

LEICHHARDT WIND ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

SPRING CLASSICS

(WITH A MODERN TWIST)



LEICHHARDT TOWN HALL

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 3:00 PM

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www.lwo.org.au

Programme

Toccata for Band	Frank Erickson
March Past of the Kitchen Utensils	Ralph Vaughan Williams
Festive Hymn	Johan de Meij
As a Wind From the North	Robert Sheldon

Interval

Night in the Tropics	Louis Gottschalk
Luminosity	David Bobrowitz
Two Bagatelles	Aldred Reed
Australian Rhapsody	Ralph Hultgren

Toccata for Band

Spokane native Frank Erickson (1923-1996) was a composer, conductor, arranger, and educator known primarily for his band works. Among these are three symphonies, a Symphonette, and the famous Air for Band, as well as many others. Toccata for Band, written in 1957, alternates between slow and fast sections, using a distinct theme for each. Erickson lectured at University of California, Los Angeles, in 1958. He then became a professor of music at San Jose State University. The 1950s were prolific years for Erickson. His publications of works such as Balladair, Air for Band, Fantasy for Band, and Toccata for Band were quickly popular and led to wide notability in the concert band world. He is also widely known for his book Arranging for the Concert Band.

March Past of the Kitchen Utensils

The "March Past of the Kitchen Utensils" is a musical piece composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams as part of the incidental music for Aristophanes' play "The Wasps," written in 1909. This lively composition is often performed by orchestras and is characterized by its playful and whimsical nature.

The Wasps is a satirical comedy by Aristophanes written in 422BC. A son tries to help his father escape from an addiction to the proceedings at the Athenian Court by locking him up at home, but the father is rescued by a chorus of wasps. In classical music The Wasps is known also for the overture of the same name written by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. It was commissioned by the Greek Play Committee of Cambridge, England, as part of the incidental music for a 1909 performance of Aristophanes' play. The music was first heard at a performance of the play on 26 November 1909. The music became very popular, and Vaughan Williams extracted movements to form an Aristophanic Suite, which was first performed on 23 July 1912 with the composer conducting the New Symphony Orchestra.

Festive Hymn

Johannes Abraham "Johan" de Meij, born November 23, 1953 in Voorburg is a Dutch conductor, trombonist, and composer, best known for his Symphony No. 1 for wind ensemble, nicknamed The Lord of the Rings symphony. This melodic hymn was commissioned by the town of Margraten in Limburg, The Netherlands for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Margraten Municipality. The work was premiered at a large gala concert on November 24, 2007.

As a Wind From the North

Robert Sheldon is one of the most performed composers of wind band music today. A recipient of numerous awards, his compositions embody a level of expression that resonates with ensembles and audiences alike. His music is performed around the world and appears on many international concert and contest lists. *As a Wind from the North* was commissioned by the Northwind Symphonic Band of Gainesville, Georgia. The piece was premiered at the George Music Educators All-State Conference in Savannah. It is a fantasy based on the hymn *King of Glory* by Davie Charles Walker and is a work of unrelenting energy and dreamlike beauty. Sheldon utilises changing meters, creative lines and well-crafted ensemble writing to create this dramatic work.

Night in the Tropics (Symphony No 1)

The Symphony No. 1 is Louis Moreau Gottschalk's first and most well-known symphony. It was completed around 1858; this first movement was premiered in Havana during the winter of the following year. Fourteen months later, the full symphony, with the second movement, was performed at one of Gottschalk's "monster concerts" with an orchestra of over 600 players, inspired by Berlioz's similar performance venues. The manuscript survived in Havana until 1932, when it was stolen, only to reappear in a New York Public Library in the 1950s. Its premiere in the US was not until 5 May 1955. The symphony was first recorded in 1971, with an edition by Igor Buketoff that called for a total of only 150 players, including a full symphony orchestra, an extra band, and many Afro-Caribbean percussion instruments.

Luminosity

Sometimes dark and ominous, sometimes bright and joyous, *Luminosity* takes the band through a world of musical colour in this creative musical excursion. Having evolved a compositional style uniquely his own, Bobrowitz's work here reflects the height of his creativity, and more advanced bands seriously consider taking this colorful musical journey. Bobrowitz received his Bachelor of Science degree from the Mannes College of Music, majoring in Trombone Performance. He went on to Teachers College, Columbia University, where he earned a Master's Degree in Music Education. Bobrowitz has been a freelance bass trombonist, pianist, composer, and arranger in the New York area for more than 30 years.

Two Bagatelles

Alfred Reed (born as Alfred Friedman) 1921 – 2005 was an American neoclassical composer, with more than two hundred published works for concert band, orchestra, chorus, and chamber ensemble to his name. He also travelled extensively as a guest conductor (most notably for the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra) and served as a professor at the University of Miami School of Music.

An Australian Rhapsody

Ralph Hultgren was born in Box Hill, Victoria, Australia, and now resides in Newmarket, Queensland. Dr Hultgren is a freelance teacher, composer and conductor who began his professional music career as a trumpet player in 1970 with the Central Band of the Royal Australian Air Force. *An Australian Rhapsody* is a tribute to his native land, summoning the sights and sounds of the expanses of the outback. Featuring a range of contrasting moods and characters, *An Australian Rhapsody* is composed from melodic fragments based on two folk tunes, the frivolous Queensland Drover and the melancholy of Moreton Bay interwoven and connected throughout.

LEICHHARDT WIND ORCHESTRA

Conductor and Musical Director – Andrew Blenkinsopp

Concertmaster – Georgina Leong

Flute

Jan Junor
Gabriella Tarte
Andrew Wu

Bassoon

Alex Thorburn

Trombone

Jon Lam
Morgan Taylor

Oboe

Dianne Harrell

Euphonium

Les Farnell

Clarinet

Georgina Leong
Rowena Salmon
Bridget Carter
Evan Guy
Georgia Bonora

English Horn/Oboe

Alice Wheelwright

Trumpet

Bob Clucas
Kelvin Bakewell
Daniel Blenkinsopp

Alto Saxophone

Katie Spenceley
Patrick Flynn

Bass Clarinet

Nicole Taylor

Tenor Saxophone

Kieran Hanrahan

Tuba

Joe Rede

French Horn

Shaun Ji-Thompson

Baritone Saxophone

Carrie Foster

Percussion

Nico Bachner

Thank you for joining Leichhardt Wind Orchestra for this afternoon of music. We appreciate your support and hope to see you at future concerts.

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