



GREAT BARRIER REEF ORCHESTRA

Orchestral  
*Odyssey*

Peter Morris *Conductor*

*Overture to L'Orfeo - Monteverdi*

*Piano Concerto No. 4 - Beethoven*

*Featuring Nicholas Kennedy,  
2023 ACVC Instrumental Winner*

*A Midsummer Night's Dream  
(Incidental Music) - Mendelssohn*

*Montagues and Capulets  
(From Romeo and Juliet) - Prokofiev*

*How to Train Your Dragon - Powell*

**Saturday 15 March, 2025 at 5:30pm**

Townsville Civic Theatre

41 Boundary Street, South Townsville 4810



/nqorchestra

[www.nqorchestra.com.au](http://www.nqorchestra.com.au)







#### Peter Morris (Conductor)

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is a distinguished conductor and educator whose career spans decades, bringing a wealth of experience and passion to the podium. Renowned for his insightful interpretations and dynamic leadership, he has conducted orchestras across Australia and internationally, earning acclaim for his ability to shape music with precision and emotion. Notably, he has led large Australian touring events featuring live orchestral performances with film, including collaborations with artists like Kate Ceberano in "My Life is a Symphony." Beyond the concert hall, he has dedicated much of his career to mentoring the next generation of musicians through his work at Griffith University, where he serves as Head of Ensembles and Orchestral Conducting. His collaboration with the Great Barrier Reef Orchestra reflects his deep commitment to musical excellence, and under his baton, tonight's *Orchestral Odyssey* promises to be a captivating journey through time and sound.



#### Nicholas Kennedy (Piano)

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is an acclaimed Australian pianist and scholar, celebrated for his expressive performances and academic contributions. He made his concerto debut in 2014 with Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 alongside the Kuring-Gai Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2023, Nicholas won the Australian Concerto and Vocal Competition with a powerful rendition of Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto, praised for its emotional depth and technical mastery. His performances have graced stages across Australia, Germany, and the UK, earning accolades for their magnetism and stirring musicality. Beyond performance, Nicholas contributes to musicology as a casual academic at the Sydney Conservatorium, where he lectures and mentors undergraduate students. His scholarly work includes publications like "A Fantasy about Sonata Form: Re-Examining Chopin's Fantasy, Op. 49" in *The Chopin Review*. Nicholas's dual commitment to performance and scholarship enriches Australia's classical music landscape, blending artistic excellence with academic insight.



## PROGRAM

*Monteverdi Overture to L'Orfeo*

*Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4*  
*Featuring Nicholas Kennedy,*  
*2023 ACVC Instrumental Winner*

*Mendelssohn A Midsummer Night's Dream (Incidental Music)*

*Prokofiev Montagues and Capulets (From Romeo and Juliet)*

*Powell How to Train Your Dragon*



# PROGRAM NOTES

*Tonight's program is a journey through time, style, and storytelling, charting an odyssey of orchestral music that spans centuries. From the grandeur of early opera to the lyrical beauty of the Classical era, from the magic of Romanticism to the bold drama of 20th-century ballet and the soaring themes of modern cinema, each piece transports us to a different world. Listen closely to the contrasts; the regal elegance giving way to quiet introspection, the dance of fairies melting into the weight of fate, the clash of rivalries dissolving into the boundless flight of imagination. And as you do, consider this: one of these works was the last concerto its composer ever performed before losing his hearing entirely; a moment of both farewell and triumph. As the final notes fade, we are reminded that music, in every era, is a storyteller, carrying us across history, culture, and the depths of human emotion.*

## Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643)

was a pioneering Italian composer whose work bridged the Renaissance and Baroque eras, transforming the landscape of Western music. Best known for his operas, madrigals, and sacred compositions, Monteverdi played a crucial role in developing opera as a dramatic art form. His groundbreaking work *L'Orfeo* (1607) is considered one of the earliest operatic masterpieces, blending expressive vocal lines with rich instrumental textures.

The Overture to *L'Orfeo*, known as the *Toccata*, is a striking and regal fanfare that sets the stage for the opera's exploration of love, loss, and fate. Monteverdi's innovative use of harmony, orchestration, and emotional depth continues to inspire musicians and audiences today.

## Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

was a revolutionary composer whose music shaped the transition from the Classical to the Romantic era. His *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58*, composed between 1805 and 1806, stands as one of his most lyrical and innovative works. Unlike traditional concertos, it begins with a bold and poetic solo piano entrance rather than an orchestral introduction, setting a contemplative and intimate tone.

The second movement, often interpreted as a dialogue between the soloist and the orchestra, evokes themes of struggle and resolution, while the triumphant finale bursts with energy and brilliance. This concerto showcases Beethoven's genius in blending virtuosity with deep emotional expression, making it a cornerstone of the piano repertoire.

## Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

was a German composer, conductor, and pianist whose music masterfully blended Classical elegance with Romantic expressiveness. His *Incidental Music to A Midsummer Night's Dream, Op. 61* was composed in 1842 as a theatrical accompaniment to Shakespeare's beloved comedy, expanding upon the famous Overture he had written as a prodigious 17-year-old.

The suite captures the play's enchanting world of fairies, lovers, and mischief, with shimmering orchestration and vivid storytelling. Among its most well-known movements are the ethereal *Scherzo*, the majestic *Wedding March*, and the dreamlike *Nocturne*. Mendelssohn's music remains one of the most evocative and enduring interpretations of Shakespeare's magical tale.

## Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953)

was a Russian composer and pianist known for his bold harmonies, rhythmic intensity, and evocative storytelling through music. His ballet *Romeo and Juliet*, composed in 1935–36, is one of the most dramatic and powerful adaptations of Shakespeare's tragic love story. *Montagues and Capulets*, also known as *The Dance of the Knights*, is one of the most recognizable movements from the ballet, featuring a menacing, march-like theme that represents the conflict between the two feuding families.

The stark, pounding chords and dark orchestration create a sense of foreboding, contrasting with a more lyrical, haunting melody that hints at the doomed romance. Prokofiev's masterful use of orchestral colour and dramatic tension makes this piece an unforgettable musical portrayal of power and fate.

## John Powell (b. 1963)

is a British composer known for his dynamic and emotionally rich film scores. His music for *How to Train Your Dragon* (2010) is widely regarded as one of the most outstanding animated film scores, blending sweeping orchestral themes with Celtic-inspired melodies to capture the heart and adventure of the story.

The score combines soaring, heroic brass, lush strings, and traditional folk elements to evoke the mystical world of Vikings and dragons. From the exhilarating Test Drive theme to the heartfelt Forbidden Friendship, Powell's music perfectly mirrors the film's journey of discovery, courage, and friendship. His work on this score earned him an Academy Award nomination and continues to be celebrated for its epic scope and emotional depth.



# ORCHESTRA

## Violin 1

Stephen Frewen-Lord  
Do Young Park  
Chloe Shieh  
Chloe Mclean  
Melissa Nichols  
Robyn Kent  
Lily Haig  
Emma Baker

## Violin 2

Soroosh Azemikhah  
Eleanor Howard  
Ewa Buczkowska  
Abigail Ly  
Astrid Kahler  
Philip Haig  
Kristy Prasad  
Caitlyn Hellier

## Viola

Emily Wilson  
Jess Winton  
Josh Weston  
Suva Leitch  
Morgan Jones

## Cello

Carla Mulligan  
Wade Tattersall  
Isabelle Yu  
Mia Parnell  
Austin Park  
Tobias Burbidge  
Jamie Gould

## Double Bass

Deborah Ayres  
Sam Pankhurst  
Stephen Kluver

## Flute

Monika Ortloff

## Flute/Piccolo

Linda Bridge

## Oboe

Hannah Gow  
Francesca Adcock

## Clarinet

Jacinta Payne  
Monika Ward  
Grace Campbell

## Bass Clarinet

Gabrielle Penaluna

## Alto Saxophone

Gabrielle Penaluna

## Bassoon

Sarah Wagner *Brisbane*  
Irelna Lowrie

## Horn

Andrew Ryder  
Annie Doherty  
Suzanne Darrigan  
Jeff Hermono

## Trumpet

Arthur Florence  
Jeffrey Bird  
Joel Offerman

## Trombone

Cynthia Chambers  
Abe Dubbeld  
Ben Hawes  
Jakob Andrews

## Tuba

Dylan Cutler

## Piano/Violin 2

Julia Burnett

## Harp

Loni Fitzpatrick *Port Douglas*

## Timpani

Maxwell Hanks

## Percussion

Noel Price  
Julia Webster  
Andy Hodgson  
Sally Frewen-Lord

## Concertmaster

Stephen Frewen-Lord

## Orchestra Manager

Jessica Winton

## Rehearsal Conductor

Rianta Belford

## Patron

Bill Tweddell  
*Former Chancellor James Cook University*

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# THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who has made this concert possible.  
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Great Barrier Reef Orchestra  
Audience Survey



Great Barrier Reef Orchestra acknowledges the Wulgurukaba and Bindal people, traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we perform today. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contributions they make to the life of our city. May we walk gently and respectfully upon this land.

## Business Partners

