



ABBOTSLEIGH

Night of a Thousand Stars

Sydney Opera House
20 May 2025

Message from the Headmistress Megan Krimmer

What a delight and privilege it is to be celebrating Abbotsleigh's 140th birthday and the superb musical talents of our girls in Years 5-12, our 'stars', at the beautiful Sydney Opera House, today.

Showcasing our incredible girls and staff, and our Prefect theme, **Bee Connected**, our 'Night of a Thousand Stars' concert will see all our girls perform a number of items including the magnificent 'Hallelujah Chorus'. We also will be treated to marvellous performances from our ensembles, symphonic winds, the choir, camerata and our symphony orchestra, to name but a few.

We are honoured to welcome world-renowned didgeridoo player and composer William Barton as our special guest for our whole school performance of 'The Arafura' by Dan Walker. Further, we are incredibly grateful to our special guest artist, Little Green, (AOG Amy Nelson, 2017), for her invaluable contribution to our concert.

A highlight of the concert most definitely will be the world premiere performance of our Composer-in-Residence, Dr Harry Sdraulig's, unique composition and gift to the School, 'The Hive's Caper'. Reflecting the intricacies and activities of a beehive, this specially commissioned piece also will showcase the extraordinary talents of our Abbotsleigh students.

The title of our 140th Anniversary Concert, 'Night of a Thousand Stars' is indeed most apt as we celebrate the thousands of young women, 'stars', who have loved music and who have passed through the hallways of Abbotsleigh over the last 140 years. We hope you enjoy every minute of this amazing concert.

Night of a Thousand Stars Program

Acknowledgement of Country

Myffanwy Wilson and First Nations Students

Rigaudon

Organ: Kurt Ison

Brass Ensemble conducted by Merrilyn Vardouniotis

André Campra

Welcome

Jazarah Tambyrajah, Head Prefect

Piano Concerto in A minor, 1st Movement

Piano: Scarlett Li

Symphony Orchestra conducted by Louise Keller

Edvard Grieg

Makedonsko Oro from Balkan Connection

Camerata conducted by Louise Keller

Matthew Hindson

Star Wars Suite

Symphony Orchestra conducted by Louise Keller

John Williams

Arranged by James H Burden

The Hive's Caper

Bassoon: Emily Wan, Violin: Cindy Li, Cello: Alicia Kim, Piano: Scarlett Li

Harry Sdraulig

Speaker

Reanne Alwis, Vice Head Prefect – Duties

The Arafura

Didgeridoo: William Barton

Djembe: Serena Chi, Cajon: Bianca Kwan

Full School Ensemble conducted by Lynette Clarke

Dan Walker

Text by Bernard O'Reilly & Dan Walker
Indigenous words from Datiwuy language
of the Northern Territory

We invite you to experience the power of singing together



Godzilla Eats Las Vegas!

Dancers: Sarai Ades, Sophie Cheung, Alisha Grewal, Dineli Jayasekara,
Laura Jones, Ines Ng

Whole School Choir and Symphonic Winds conducted by Susannah Pinter

Eric Whitacre

INTERVAL

Stars

Descant: Josephine Brereton (AOG 2018)

Combined Chamber Choir and Vocal Ensemble conducted by Lynette Clarke

Ēriks Ešenvalds

Night of a Thousand Stars

Vocalists: Little Green (Amy Nelson, AOG 2017), Ishani Marar

Piano: Penina Stafford

Beynon Trio: Megan Ng, Alice Yu, Ellivia Zhang

Dancers: Georgia Hall, Isabelle Wei

Years 5 and 6 Choir, Combined Chamber Choir and Vocal Ensemble,
Senior School Choir conducted by Libby Cuza

Little Green

Alien

Vocalist: Little Green (Amy Nelson AOG 2017)

Flutes: Kiara Morishita-Lee, Neve Peters, Electric Guitar: Sarah He,

Piano: Jessica Liu, Bass Guitar: Lauren Kwong, Drumkit: Catherine Grice

Full School Ensemble conducted by Lynette Clarke

Little Green

Speaker

Chair of Council, Linda Ellis

Nature Boy

Vocals: Eva Bloom, Davina Chan, Charlee Lightfoot,
Caspian McLeod, Jazarah Tambyrajah

Jazz Ensemble conducted by Sally Lucas

Eden Ahbez

Arranged by Kerry Marsh

Speaker

Megan Krimmer, Headmistress

Verano Porteño

Violin: Jessica Ma

Camerata conducted by Louise Keller

Astor Piazzolla

To Abbotsleigh

Whole School Choir and Orchestra conducted by Lynette Clarke

**Music by Gustav Holst
To the tune of Thaxted
Lyrics by Robyn Claydon**

**To Abbotsleigh we raise our voice
In gratitude and praise
For all that she has stood for
Through many years and days**

**We think of those who've led her
We think of those who've shared
We think of those who've done their best
And the countless ones who've cared**

**We praise God for our heritage
For our School that's stood the test
And ask for strength and courage
To give to her our best.**

Hallelujah Chorus

Organ: Kurt Ison

Whole School Choir and Orchestra conducted by Lynette Clarke

George Frederic Handel



William Barton

Renowned performer and composer William Barton has significantly impacted the classical music world over two decades. A proud Kalkadunga man, he has vastly expanded the horizons of the didgeridoo and the culture and landscape it represents.

He has performed with prestigious orchestras such as the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Berliner Philharmoniker, and at Westminster Abbey for Commonwealth Day 2019, the Beijing Olympics and Anzac Cove. Barton has also performed at the Vatican and in the royal court of Spain. His accolades include the 2018 Sydney Theatre Awards for Best Original Score and the 2012 ARIA for Best Classical Album for *Birdsong at Dusk*. Barton holds honorary doctorates from Griffith and Sydney Universities and is an Artist in Residence at Melbourne Recital Centre.

Growing up on a cattle station near Mt Isa, Queensland, Barton began learning the didgeridoo at age seven from his uncle, Arthur Peterson, an elder of the Wannyi, Lardil and Kalkadunga people.

"I was given the special privilege by his family of holding onto his didgeridoo, which is quite a rare honour in Aboriginal culture because when an old song man passes away, they usually break his didgeridoo into pieces or even throw it out into the fire just to silence the sound forever of that old song man."

"I'm doing what I love. I want to take the oldest culture in the world and blend it with Europe's rich musical legacy. I guess what I'm doing is giving back: giving back to my culture and my people because I was given something when I was very young and like the old fellas who taught me years ago, I'm just passing it on."



Photo: Dara Munnis

Little Green

During her time as an Abbotsleigh student, Amy Nelson immersed herself in sport, music and leadership programs. Highlights include winning national medals in swimming and sports aerobics, being house captain of Chisholm and performing an original song at the 2017 Pierre de Coubertin award ceremony.

Since graduating in 2017, Amy has pursued her passion in music, touring Australia as a singer songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Using the stage name Little Green, she created her artist project as a tribute to the inner child.

Amy's early work captures the longing for something lost – innocence and childlike wonder – and songs such as 'Little Star' and 'Galaxies' have been given new life in her arrangement of 'Night of a Thousand Stars' for Abbotsleigh's 140th Anniversary Concert.

Dedicating part of her project to the earth, Amy has written and produced songs including 'The Night' and 'Alien' that encourage us to connect more deeply to our home. She has performed these works for TEDx and was a finalist in the 2020 Environmental Music Prize. Her second album, *Parody Of Paradise*, will be released at the end of this month.



Harry Sdraulig

Abbotsleigh's Composer-in-Residence Harry Sdraulig is one of the most frequently commissioned and performed composers of his generation. In recent years he has been commissioned by renowned artists including Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott as well as arts organisations such as Musica Viva Australia, the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland, Tasmanian and Canberra Symphony Orchestras.

Hailed by *Australian Stage* as "the most interesting voice in Australian composition for many years", his music has been described by *Limelight* as both "intriguingly off-kilter and intense" and "intelligent, accessible, and entertaining".

Sdraulig is also a passionate music educator and was thrilled to create the following composition as a 140th birthday gift to Abbotsleigh.

'The Hive's Caper' by Harry Sdraulig

"Beehives are places that – quite literally – buzz with activity. Yet despite their complexity and intricacy they are highly organised structures which, in many ways, embody the values of community and collaboration that are central to Abbotsleigh's ethos and mission. I couldn't help but notice that these very qualities are encapsulated by the performance of ensemble music."

'The Hive's Caper' was especially commissioned by Abbotsleigh for this world premiere performance and its title was decided in collaboration with music elective students at the School. Much like a hive, the work is complex and intricate in character with more than a hint of playfulness and adventure in its spirit. Though contemporary in its musical aesthetic, 'The Hive's Caper' jumps between passages of tight ensemble coordination, interwoven dialogue between the players, and lyrical melodicism before culminating in an energetic and exciting finish which showcases the extraordinary talents of the Abbotsleigh students giving tonight's performance."

Musicians and Performers 2025

Music Prefect

Grace Li

Acknowledgement of Country

Rita Aruba-Tyrrell, Jazaria Duncan, Montaya French, Savannah French, Amarni Gray, Demi Green, Lorna Haines, Alanah Holz, Olivia Holz, Akeena-Rose Eade, Amaya Sloane-Wood, Isabella Taylor, Sara Thompson, Lexie Wilson, Myffanwy Wilson, Lily Zahab

Alien Ensemble

Catherine Grice, Sarah He, Lauren Kwong, Jessica Liu, Kiara Morishita-Lee, Neve Peters

Beynon Trio

Megan Ng, Alice Yu, Ellivia Zhang

Brass Ensemble

Aria Cheng, Madeline Duffy, Sawarin Dumkum, Layyah Ismail, Amber Johnson, Annika Loel, Charlotte MacLeod, Zoe Mann, Sophie Miller, Claire Payne, Gabriela Popescu, Jessamy Reynolds, Harriet Waters, Vaishali Yogavaran

Camerata

Kaitlyn Au-Yeung, Christina Bhang, Gillian Bui, Adeline Cheung, Valerie Chung, Alexandra Cuthell, Jennifer Ding, Elysia Fang, Kiera Finnerty, Yilin Guo, Cyan Hu, Laura Jones, Alicia Kim, Mia Kim, Ria Kim, Lauren Kwong, Cindy Li, Alisha Ly, Amelia Ma, Jessica Ma, Sophie Meng, Megan Ng, Zoey Pan, Phoebe Peng, Zen Shen, Ashleigh Song, Elise Song, Zoe Sun, Katie Tang, Alicia Wang, Grace Wang, Dora Xu, Royce Yang, Kayley Yip, Alice Yu, Ellivia Zhang, Claire Zheng, Eleanor Zhu

Choir

Sarai Ades, Sankavi Ajanthan, Olivera Al-Dabbagh, Ellie Apostolidis, Sophie Apps, Isabella Aun, Kaitlyn Au-Yeung, Catherine Bailey, Neave Bailey, Sophie Bates, Eliya Bautista-Carter, Lilian Bayl, Sophia Bennetts, Anastasia Berenger, Christina Bhang, Mira Bhardwaj, Yiran Bi, Gillian Bui, Sofia Burton-Smith, Lena Cao, Brianna Chan, Davina Chan, Lucia Chan, Rita Chen, Hannah Cheng, Isabella Cheng, Adeline Cheung, Sophie Cheung, Serena Chi, Vivian Chi, Kathleen Chiu, Evie Choate, Rachel Choe, Alyse Chong, Valerie Chung, Alice Citer, Melody Cui, Luan Deng, Shi Deng, Sethuli Dias, Vivienne Ding, Caitlyn Doe, Olivia Dong, Reena Du, Sophia Du, Emma Duan, Sawarin Dumkum, Sonali Edirimanne, Annabelle Eldridge, Caroline Evans, Meredith Evans, Talia Fairbanks, Elysia Fang, Isabella Feng, Joycelyn Feng, Zihan Feng, Kiera Finnerty, Claire Fisher, Elise Fung, Selena Gao, Adaa Garg, Chloe Gates, Oviya Geevasinga, Kairavi Ghosh, Allison Giang, Caitlin Gong, Ashley Grant, Isabella Gu, Jacinta Gu, Lindi Gu, Delphine Gulddal-Jupp, Thehashi Gunawardene, Yilin Guo, Shreya Gupta, Elaine Ha, Bethany Hall, Alicia Ho, Natalie Hoang, Laura Hou, Cyan Hu, Chloe Huang, Zoe Huang, Kimberlee Hung, Cindy Huo, Jessica Ives, Sahana Jain, Dineli Jayasekara, Alice Ji, Tinya Jiang, Laura Jones, Oviya Jothimanikandan, Annanya Kaistha, Ava Kang, Chanel Kang, Georgia Kelly, Bhanavi Kemparaju, Siya Khanna-Boyle, Amani Khiroya, Ria Kim, Jocelyn Koh, Elizabeth Kwok, Sophia Kwok, Vanessa Kwok, Annabelle Lai, Mackenzie Lai-Smith, Chloe Lam, Imogen Lam, Haley Lau, Claire Lee, Hana Lee, Chloe Leonard, Clara Leong, Annabel Leung, Abigail Li, Angela Li, Ariel Li, Cindy Li, Emma Li, Grace Li, Grace Li, Jessica Li, Scarlett Li, Chelsea Lin, Christina Lin, Dorothy Lin, Olivia Lin, Sabrina Lin, Sarah Lin, Jessica Liu, Kylie Liu, Melinda Liu, Michelle Liu, Samantha Liu, Thea Liu, Eloise Lo, Annalise Low, Carissa Lu, Yolandy Lu, Cindy Luo, Rebecca Luo, Annette Luu,

Felicity Luu, Abigail Ly, Madeleine Ly, Amelia Ma, Amy Ma, Chloe McCann, Caspian McLeod, Angelina Mei, Maisie Mei, Sophie Meng, Sophie Miller, Kiara Morishita-Lee, Sasha Ndiritu, Chloe Ng, Amelia Nguyen, Emilie Nguyen, Michelle Ni, Aria Niles, Jesinta Nipatcharoen, Zara Noor, Jemima Ong, Christine Ou, Sophie Palmer, Kate Pan, Zoey Pan, Tiarna Pang, Ditni Pannipitiya, Samantha Parr, Jocelyn Paterson, Phoebe Peng, Sofia Petsenti, Aimee Phan, Gianna Pillay, Lynette Poon, May Ying Alissa Poon, Jessica Qi, Briar Qiu, Lakshi Rajeev, Sophia Rayment, Darcey Rose, Scarlett Rose, Kylie Ruan, Zoe Rudolph, Ariana Sarfaraz, Caitlyn Saurajen, Julia Sazhin, Aariyah Selvaratnam, Emily Shan, Shriya Shankar, Chloe Shao, Emily Shelley, Adabelle Shen, Mixin Shen, Zen Shen, Sae Shirwadkar, Olivia Sidhu, Mayurie Sivananthan, Ashleigh Song, Elise Song, Cindy Sun, Peggy Swift, Pareesa Syed, Natalie Sze, Amanda Tan, Ava Tan, Caitlin Tan, Diana Tan, Savannah Tan, Evelyn Tang, Katie Tang, Tara Thacker, Phoebe Thai, Rachel Theresia, Riley Theresia, Vanessa Ton, Isabella Tran, Madison Tran, Emma Tsai, Alisa Tse, Annabelle Wang, Enora Wang, Grace Wang, Kate Wang, Mia Wang, Sherry Wang, Sophia Wang, Wenxin Wang, Penelope Waterhouse, Harriet Waters, Lara Weerakoon, Charlyne Wong, Natalie Wong, Sophia Wong, Alyssa Wu, Ellie Wu, Vanessa Wu, Ashleigh Xu, Dora Xu, Ruby Xu, Alyssa Yang, Amanda Yang, Anastasia Yang, Maggie Yang, Hannah Yap, Hayley Yap, Kayla Yap, Alice Ying, Arianna Yip, Olivia Yip, Vaishali Yogavaran, Chloe Young, Molin Yu, Lily Zahab, Miranda Zavaglia, Bonita Zeng, Yolanda Zhan, Miya Zhang, Christina Zhao, Michelle Zhao, Trinity Zhao, Claire Zheng, Emily Zheng, Carrie Zhu, Eleanor Zhu

Combined Chamber Choir and Vocal Ensemble

Neave Bailey, Rita Chen, Adeline Cheung, Serena Chi, Evie Choate, Alyse Chong, Valerie Chung, Alice Citer, Sophia Du, Annabelle Eldridge, Selena Gao, Ashley Grant, Delphine Gulddal-Jupp, Yilin Guo, Shreya Gupta, Laura Hou, Tinya Jiang, Chanel Kang, Amani Khirya, Vanessa Kwok, Imogen Lam, Haley Lau, Hana Lee, Cindy Li, Grace Li, Olivia Lin, Jessica Liu, Eloise Lo, Yolandy Lu, Felicity Luu, Madeleine Ly, Caspian McLeod, Sophie Miller, Jemima Ong, Phoebe Peng, Jessica Qi, Scarlett Rose, Caitlyn Saurajen, Cindy Sun, Peggy Swift, Ava Tan, Caitlin Tan, Tara Thacker, Rachel Theresia, Vanessa Ton, Sophia Wang, Charlyne Wong, Ruby Xu, Hayley Yap, Molin Yu, Michelle Zhao, Eleanor Zhu

Con Brio Trio with bassoon solo

Alicia Kim, Cindy Li, Scarlett Li, Emily Wan

Jazz Ensemble

Cate Atkinson, Lilian Bayl, Eva Bloom, Davina Chan, Aria Cheng, Danielle Cui, Rija Farhan, Caitlin Gong, Amber Johnson, Siya Khanna-Boyle, Lauren Kwong, Charlee Lightfoot, Eloise Lo, Annika Loel, Caspian McLeod, Rebekah Ng, Nandika Parbhoo, Charlotte Phillips, Jazarah Tambyrajah, Melanie Wong

Orchestra

Leah Alwis, Kaitlyn Au-Yeung, Anastasia Berenger, Christina Bhang, Gillian Bui, Lena Cao, Rita Chen, Aria Cheng, Adeline Cheung, Sophie Cheung, Serena Chi, Abigail Cho, Christine Chu, Valerie Chung, Danielle Cui, Alexandra Cuthell, Jennifer Ding, Carolyn Dou, Elysia Fang, Kiera Finnerty, Caitlin Gong, Emilia Grimes, Lindi Gu, Yilin Guo, Bethany Hall, Cyan Hu, Amber Johnson, Laura Jones, Chanel Kang, Alicia Kim, Mia Kim, Ria Kim, Bianca Kwan, Vanessa Kwok, Lauren Kwong, Abigail Li, Cindy Li, Grace Li, Sabrina Lin, Eloise Lo, Annika Loel, Alisha Ly, Amelia Ma, Jessica Ma, Zoe Mann, Ava McCleary, Sophie Meng, Sophie Miller, Kiara Morishita-Lee, Arissa Ng, Rebekah Ng, Meera Nirmalendran, Zoey Pan, Nandika Parbhoo, Aelis Pellegrin, Phoebe Peng, Neve Peters, Gabriela Popescu, Alina Ramanathan, Catherine Scott, Zen Shen, Ashleigh Song, Elise Song, Zoe Sun, Audrey Tang, Katie Tang, Isabella Tran, Emily Wan, Alicia Wang, Enora Wang, Grace Wang, Yuxi Wang, Harriet Waters, Katie Wong, Maisy Wong, Alyssa Wu, Dora Xu, Helen Xu, Royce Yang, Megan Yeh, Kayley Yip, Sylvia Zhang, Claire Zheng, Eleanor Zhu

Symphonic Winds

Leah Alwis, Reanne Alwis, Cate Atkinson, Kaitlyn Au-Yeung, Yiran Bi, Hailey Chan, Rita Chen, Aria Cheng, Serena Chi, Vivian Chi, Rachel Choe, Danielle Cui, Madeline Duffy, Rija Farhan, Caitlin Gong, Emilia Grimes, Bethany Hall, Amber Johnson, Bianca Kwan, Vanessa Kwok, Chloe Lam, Abigail Li, Grace Li, Eloise Lo, Annika Loel, Charlotte MacLeod, Zoe Mann, Sophie Meng, Sophie Miller, Kiara Morishita-Lee, Arissa Ng, Meera Nirmalendran, Nandika Parbhoo, Aelis Pellegrin, Neve Peters, Charlotte Phillips, Gabriela Popescu, Catherine Scott, Summer Sivaraj, Savannah Tan, Audrey Tang, Evelyn Tang, Emily Wan, Enora Wang, Sherry Wang, Harriet Waters, Maisy Wong, Melanie Wong, Ava Yu, Sylvia Zhang

Dancers

Sarai Ades, Sophie Cheung, Alisha Grewal, Georgia Hall, Dineli Jayasekara, Laura Jones, Ines Ng, Isabelle Wei

Acknowledgements

Head of Music

Lynette Clarke

Assistant Head of Music

Penina Stafford

Head of Junior School Music

Libby Cuza

Head of Strings

Louise Keller

Music Staff

Ingrid Little, Sally Lucas, Jiae Mun, Susannah Pinter

Composer-in-Residence

Harry Sdraulig

Music Administration

Gina Hetherington, Melissa Ryan

Instrumental/Vocal Staff

Bassoon: Jennifer Yeh, Double Bass: Jenny Druery, Flute: Jude Huxtable, French Horn: Tina Brain, Oboe: Harry Wagstaff, Organ: Kurt Ison, Trombone: Merrilyn Vardouniotis, Trumpet: Isabella Thomas, Tuba: Cathy Chan, Viola: Nicole Forsyth, Voice: Josephine Brereton, Sam Walton

Dance Coordinators

Jasmine Cook, Anna McCulla

Senior School Coordinator of First Nations Students and Programs

Shane Hamilton

We extend our gratitude to all Abbotsleigh staff for their unwavering support and dedication which has made this concert possible.