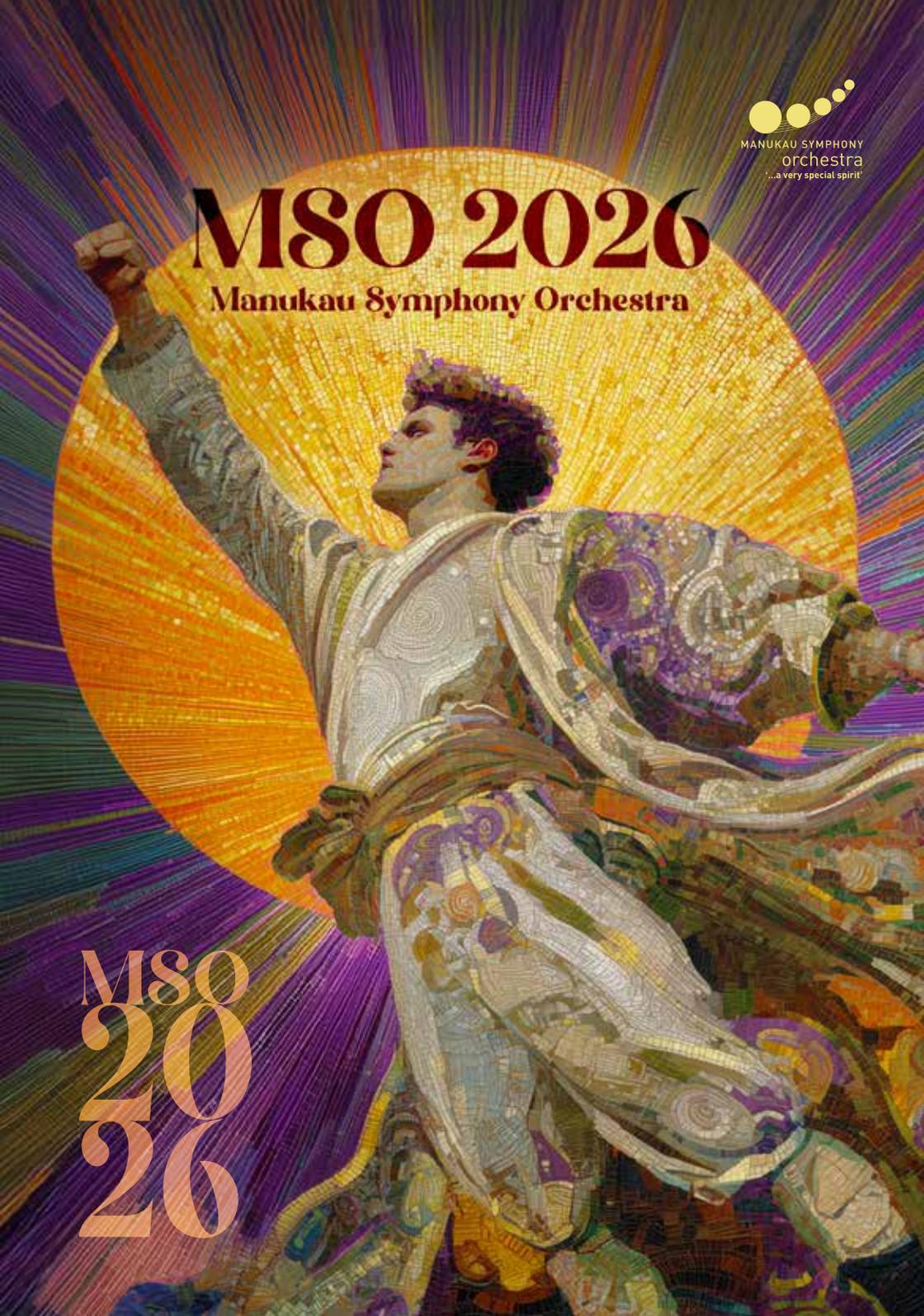


MSO 2026

Manukau Symphony Orchestra



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2026 Season

Due Drop Events Centre
Manukau

MSO 2026

ROMANTIC FIRE

Saturday 7 March 7.00pm

OPERA GALA 2026

Sunday 28 June 5.00pm AUCKLAND TOWN HALL

WIRI LICENSING TRUST MSO FAMILY CONCERT 2026

MYTHS & MONSTERS

Sunday 20 September 2.30pm & 5.00pm

REVOLUTION

Saturday 21 November 7.00pm

NICHOLAS TARLING ARIA COMPETITION

FREE CONCERT

FINAL ROUND RECITALS

Sunday 15 February from 3.00pm

PETER AND THE WOLF

FREE FOR SCHOOLS

MSO SCHOOLS CONCERTS

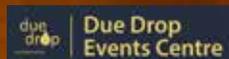
Monday 4 May Tuesday 5 May Wednesday 6 May

WIRI LICENSING TRUST SYMPHONIC JOURNEY

FREE

NEW HORIZONS

Sunday 19 July 5.00pm



WELCOME, NAU MAI, HAERE MAI!

The Manukau Symphony Orchestra is delighted to share another year of music, connection, and celebration with you!



Our 2026 season is bursting with energy — from fun-filled *Family Concerts* to inspiring mainstage performances, we invite you to experience the joy that live music brings to our community.

We are proud to continue our partnership with the Wiri Licensing Trust, whose generous support helps bring both our Family Concert and *Symphonic Journey* to life. This year's Symphonic Journey will be led by Tavite Tonga, a talented emerging conductor whose passion promises to inspire.

By popular demand, our School Concerts continue to expand, giving more young audiences the chance to experience the excitement of live orchestral music — proudly supported by the Four Winds Foundation.

We are thrilled to present a new work by David Hamilton, featuring two outstanding percussionists from the ensemble Double Shot — a vibrant celebration of creativity and collaboration.

Every performance is made possible by our dedicated musicians, volunteers, and staff, whose commitment keeps the MSO's spirit shining. Together, we continue to grow, share music, and uphold the values that make the MSO unique — inclusivity, equality, and, above all, "...a very special spirit."

Ngā mihi nui — we can't wait to see you at our events!

SHELLEY ROBERTSON
GENERAL MANAGER

It's a real privilege to continue supporting the Manukau Symphony Orchestra as Patron. I am constantly inspired by how the MSO brings people together — collaborating with local venues, schools, and organisations to create such a rich variety of musical experiences for South Auckland.



What stands out most for me is the orchestra's heartfelt commitment to nurturing young musicians. The MSO gives our rangatahi wonderful opportunities to explore classical music, develop their talents, and be part of something truly special.

As we embark on this new season, I wholeheartedly encourage you to join me in supporting this outstanding organisation through generous donations and by attending concerts. Together, we can ensure that the Manukau Symphony Orchestra continues to be a cultural treasure in our community, enriching lives through the transformative power of music and fostering a lasting appreciation for the arts among future generations.

SIR NOEL ROBINSON KNZM
MSO PATRON

ROMANTIC FIRE

SATURDAY 7 MARCH 7.00PM | DUE DROP EVENTS CENTRE



UWE GRODD

DVOŘÁK
SAINT-SAËNS
TCHAIKOVSKY

CARNIVAL OVERTURE
CELLO CONCERTO NO. 1
SYMPHONY NO. 4

UWE GRODD
ANDREW JOYCE

CONDUCTOR
CELLO



ANDREW JOYCE

Dvořák's Carnival Overture is a vivid portrait of celebration, laughter, and life itself. Written as part of a trilogy depicting the human experience, it captures the spirit of festivity with whirling dance rhythms, glowing orchestral colours, and a melody that brims with joy.

In his First Cello Concerto, Saint-Saëns broke every rule of the nineteenth-century concerto. Dispensing with the traditional slow movement and pauses between sections, he created a single, continuous dramatic arc. From its opening flourish, the soloist commands a thrilling dialogue with the orchestra – lyrical one moment, dazzlingly virtuosic the next.

Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony crowns the programme with sweeping romantic intensity. Composed in the shadow of personal turmoil, it wrestles with the idea of fate and the search for joy amidst struggle. From the commanding brass fanfare to the dancing folk rhythms of the finale, the symphony moves between melancholy, elegance, and exuberance – a work that captures the full range of human emotion with unmistakable Tchaikovskian flair.

Conducted by Uwe Grodd, with Andrew Joyce as soloist, Romantic Fire celebrates the bold imagination and emotional power that defined this extraordinary musical era.



OPERA GALA 2026

AUCKLAND OPERA STUDIO
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
MANUKAU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY 28 JUNE 5.00PM | AUCKLAND TOWN HALL

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM TICKETMASTER.CO.NZ



UWE GRODD

“...Uwe Grodd asserted his stellar status with his baton, expertly navigating his musicians through volatile textures and tempi that so mysteriously, even out of an opera house, stir both heart and soul.”

William Dart
NZ Herald

Experience opera at its most thrilling as the Auckland Opera Studio in association with the Manukau Symphony Orchestra and guest soloists bring some of the world's most beloved moments from the stage to life.

The evening opens with the fire and rhythm of Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, with the rousing Anvil Chorus. Passion and heartbreak follow with Leoncavallo's dramatic *Vesti la giubba* from *Pagliacci*. The shimmering Intermezzo and radiant Easter Hymn from *Cavalleria Rusticana* by Pietro Mascagni, alongside the serene *Méditation* from Massenet's *Thaïs*, capture opera's sacred and sensual sides, before the first half concludes with the stirring final trio *Alerte, Alerte!* from Gounod's *Faust*.

After the interval, the drama continues with fiery scenes from Bizet's *Carmen* and Puccini's richly emotional *Manon Lescaut*, including its sweeping Intermezzo and the tragic final act.

From Verdi's grandeur to Puccini's passion, *Opera Gala* celebrates the power of the human voice and the splendour of orchestral drama — a feast of melody and emotion not to be missed.

UWE GRODD CONDUCTOR
JOHN DAVIES DIRECTOR
FRANCES WILSON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
AUCKLAND CHORAL SOLOISTS SOON TO BE ANNOUNCED



Opera Gala



WIRI LICENSING TRUST MSO FAMILY CONCERT 2026

MYTHS & MONSTERS

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2.30PM & 5.00PM | DUE DROP EVENTS CENTRE



BRENT STEWART

SHORE

TCHAIKOVSKY
PROKOFIEV
MUSSORGSKY
HAMILTON

SAINT-SAËNS
CHORAL WORKS

POPULAR ARIAS

BRENT STEWART
OLIVER MAR
DOUBLE SHOT –
YOSHIKO TSURUTA &
JEREMY FITZSIMONS
NICHOLAS TARLING ARIA COMPETITION WINNERS
THE CLOUD CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIRS
THE CLOUD CHAMBER SINGERS

LORD OF THE RINGS –
FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING
PEZZO CAPRICCIOSO
MONTAGUES AND CAPULETS
NIGHT ON BALD MOUNTAIN
WHIRLPOOL FOR TWO
PERCUSSIONISTS (PREMIERE)
DANSE MACABRE
SHU DAO NAN AND
GOLDEN DREAM 金色的梦
VERDI, PUCCINI

CONDUCTOR
CELLO
PERCUSSION



OLIVER MAR



DOUBLE SHOT



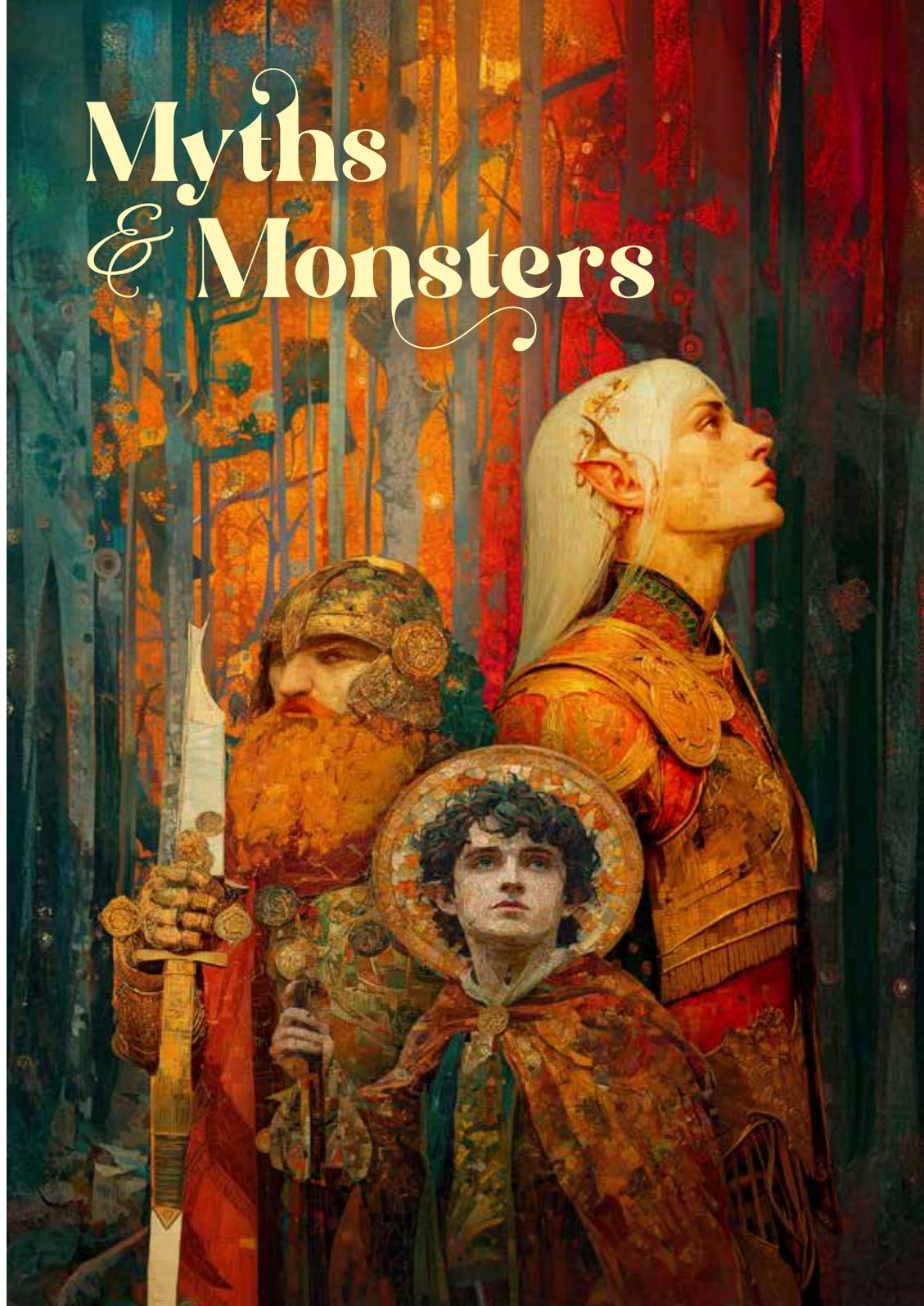
Journey to Middle-earth and beyond with the Manukau Symphony Orchestra's *Family Concert 2026 – Myths & Monsters!* Celebrating the 25th anniversary of Howard Shore's *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring Suite*, this magical performance invites you into a world of imagination and adventure.

From Tchaikovsky's dazzling *Pezzo Capriccioso* to Prokofiev's dramatic *Montagues and Capulets*, the thrilling darkness of Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*, and the ghostly mischief of Saint-Saëns' *Danse Macabre*, the concert brings legendary creatures and heroic tales to life through music.

The programme also features the premiere of *Whirlpool for Two Percussionists and Orchestra* by New Zealand composer David Hamilton, performed by the electrifying duo Double Shot. With Brent Stewart conducting the MSO, choruses led by Wei Changmuwei, and performances by our talented Aria Competition winners, *Myths & Monsters* promises a spellbinding experience for the whole family!

FAMILY DISCOUNT: TWO ADULTS AND TWO CHILDREN \$ 65.00

Myths & Monsters



REVOLUTION

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 7.00PM | DUE DROP EVENTS CENTRE



UWE GRODD

MOZART

OVERTURE TO THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO
PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1
SYMPHONY NO. 7

**BEETHOVEN
DVORÁK**

**UWE GRODD
MICHAEL HOUSTOUN**

CONDUCTOR
PIANO



MICHAEL HOUSTOUN

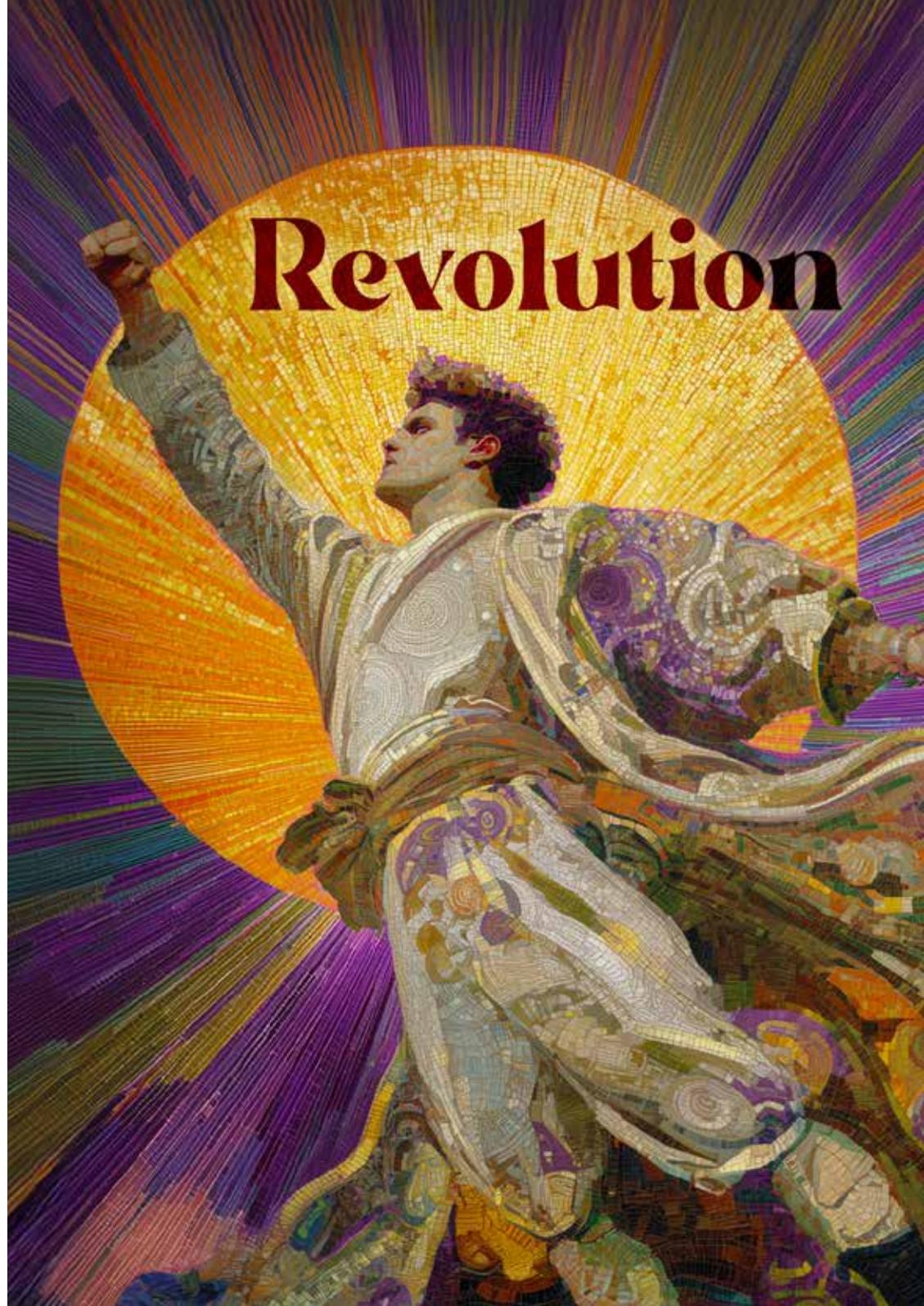
Music has often been a revolutionary act – breaking conventions, challenging authority, and giving voice to new ideas.

The Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* embodies the spark of social upheaval. Its rapid-fire energy and daring harmonies reflect the opera's tale of servants outsmarting their masters – a witty and subversive curtain-raiser to change on and off the stage.

In his First Piano Concerto, Beethoven reimagines the Classical concerto as a stage for artistic independence. Composed in his twenties, the work combines elegance with bold individuality, the piano stepping forward as a commanding and expressive force. Its vitality and brilliance announce the arrival of a composer intent on reshaping musical tradition.

For Dvořák, revolution took a more personal form. His Seventh Symphony, written amid political unrest in his native Bohemia, channels both national struggle and inner conviction. Cast in dark, dramatic tones, it surges with emotion and resolve, culminating in a finale of defiant strength.

With Michael Houston as soloist, *Revolution* traces how three composers turned their own eras of upheaval into music of enduring power and purpose.





NICHOLAS TARLING ARIA COMPETITION 2026

The Manukau Symphony Orchestra, with the generous support of the Nicholas Tarling Charitable Trust, proudly presents the fourth annual Nicholas Tarling Aria Competition. Named in honour of Professor Nicholas Tarling – a distinguished historian, passionate opera lover, and tireless advocate for musical talent in New Zealand – the competition reflects the MSO’s commitment to fostering opportunity and excellence within the community, particularly across South Auckland.

Entries are open to singers of all backgrounds and experience levels, offering a platform to perform, connect, and grow. For more information visit www.tarlingaria.org.nz

The 2026 competition includes three divisions: 18 years and Under, Scholarship Division (19 – 35 years), Tarling Aria Trophy (36+ years).

PRIZES

First Prize	\$5,000 and a professionally edited recording with MSO
Runner-up	\$3,000 and a professionally edited recording with MSO
Most Promising Singer	\$1,000
Sally Stone Award	\$1,000
18 Years and Under Prize	\$1,000
Tarling Aria Trophy	Engraved trophy to hold for one year

COMPETITION TIMELINE

DIGITAL ENTRIES CLOSE SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025 11.00PM

Applicants must upload a video performance to YouTube and submit the online application form via www.tarlingaria.org.nz

FINAL ROUND RECITALS

SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2026 | DUE DROP EVENTS CENTRE

3.00pm 18 Years and Under | Tarling Aria Trophy

4.30pm Scholarship Division

Finalists will perform with accompanist Rosemary Barnes for the adjudicators, friends, and family. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the concert.

WINNER PERFORMANCES

MSO FAMILY CONCERT

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2026, 2.30PM & 5.00PM

DUE DROP EVENTS CENTRE

The First Prize Winner and Runner-up will perform popular arias with the Manukau Symphony Orchestra at the Wiri Licensing Trust Presents MSO Family Concert 2026, conducted by Brent Stewart.



PETER AND THE WOLF FREE FOR SCHOOLS
MSO SCHOOLS CONCERTS | DUE DROP EVENTS CENTRE
MONDAY 4 TUESDAY 5 WEDNESDAY 6 MAY



SUZY CATO

UWE GRODD CONDUCTOR
SUZY CATO NARRATOR
JACK BOURKE PRESENTER
MANUKAU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Live symphonic music is a thrilling experience for all ages! Studies show that children feel calmer, happier, and more inspired after hearing an orchestra — many even want to learn an instrument.



The Manukau Symphony Orchestra, in partnership with the Due Drop Events Centre Education Programme, presents six vibrant concerts for South Auckland school children aged 7–11.

Join New Zealand's best storyteller, Suzy Cato, for *Peter and the Wolf*, along with favourites like the *William Tell Overture* and musical tales by Claire Cowan. With presenter Jack Bourke guiding the fun, these concerts promise laughter, learning, and the magic of live orchestral sound!

Our 2025 concerts were fully booked! Is your school going? Contact Liv: liv@wakapacific.org.nz at the Due Drop Events Centre to find out!

These events are free for South Auckland schools.

WIRI LICENSING TRUST SYMPHONIC JOURNEY WORKSHOP
NEW HORIZONS FREE
FREE CONCERT SUNDAY 19 JULY 5.00 PM
DUE DROP EVENTS CENTRE

DVOŘÁK SYMPHONY NO 8
SHOSTAKOVICH ALLEGRO CON BRIO
ERIN FAGAN (NZ) WALTZ NO 2
NEW WORK PREMIERE

TAVITE TONGA CONDUCTOR

In this year's *Symphonic Journey*, young musicians and community players join forces with the Manukau Symphony Orchestra to explore music of joy, elegance, and discovery. Dvořák's radiant *Symphony No. 8* celebrates the song of nature and the optimism of new beginnings; Shostakovich's graceful *Waltz No. 2* brings charm and dance to the concert hall; and New Zealand composer Erin Fagan offers a fresh voice from our own shores. Together, these works open NEW HORIZONS — for the players who learn and grow through music, and for audiences who share in their journey.

There will be a FREE informal concert playthrough Sunday at 5.00pm for friends, family and public at Four Winds Theatre, the MSO's home in the Due Drop Events Centre.

Players interested in participating in this FREE workshop weekend Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 July, should contact the MSO at admin@manukausymphony.org.nz.



TAVITE TONGA





MANUKAU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Since its founding in 1993, the Manukau Symphony Orchestra has become a cultural cornerstone of South Auckland — dedicated to bringing people together through outstanding orchestral performances and inspiring educational programmes.

At the heart of the MSO is its Tuakana Mentorship Programme, a unique initiative that pairs professional mentors with community and youth musicians in a supportive, non-auditioned setting. This partnership nurtures musical growth and excellence, empowering players to learn from one another while exploring dynamic and diverse repertoire.

Led by professional musicians and operated by the charitable Manukau Orchestral Society Inc., the MSO is a part-time, volunteer-driven orchestra that thrives on community spirit. It provides a welcoming and accessible space for musicians of all ages and backgrounds to connect, learn, and perform together.

The orchestra's membership reflects a true cross-section of its community — approximately one-third professional Tuakana mentors, one-third community players, and one-third youth musicians. While many members call South Auckland home, the MSO warmly welcomes those from further afield who share its passion for orchestral music and its commitment to making music for everyone.

MSO TUAKANA MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

The MSO is proud of its Mentorship Programme, established in 1993, which offers youth and community players the chance to perform alongside a professional mentor. Known as the MSO Tuakana Mentorship Programme, this initiative draws from the concept of tuakana-teina (meaning: older sibling, younger sibling), a learning approach from Te Ao Māori. Originally used on the Marae, tuakana-teina now describes equal and reciprocal learning relationships in adult education, where each participant brings unique strengths to create a shared learning experience.



or background, to grow, refine their technique, and deepen their musical expression through mutual engagement and perspective-sharing.

This programme enables all MSO players, regardless of age



MSO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Running in parallel with the mentorship programme, the MSO Youth Scholarship Programme supports young musicians by providing scholarships for tuition assistance, instrument loans, and at least two guaranteed places in our subscription series concerts. In 2026, we are proud to continue offering these scholarships to talented young musicians.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our sponsors, Phil and Helen Greenbank, Jean and Robin Bennett, Janet Phare, Ann Morris and The Stringed Instrument Company, for their generous support of this programme. Scholarships will be presented on stage at the Revolution concert at the end of the year.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ORCHESTRA

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP US

By sponsoring, making a bequest, or volunteering your time and expertise, you can help ensure the future and sustainability of your local orchestra. Visit our website at www.manukausymphony.org.nz or contact us to learn more about how your contribution can make a difference.

- **Make a donation**

Support us with an online or in-concert donation—donations are tax-deductible in New Zealand. Visit www.manukausymphony.org.nz/support-us/donate/ or email us at admin@manukausymphony.org.nz to make a donation and receive a receipt.

- **Become a Chair Sponsor**

What's your favourite orchestral instrument? By becoming a Chair Sponsor, you can deepen your connection with the MSO, meet your sponsored Chair Player, and enjoy invitations to exclusive events throughout the year.

- **Support Our Youth**

Help us foster the next generation of musicians. The MSO offers annual scholarships to support our youth players with tuition fees and valuable opportunities to perform with the orchestra.

Thank you for considering these meaningful ways to support the MSO!

Find out more at www.manukausymphony.org.nz



SCAN AND DONATE

SUPPORT THE MSO
SO WE CAN CONTINUE PLAYING
THE MUSIC THAT YOU LOVE

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

Book tickets anytime online with Eventfinda at www.eventfinda.co.nz and search 'Manukau Symphony'.

SUBSCRIBE before 1 February 2026 to receive your tickets and prepaid parking for the year. Save on your ticket costs and we will endeavour to book your favourite seats for each concert.

EMAIL Scan and email your subscription form to admin@manukausymphony.org.nz

POST Send your booking form with credit card details to:
Manukau Symphony Orchestra, PO Box 38-233, Howick, Auckland 2145.

PHONE MSO office: (09) 577 3031

The MSO Office will be closed from 22 Dec 2025 – 9 January 2026

BOOK IN PERSON

Visit Eventfinda ticket box offices: Te Oro Music and Arts Centre Glen Innes / Hawkins Theatre Papakura.

DOOR SALES

Four Winds Theatre Box office opens two hours prior to performance.

PHONE SALES

Eventfinda: 0800 BUY TIX (289 849) or MSO: (09) 577 3031.

Booking fees may apply.

PARKING

Due Drop Events Centre uses parking app Inugo. For more information visit www.pacific.org.nz/parking. Rates are \$4.00 for the first hour, then 50 cents for subsequent hours.

You may also pay for your parking with your Eventfinda ticket booking for \$7.00

Manukau Symphony Orchestra reserves the right to alter any advertised schedule of artists and programmes.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

SUBSCRIBE DIRECTLY WITH THE MSO FOR 2026 AND RECEIVE:

- 10% discount on ticket prices, including extra tickets brought throughout the year through the MSO office
- No credit card or booking fee
- Reserve your favourite seats for the entire year
- Contact the MSO anytime during the week with your ticket enquiries.

Reserve Area	Subscriber Discount	Standard Price per Concert
Premium Adult	\$63.00	\$70.00
Premium Senior	\$58.50	\$65.00
Reserve A Adult	\$49.50	\$55.00
Reserve A Senior	\$45.00	\$50.00
Reserve B Adult	\$40.50	\$45.00
Reserve B Senior	\$36.00	\$40.00
Student	\$15.00	\$15.00
Parking	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00

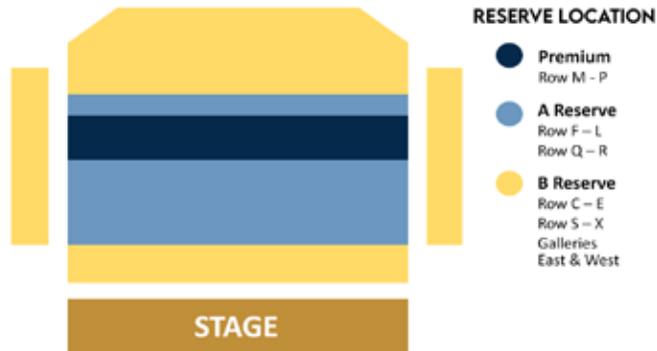
WIRI LICENSING TRUST PRESENTS MSO FAMILY CONCERT PRICING

Ticket Type	MSO Family Concert (DDEC)
Adult	\$38.00
Senior	\$32.00
Student/Child	\$ 5.00
Family Price (2A,2C)	\$65.00
Parking	Free

Opera Gala 2026, Auckland Town Hall Pricing TBC
 Nicholas Tarling Aria Competition Final Round Free Entry
 Symphonic Journey Workshop – Informal Concert Free Entry

SEATING PLAN

FOUR WINDS THEATRE SEATING PLAN



SUBSCRIPTION FORM

SELECT YOUR CONCERTS, TICKETS AND PARKING
 SUPPORT THE MSO WITH YOUR DONATION
 PLEASE REFER TO TICKET PRICES PAGE 18



I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MY TICKETS BY EMAIL

Print your tickets anytime at home or scan from your phone at the door.

TITLE	RESERVE AREA			NO. OF TICKETS			SUBTOTAL	PARKING \$7	TOTAL
	PREM	A	B	ADULT	SENIOR	STUD			
ROMANTIC FIRE									\$
OPERA GALA	TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH TICKETMASTER								
FAMILY CONCERT 2.30PM									\$
FAMILY CONCERT 5.00PM									\$
REVOLUTION									\$
TOTAL (TICKETS & PARKING)									\$
DONATION NAME YOUR DONATION FUND (SEE PAGE 16)									\$
GRAND TOTAL									\$



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Bravo!

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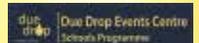
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VIVALDI CIRCLE UP TO \$1000

Stringed Instrument Company, Anne Brady, Christine Breedon, Kerry Bromell, Chris Cameron, Trevor Coe, Patsy Culpán, Jenny Curry, De la Terre, Jim & Ella Donald, Cynthia Dove, Anne Esterman, Diane Field, Frank & Janet Gardner, Uwe Grodd, Godfrey Hansen, Barbara & Gary Hieatt, Tadashi Jokagi, David Lovell, Jason Moss, Tim & Karla Rix-Trott, Patricia & Colin Roderick, Sarah Thompson, Alice Tyler, Edelgard Wai, Adrienne Wigmore, Diana Young



Save the Dates!

MSO 20 26

NICHOLAS TARLING ARIA COMPETITION

Sun 15 Feb from 3.00pm
Due Drop Events Centre

ROMANTIC FIRE

Sat 7 Mar 7.00pm
Due Drop Events Centre

MSO SCHOOL CONCERTS

May 4-6
Due Drop Events Centre

OPERA GALA 2026

Sun 28 Jun 5.00pm
Auckland Town Hall

SYMPHONIC JOURNEY

Sun 19 July 5.00pm
Due Drop Events Centre

MSO FAMILY CONCERT MYTHS & MONSTERS

Sun 20 Sept 2.30pm and 5.00pm
Due Drop Events Centre

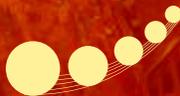
REVOLUTION

Sat 21 Nov 7.00pm
Due Drop Events Centre

 manukausymphony.org.nz

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 [manukau_symphony_orchestra](https://www.instagram.com/manukau_symphony_orchestra)


MANUKAU SYMPHONY
orchestra
'...a very special spirit'