



# *Keeping it in the family*

## **Maruki Community Orchestra**

John Gould (conductor)

George Chan (piano)

Georgina Chan (violin)

Albert Hall, Yarralumla

3pm Sunday 2 December 2018

Ralph Vaughan Williams - Lark Ascending

Brahms Symphony no.3 Fmaj op.90

*Interval*

Borodin - Polovtsian Dances

Beethoven - Piano concerto no.5 Ebmaj "Emperor"

## John Gould

*Conductor & musical director*

John Gould began his career as a violinist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 1958. Since then he has played principal viola with most of Australia's major orchestras and ensembles including contemporary groups. John has worked and toured with several leading European orchestras including four years with the London Symphony Orchestra.



John was a founding member of the Carl Pini String Quartet. He has been extensively recorded by the ABC and performed as concerto soloist with the London and Sydney Symphony Orchestras. John has given masterclasses in Europe and America and has been a National Music Camp tutor for 13 years. He led the expansion of classical music teaching and performance in Orange as music director of the Orange Regional Music Centre for nine years.

John now resides and teaches in Bega but he continues to enthusiastically commute every weekend to Canberra to continue his role as Director and Conductor of the Maruki Orchestra.



## George Chan

*Canberra doctor and pianist. Maruki member 2005-. Soloist Beethoven Piano concerto no.5 'Emperor'*

## Georgina Chan

*Maruki violinist 2010-16. Now studying at Univ of Queensland under Prof Adam Chalabi. Soloist Vaughan Williams Lark Ascending*

## **Ralph Vaughan Williams - Lark Ascending (Georgina Chan, vln)**

Georgina Chan is a young violin soloist with a long association with Maruki Orchestra. She played with us regularly from 2010 to 2016; she performed as a soloist with us in 2013, 2014 and 2016 and is now studying at the University of Queensland under the direction of Professor Adam Chalabi. Georgina begins our December 2018 concert with the beloved "Lark Ascending" of Ralph Vaughan Williams. This musical work was inspired by an 1881 poem by George Meredith - all its 123 lines can be found by searching for "wikisource poem lark ascending" - a pastoral celebration of the unbroken "silver chain of sound" which the skylark sings as he rises beyond hearing. Vaughan Williams was composing the violin piece as Britain entered World War 1 in 1914 and a version revised by him and the violinist Marie Hall was premiered with her as soloist in 1920. The lyrical violin part makes much use of pentatonic scales which free it from strong connection to a home key and its metre is also variable, free from bar lines in the solo cadenzas.

## **Brahms Symphony no.3 Fmaj op.90**

Brahms wrote four symphonies, of which No.3, performed next, is the shortest. His feud with the recently deceased Richard Wagner led to Wagner fans interfering at the symphony's premiere, but at its publication shortly afterwards in 1884 an influential critic described No.3 as "artistically the most nearly perfect". This symphony has four movements, of which the third is especially lyrical. In all movements the musical sequence F-Ab-F can be found. It is how movement 1 begins and it provides the bass line under the main themes of the other movements. To Brahms, a cheerful middle-aged bachelor when he wrote this work, the letters stood for "Frei aber froh", free but happy. The Wikipedia article "Brahms third symphony in popular culture" lists no fewer than 16 melodic quotations in films, songs, computer games and acrobatics support music from 1945 to 2013.

## **Borodin - Polovtsian Dances**

The lyricism of "Lark Ascending" and the symphony is partially mirrored by the "Polovtsian Dances", but here the melodies float over strong rhythms. These ballet dances with vocal chorus are an exotic interlude in Borodin's opera "Prince Igor". In the orchestral extract arrangement the voice parts are seldom performed. There are nominally four dances, but each is repeated later so that the dances are effectively a continuous piece with only pauses separating the nine sections. "Prince Igor" was unfinished when Borodin, having worked on it for ten years, died in 1887. The composers Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazounov provided the first completed version of the opera, presented in 1890. One theme from the "Gliding Dance of the Maidens" was adapted as the song "Stranger in Paradise" in the 1953 musical "Kismet", and was used too in earlier swing and later hip-hop versions.

## **Beethoven - Piano concerto no.5 Ebmaj 'Emperor' (George Chan, pno)**

George Chan, well-known Canberra doctor and pianist, is also a long term member of the Maruki Orchestra, having been with us since our beginnings in 2005. George is soloist in the finale, Beethoven's "Emperor" piano concerto No.5 in Eb major. This grand and popular piece, dynamic and instantly recognizable, is in three movements, each internally complex in structure. It was the last piano concerto completed by the composer. First performed privately in 1811 at a Vienna palace by Archduke Rudolph (Beethoven's pupil to whom it was dedicated), it was presented later that year in a public concert in Leipzig by another of his pupils. By then Beethoven himself was too deaf to perform it. Its immediate acclaim was partly owed to the greater expressiveness newly achieved in piano technology. The title of the work was not given by Beethoven - who had angrily renamed his Symphony No.3 "Eroica" when Napoleon declared himself Emperor seven years earlier - but rather by the English publisher.

*Notes derived from Wikipedia and the Oxford Companion to Music by Brian Stone*

## Our next concert...

### Albert Hall, 3pm Sunday Date TBA 2019

To be announced! Join our email list at the entrance desk for notification. Expect Brahms Haydn variations and Dvorak symphony no.8 but more to be revealed later including the date! Book online and save. Purchase discounted tickets from our website > [marukicommunityorchestra.org.au](http://marukicommunityorchestra.org.au)

## Play with Maruki...

Maruki Community Orchestra is an innovative community symphony orchestra playing the professional orchestral repertoire. We are open to musicians in the Canberra region, regardless of age, experience and skill level, who have a strong interest in playing classical music instruments in an orchestral environment and who wish to their develop skills and musicality. At the moment, we are especially seeking violins and percussion.

Web > [marukicommunityorchestra.org.au](http://marukicommunityorchestra.org.au)

Email > [membership@marukicommunityorchestra.org.au](mailto:membership@marukicommunityorchestra.org.au)

<b>Maruki Orchestra</b>	<b>John Gould (Musical Director &amp; conductor)</b>		
		<b>George Chan (solo piano)</b>	
		<b>Georgina Chan (solo violin)</b>	
<b>First Violin</b>			
Melvyn Cann ( <i>Concert Master</i> )			
Anne Pulford	<b>Cello</b>	<b>Trumpet</b>	<b>Oboe</b>
Peggy Khaw	Bev Simpson	Brian Stone	Ben Stewart
Peter Ellis	Iris Wang	Rhiannon Vivian-Bolt	( <i>&amp; cor anglais</i> )
Quinn Larnach-Jones	Kristen Simpson		Kerry Kimber
	Mimi Besant	<b>Trombone</b>	
<b>Second Violin</b>	Ruth Nuttall	Mike Bird	<b>Clarinet</b>
David Hayward		Martin Schaefer	Caroline Faulder
Jane O'Donahue	<b>Double Bass</b>	Craig Barker	Dianne Stewart
Paul Hubbard	Eric Pozza	Peter Morris	( <i>&amp; bass clarinet</i> )
Ruth Kravis	Jennifer Groom		
Simon Kravis	Melissa Fung	<b>Flute</b>	<b>Bassoon</b>
Winsa Daniswara		Alicia Adams	Alan Johnson
	<b>French Horn</b>	( <i>&amp; piccolo</i> )	David Whitbread
<b>Viola</b>	Andy Sheppard	Arko Chakrabarty	Ross Pover
Anne Stevens	Maria Peter	Cailyn Furze	( <i>&amp; contra bassoon</i> )
Anne Bicknell		Susan Kirby	
Caspian Nicholls			<b>Percussion / Timpani</b>
Linden Orr			Chris Hubbard
William Baldwinson			Sasha Teh