pisani

Principal

CLARINETS

David Thomas

Principal

Philip Arkinstall

Associate Principal

Craig Hill

BASS CLARINET

Jon Craven

Principal

BASSOONS

Jack Schiller

Principal

Elise Millman

Associate Principal

Natasha Thomas

*Dr Martin Tymms and
Patricia Nilsson**

CONTRABASSOON

Brock Imison

Principal

HORNS

Nicolas Fleury

*Principal
Margaret Jackson AC**

Saul Lewis

*Principal Third
The Hon Michael Watt QC
and Cecilie Hall**

Abbey Edlin

*Nereda Hanlon and
Michael Hanlon AM**

Trinette McClimont

*Rachel Shaw
Gary McPherson**

TRUMPETS

Owen Morris

Principal

Shane Hooton

*Associate Principal
Glenn Sedgwick**

William Evans

*Rosie Turner
John and Diana Frew**

TROMBONES

Richard Shirley

*Mike Szabo
Principal Bass Trombone*

TUBA

Timothy Buzbee

Principal

TIMPANI

PERCUSSION

John Arcaro

*Anonymous**

Robert Cossom

*Drs Rhyl Wade and
Clem Gruen**

HARP

Yinuo Mu

Principal