

THE CAT EMPIRE

WITH THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



5-7 September 2024
Sydney Opera House

SYDNEY
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Principal Partner



SYDNEY SYMPHONY PRESENTS

Thursday 5 September, 7pm
Friday 6 September, 7pm
Saturday 7 September, 7pm

Concert Hall,
Sydney Opera House

THE CAT EMPIRE WITH THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

NICHOLAS BUC conductor
ROSCOE JAMES IRWIN arranger

THE CAT EMPIRE

FELIX RIEBL lead vocals, tres
OLLIE MCGILL piano, keys
ROSCOE JAMES IRWIN trumpet
GRACE BARBE bass
DANIEL FARRUGIA drum kit
NEDA RAHMANI percussion
LAZARO NUMA POMPA trumpet
JORDAN MURRAY trombone

ARTE KANELA

RICHARD TEDESCO guitar
JOHNNY TEDESCO cajón, dancer
CHANTELLE CANO dancer

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR
MASSED CHOIR

Overture / How to Explain
Thunder Rumbles
Bird in Paradise
Doing Fine
The Lost Song
Candela
Brighter Than Gold
Rock 'n' Roll

INTERVAL

Bulls
Devil
Shooting Star
Two Shoes
Blood on the Stage
Owl
Be With You Again
Miserere
Steal the Light

Estimated durations

First half – 45 minutes
Interval – 20 minutes
Second half – 60 minutes

The concert will conclude
at approximately 9.05pm

Cover image

Photo by Kelli Rothwell

Audio

Des O'Neil, aFX Global
Louie Michael

Lighting

Matthew Jones, Atlas Studios
Matthew Tunchon, Silver Bullet Projects

Principal Partner



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

THE CAT EMPIRE

Aussie icons The Cat Empire have had an illustrious career, spanning decades and genres.

Illuminating stages across the globe, the band are a magnetic force that have captivated millions of adoring fans with their high energy performances and explosive sound and visuals. With the band's infectious groove and vibrancy, audiences are guaranteed to shimmy, shake, and sing their way through a Cat Empire set.

Continuing the legacy and the driving force behind the fresh new era for the band is Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill, two of the original three founding members of the group. Breathing energy into the band, the new project showcases a wonderful collective of musicians who make sure to retain the core DNA of The Cat Empire but include more collaborations, influences, and diverse artistry.

Leaning into a sense of musical curiosity with boundless possibilities, this newfound spirit shines an even brighter light on the band's exuberant musicality, elevating their sound and broadening their influences.

On the live circuit, The Cat Empire's new show celebrates movement, vibrancy, and playfulness – with a host of new material as well as the crowd-favourites.

With a history of multiple platinum records, awards, sold out tours and over 250 million streams – The Cat Empire have officially entered their golden era.

ROSCOE JAMES IRWIN arranger

Roscoe James Irwin has cemented himself as a kind of musical mastermind in Australia. The genre bending multi-instrumentalist, singer/songwriter, band leader and arranger/composer has become the go-to guy for a host of top Australian and international artists, including Paul Kelly, Passenger, Angus and Julia Stone, Megan Washington, Vance Joy, Thelma Plum, Jet, The Kite String Tangle, Chet Faker, The Bamboos, Kate Ceberano, The Paper Kites, and Tim Rogers.

Roscoe has arranged and orchestrated many projects for the country's top artists and orchestras, including The Kite String Tangle and the QSO, The Bamboos and the MSO, Spinifex Gum and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, as well as producing and arranging Kate Ceberano and the MSO's arla-nominated album, *My Life Is a Symphony*. In 2023 he wrote a number of pieces of music for jazz orchestra for the David Dastmalchian-led hit horror film, *Late Night with the Devil*.

Roscoe has been a touring musician with The Cat Empire for over 20 years now, and a frequent collaborator with lead singer Felix Riebl, having co-produced all 3 of his solo albums, as well as co-producing and arranging/orchestrating the most recent Cat Empire album, *Where The Angels Fall*. It only made sense that he would be the one to arrange and orchestrate this very special and momentous concert series with the nation's top orchestras for their new album *Bird in Paradise*.

ARTE KANELA

Formed deep within the Spanish Quarter of Melbourne in 1990, Arte Kanela Flamenco has an artistic history spanning three decades, performing at the most nationally significant venues and multicultural festivals, as well as collaborating with some of Australia's and Spain's finest musicians. At the centre of the formidable band are the Tedesco brothers, Richard and Johnny, two of the countries most recognised and respected Flamenco artists.

Richard Tedesco is the Flamenco guitarist and musical director/composer for the band, esteemed for his ability to play with fluidity and sensibility, and to bring musicians from different genres together to create a captivating musical encounter for the canoe and audience.

Johnny Tedesco is a Flamenco dancer and percussionist, renowned for his skill, precision, musicality and fierce drive towards continuous creative musical and choreographic development. Together with Flamenco cancer Chantelle Cano whose striking and powerful dance skills are respected and admired by industry artists, Arte Kanela unflinchingly and consistently bring to the stage a dynamic and high quality performance.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

LYN WILLIAMS AM

For 35 years, Lyn has harnessed the incredible power of young voices through her world-renowned ensembles: the Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana Voices, the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Marliya. Her choirs have appeared with the world's leading orchestras and conductors and at festivals including the BBC Proms and Polyfolia.

Lyn has commissioned over 200 works from composers across Australia, and around the world, and has a long-standing collaboration with Felix Riebl of The Cat Empire. Her outstanding and sustained contribution to music in Australia has been recognised with the Australia Council for the Arts' Don Banks Music Award in 2017, and the Sir Bernard Heinze Memorial Award in 2021.

THE SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Over its 35-year history, the Sydney Children's Choir has forged a reputation for artistic innovation and spell-binding performance. Recognised for their crystal-clear sound, their precision and artistry, they possess a courageous and compelling performance style.

The choir has performed at many high-profile events over the decades and has worked with leading ensembles and conductors including Simone Young, David Robertson and Vladimir Ashkenazy. The choir has a long history of performing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, most recently in the premiere performance of William Barton's *Of the Earth*, to celebrate the re-opening of the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

For this performance, the Sydney Children's Choir are joined by members of the Gondwana National Choirs.



CHORAL PREPARATION

Gondwana Choirs

Lyn Williams AM Artistic Director & Founder

Sam Allchurch Associate Artistic Director

Lachlan Massey Artistic Associate

MASSED CHOIR

Arden Anglican School Philippa Wood, Head of Co-Curricular Music & Ros Jewkes, Head of Accompaniment; **Bellingen High School** Pru Borgert, Music Teacher; **Cammeraygal High School** Alex Lang, Music Teacher; **Cranbrook School** Phillip Beverley, Director of Music; **Danebank Anglican School for Girls** Lucy Cantrill, Music Teacher & Choral Conductor; **Hunter Singers** Kim Sutherland OAM, Music Director; **Merewether High School** Charissa Ferguson, Music Teacher; **Meriden School** Jodie Spooner-Ryan, Director of Music; **NSW Public Schools Singers - The Arts Unit** Emily Irvine, Conductor & Allison Harrigan, Conductor; **Redlands School** Nicole Roberts, Head of Choral & Head of Performance; **Santa Sabina College** Amy Richardson, Director of Music; **SCEGGS Darlinghurst** Allison Harrigan, Musical Director of Choirs; **St Andrew's Cathedral School** Jen Nelson, Head of Music & Andrea Kuburic, Assistant Head of Music; **Stella Maris College Manly** Lotus-Rose Kyriotis, Music Teacher, Leanne Haines, Performing Arts Support Officer & Ines Paxton, Music Teacher **The Kings School** Sarah Feltham, Director of Music & Jason Ford, Assistant Head of Music.

Gondwana Choirs would like to thank SCEGGS Darlinghurst for their support as a venue partner.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

NICHOLAS BUC conductor

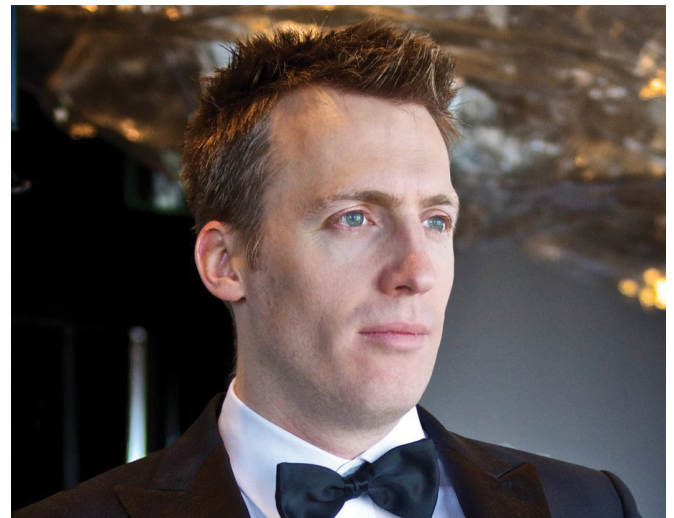
Nicholas Buc is a composer, conductor, and instrumentalist. He studied composition with Brenton Broadstock and Stuart Greenbaum at the University of Melbourne, where he received the inaugural Fellowship of Australian Composers Award. As the recipient of the Brian May Scholarship for Australian film composers, he completed a Master's degree in Scoring for Film and Multimedia at New York University, studying with Ira Newborn and Paul Chihara as well as receiving the Elmer Bernstein Award for Film Scoring.

Nicholas Buc has conducted the live-in-concert world premieres of John Williams' *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, Alan Menken's *Beauty and the Beast* and Nicholas Hooper's *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Other live film concerts he has conducted include *Pixar In Concert*, *Star Trek*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Back to the Future*, *Casino Royale*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Jurassic Park*, *Psycho*, *Star Wars: Episodes IV, V, VI and VII* and the first three *Harry Potter* films. He has conducted all the major Australian symphony orchestras as well as the Minnesota Orchestra and Houston, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Austin, Grand Rapids and Madison symphony orchestras in the US. In Asia, he has conducted the Tokyo, Hong Kong, Malaysian, Osaka and Taipei Philharmonic orchestras.

Nicholas Buc's works have been premiered by the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, The Australian Voices, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra,

Benaud Trio and Concordis Chamber Choir. He has also worked with Tina Arena on six Australian tours and written arrangements for Missy Higgins, Passenger, Eskimo Joe and The Whitlams, as well as working on five seasons of *The Voice Australia*. In February/March he conducted concerts with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Nicholas Buc is currently completing a major theatrical work, *TROT*. His ballet score, *Kazka*, for the Lehenda Ukrainian Dance Company, toured throughout Australia, Canada and the US.



Nicholas Buc

THE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1932 by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has evolved into one of the world's finest orchestras as Sydney has become one of the world's great cities.

Their concerts encompass masterpieces from the classical repertoire, music by some of the finest living composers, and collaborations with guest artists from all genres. They also celebrate the role of the symphony orchestra in movies, television and video games.

sydneyssyphony.com

THE MUSICIANS

FIRST VIOLINS

Alexandra Osborne
Associate Concertmaster
Fiona Ziegler
Assistant Concertmaster
Jennifer Booth
Sophie Cole
Sercan Danis
Claire Herrick
Georges Lentz
Alexandra Mitchell
Léone Ziegler
Robert Smith^o
Benjamin Tjoa^o
Dominic Azzi[†]

SECOND VIOLINS

Marina Marsden
Principal
Emma Hayes
Acting Assistant Principal
Alice Bartsch
Victoria Bihun
Wendy Kong
Nicole Masters
Maja Verunica
Riikka Sintonen^o
Nanda Hong*
Elizabeth Jones*
Jasmine Tan*

VIOLAS

Tobias Breider
Principal
Rosemary Curtin
Jane Hazelwood
Stuart Johnson
Andrew Jezek^o
Dana Lee*
Raphael Masters*

CELLOS

Simon Cobcroft
Associate Principal
Leah Lynn
Associate Principal
Kristy Conrau
Fenella Gill
Elizabeth Neville
Adrian Wallis

DOUBLE BASSES

David Campbell
Steven Larson
Richard Lynn
Benjamin Ward

FLUTES

Laura Cliff[†]
Guest Principal
Carolyn Harris
Adrienne Hanslow*
Guest Principal Piccolo

CLARINETS

Francesco Celata
Acting Principal
Clare Fox[†]

HORNS

Euan Harvey
Acting Principal
Marnie Sebire
Emily Newham^o
Stefan Grant[†]

TRUMPETS

Brent Grapes
Associate Principal
Anthony Heinrichs
Joel Walmsley[†]

TROMBONES

Scott Kinmont
Associate Principal
Nick Byrne
Christopher Harris
Principal Bass Trombone

TUBA

Scott Frankcombe*
Guest Principal

TIMPANI

Joshua Hill^o
Acting Associate Principal
Timpani/Section Percussion

Bold Principal

* Guest Musician

^o Contract Musician

[†] Sydney Symphony Fellow