

ENCORE

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE
4 March 2024



Performances and compositions by HSC Music students

Excellence from the 2023 Higher School Certificate





Program

Part 1

Benjamin Martin Muswellbrook High School
Electric guitar *Technical Difficulties (Racer X)*

Kotoko Takehara, Stephanie Wong Abbotsleigh
Clarinet, Violin Trio for Violin, Clarinet and Piano,
Mvt 1: *Freylakh (Schoenfield)*

Jialin (Patricia) Li Ravenswood School for Girls
Guzheng *Battling the Typhoon 战台风 (Chang Yuan)*

Harrison Shore Shire Christian School
Composer / Bass guitar *Top Button (Shore)*

Evelyn Anne Shanley Caroline Chisholm College
Voice *The Foggy Dew (An Drucht Geal Ceo) (O'Neill)*

Samuel Roth Mudgee High School
Guitar *Purple Haze (Hendrix)*

Emma Lang Newtown High School of the
Performing Arts
B flat clarinet *After you Mr Gershwin! (Kovacs)*

Antonella Khodr-Chah Presbyterian Ladies'
College, Sydney
Voice *Manhattan (Bareilles)*

Callum Spillane Dapto High School
Bass guitar *Mr Pink (Level 42)*

Jacob Koseff Moriah College
Composer / Cello *Fall in a Daydream (Koseff)*

Max Bloomfield Kinross Wolaroi School
Marimba *Flash (Hindson)*

Ryan Xu Conservatorium High School
Cello / Voice *Lamentatio (Sollima)*

Harry Zhi-Xi Wang The King's School
Violin *Polonaise de Concert in D Major, Op.4
(Wieniawski)*

INTERVAL





Part 2

Gracelyn Sarah Irawan Yu Meriden School
Composer *Psalm 6:2-4 (Yu)*

Emily Harris Newtown High School of the
Performing Arts
Voice *Liquid Smooth (Mitski)*

Charlie McMurray Mater Maria Catholic College
Drums *Untitled (Mendoza arr. McMurray)*

Mitar Tomasevic Fairvale High School
Accordion *Libertango (Piazzolla)*

Jackson James Fitzgerald Winmalee High School
Voice *The Smell of Rebellion (Minchin)*

Eva Whitbread Santa Sabina College
Drum kit *The Dance of Eternity (Dream Theater)*

Harvey Abrahams, Milo Abrahams Sydney
Grammar School
Flute, Bassoon *Serenade en Trio (Bozza)*

Benjamin Pirom Sydney Boys High School
Composer *Incognito (Pirom)*

Kanon Ito Conservatorium High School
Piano *Piano Sonata No.7, Mvt 3 'Precipitato' (Prokofiev)*

Mary Charlotte Peter St Ives High School
Voice *Don't Rain on my Parade (Merrill and Styne)*



Performance notes

MUSIC 1

Jackson James Fitzgerald

Winmalee High School

Jackson chose 'The Smell of Rebellion' after thoroughly enjoying performing the role of Miss Agatha Trunchbull in his school's production of *Matilda, The Musical*. Based on Roald Dahl's book, *Matilda*, it comes as no surprise that Miss Trunchbull, the headmistress of Crunchem Hall, is a ruthless and cruel person. She terrorises the children in her care, but is eventually beaten by Matilda's special powers. In 'The Smell of Rebellion' she subjects her students to a gruelling PE class in order to control them. With a score by Tim Minchin, *Matilda* has received a string of international awards. Jackson is accompanied by Cohen Boys, drums, Raelene Clifford, grand piano, Lucas Collins, saxophone, Oliver Dickens, keyboard, Craig McGowan, trumpet, Jasper Musgrave, flute, Miles Salas, electric guitar.

Jackson has been performing since he was about 5. He was originally a dancer and performed a self-choreographed version of Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' at a school talent show. Then he was introduced to the choir and realised how much he enjoyed it, participating in vocal groups right through primary school and high school. He was a lead in three school musical productions: Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, The Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* and most recently Miss Trunchbull in *Matilda*. He has been a featured artist in back-to-back Schools Spectaculars.

Emily Harris

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts

'Liquid Smooth' is the first track from Mitski's first album, *Lush*, released in 2012. The track, which reflects on the beauty of youth, has been praised for its emotional vocal delivery and gritty subject matter. Emily chose this track because she enjoys Mitski's repertoire as well as performing with an ensemble. She says that singing with her dad playing bass was probably her favourite part. Emily sings the lead vocals and is accompanied by her father Mark Harris, double bass, Anthea Cottee, cello, Tim Fisher, piano, and Dave Goodman, drums.

Emily comes from a family of musicians. She has had singing lessons from an early age with her mother and participated in her high school choirs. In 2023 Emily joined the NSW Public Schools Singers under Liz Scott. She has been accepted for early entry into the Sydney Conservatorium of Music for a Bachelor of Music (Performance) in classical voice for 2024 and plans to pursue a career in classical singing.

Antonella Khodr-Chah

Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney

Antonella sings 'Manhattan', a song full of heartache written by Sara Bareilles. It appears on her album, *The Blessed Unrest*, and was written after breaking up with her long-term boyfriend. The chorus 'You can have Manhattan / 'Cause I can't have you' sums up her pain, as well as referencing the many other songs written about that famous borough of New York. Antonella is accompanied by Andrew Basile.

Antonella describes the experience of performing music as a 'privilege' that she loves to share with those around her. She has 'indulged' in music from a young age, and appreciated the opportunity that Music 1 gave her to practise and refine her skills. Her greatest achievement to date lies in being part of the Australian team to compete at the World Championships of

Performing Arts 2022 in Los Angeles where she was awarded the title 'Senior Vocalist of the World' having been the youngest to compete in her category. She was also a gold medallist and Division Winner (16–24 years) in Vocal Contemporary, Pop, R&B/Soul/Jazz and more. She has participated in Sydney Eisteddfod since the age of 10, winning her Vocal Contemporary age group up to 2021 and placing highly in diverse genres (Musical Theatre, Cabaret, Country and R&B/Jazz). She has achieved her AMEB Grade 8 with high distinction and performed alongside the esteemed James Morrison and band, as well as events such as carols, gigs, a TedX Youth event and taking the lead in musicals.

Benjamin Martin

Muswellbrook High School

Ben takes on the role of lead guitarist in his rendition of Racer X's title track from their 1999 album, *Technical Difficulties*. The song is characterised by its intricate riffs and fast melodic guitar solos, along with a driving rhythm section and heavy-hitting section changes. The track has become a staple among fans of instrumental rock and 'shred' guitar, perfectly showcasing the virtuosic abilities of the band members. Ben is accompanied by Ryan Case on rhythm guitar, Riley Newbury on bass and Miles Chapman on drums.

Ben started playing guitar when he was 15, but when he picked up the electric guitar in 2021 he instantly fell in love with it and practised more consistently. Transitioning into Year 12 his style of playing was increasingly influenced by the fast melodic playing and hard-hitting riffs in the genre of metal, seen in his selection of 'Technical Difficulties'. During his high school years he joined his school's stage band and guitar ensemble and the musical band for the school's production of *We will rock you*. He also played at the 'Rock'n the Brook' music festival with Miles Chapman. Ben will continue his study of music at the University of Newcastle in 2024 and intends to pursue music as a career.

Samuel Roth

Mudgee High School

Samuel has always loved Jimi Hendrix's 'Purple Haze' and knew that he would enjoy the challenge that came with this acoustic arrangement, inspired by Tommy Emmanuel. This interpretation forced him to learn a variety of new techniques, moving out of the rock genre in which the song was written and showcasing the acoustic resonance of the guitar. Once he had broken down each section and overcome the natural frustrations which always come with learning, he says, 'it became a true joy to play!'

Samuel was born and grew up in Mudgee NSW, where he completed his 13 years of schooling. At the age of six he started to play violin and, under the gentle guidance and influence of his teacher, developed a love of stringed instruments. During primary school he had two formative musical experiences. The first was playing in the Mimosa concert at the Sydney Opera House, sharing the stage with around 1000 other students from across the state. The second was being included in the Huntington Estate Music Festival, playing duets with Dene Olding, a founding member of the Goldner String Quartet. He has achieved his AMEB Grade 6 on the violin. In Year 7, he discovered the guitar, an instrument that he intends to play forever. He was the rhythm and lead guitarist for the school's jazz band which for two years in succession won the Dubbo Eisteddfod. In 2023 he played in the Gulgong Eisteddfod and won the Roger Woodward award, given to the best musician and performer in concert. He has built his own electric guitar, giving him deeper insight into the guitar and the ways in which to create sound. He plays gigs in his local town and community, playing his own compositions and covers, performing on acoustic and electric guitar as well as vocals.

Evelyn Anne Shanley

Caroline Chisholm College

'The Foggy Dew' (An Drúcht Geal Ceo) was written by Irish priest and poet Father Charles O'Neill in response to the Easter Rising of 1916. It is a popular song in Irish traditional music, with its mournful lyrics and melody capturing both the anguish and defiance of the Irish people during that time, and has been recorded by some of the most influential Irish musicians of their time including Sinéad O'Connor, Luke Kelly and Shane MacGowan. Evelyn was inspired by Grainne Holland's rendition and performs the song predominantly in the Irish language, *Gaeilge*. She has incorporated an improvised section using her upper register and falsetto tones, using her full vocal range and creating contrast in the piece. She is accompanied by Nick Carozza, drums, Richard Caws, piano, Joshua Graziotto, guitar, Wendy Merriman, flute.

For as long as Evelyn can remember, her family has supported her great passion for music, especially singing and songwriting. Starting at age four, she has performed at festivals, concerts and musicals. She wrote, professionally recorded and performed an original song with *X Factor* contestants Jess + Matt at the Joan Sutherland Theatre in Penrith as part of the 2019 CAPTIVATE songwriter program. Evelyn's vocal range allows her to sing a wide variety of genres, from contemporary through musical theatre to classical. Her passion for songwriting has led her to engage in many different courses, especially during lockdown. She has completed online songwriting courses with the Sydney Conservatorium Open Academy and Charlie Puth. Evelyn currently works as a singing teacher and intends to pursue a career in music.

Harrison Shore

Shire Christian School

Harrison's composition is a funk soul piece, written to explore the idea of collectiveness and individuality. It was inspired by many funk, jazz and soul artists including Jamiroquai, Vulfpeck and James Brown. The call and response between bass and saxophone takes its inspiration from Vulfpeck, with bass being Harrison's main instrument. 'Top Button' follows a simple structure to allow for the complexity in the individual instruments to complement each other throughout the piece. Harrison, playing bass, is accompanied by Bradley Bussing, baritone sax, Ryan Collins, drums, Nicole George, keyboard, David Humphreys, electric guitar, Rodd Jefferson, alto saxophone, Jarryd Langford, alto saxophone.

Harrison says that it took many months to perfect the hook and chorus with saxophone harmonies and other instruments to add depth to the overall sound. The highs and lows are intended to generate excitement and suspense, giving the listener an emotional connection to the piece.

Callum Spillane

Dapto High School

'Mr Pink' is an instrumental jazz-funk track from an early demo by the British pop band Level 42. Originally recorded in 1980, the track was never officially released on an album due to the band's switch to simplified mainstream pop music in the mid '80s. Callum chose this piece because, 'it lights me on fire from start to finish'. He is joined by Thomas Smith, guitar, and Trent Crowe, drums.

Callum has played bass for four years and also plays the trumpet. He has been involved in the Illawarra South East Regional Performing Ensemble playing trumpet and bass, and played trumpet in the 2023 Southern Stars performance in Wollongong. He received a Cert III for Live Production and Technical Services while studying the Entertainment Industry course for his HSC. He has achieved early entry into university for a Bachelor of Creative Arts, Music. He is intending to have a career in music or music production.

Mitar Tomasevic

Fairvale High School

The title of Mitar's performance, 'Libertango', derives from 'libertad' meaning freedom. It is one of the most recognisable modern accordion pieces. Composed by Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla in 1974, it signified a shift from Piazzolla's classical tango roots to 'nuevo tango' – a fusion of various musical elements into tango music. Mitar was captivated by its beautiful melody and expressiveness and performed it first at the South Pacific and New Zealand Accordion Association Championships and Festival.

Mitar has been mesmerised by the power of music from an early age. He has been playing accordion since 2014 with the Australian Accordion Teachers Association president and Coupe Du Monde D'accordéon champion Tanja Marx. The instrument appeals to his Serbian/Balkan roots and he has competed at annual competitions held by the Australian Accordion Teachers Association since the age of nine. Recently he has begun to compete internationally. His first competition was in Auckland, New Zealand where he won first place in his division. Mitar is now practising to compete in competitions in China and the United States.

Eva Whitbread

Santa Sabina College

Dream Theater is an American progressive metal band formed in 1985. Their drummer, Mike Portnoy, was inducted into the Drumming Hall of Fame in 2010 and is considered to be one of the all-time greats. 'The Dance of Eternity' is a masterpiece of compositional complexity. It features five key changes and many changes in time signature. Eva chose this piece for the challenge it provides, with different time signatures in almost every bar. It also gave her the opportunity to develop a new skill on the drums, with the double kick pedals adding another layer to the piece. She is accompanied by Dane Connor, percussion, Winston Weng, electric bass, Nick Southcott, piano, and Joseph Wherrett, electric guitar.

Eva has loved music from a young age and at the age of four went to her first concert, American rock band Linkin Park. She started playing drums at the age of 10 and can play a range of percussion instruments as well as traditional Lebanese drums. She has played everything from heavy rock to big band jazz, inspired by her drum teacher Dane Connor. She ranked 1st for HSC Music 1 in her school cohort for two years consecutively and was a finalist in the *Hit Like a Girl* competition for female drummers.

MUSIC 2

Max Bloomfield

Kinross Wolaroi School

'Flash' is an extremely lively two-mallet marimba solo, using wide contrasts in dynamic, structural and tone colouring ideas. Composer Matthew Hindson has written that 'Flash' 'continually changes between regular sets of repeated notes and arpeggios, and more variable explosions across the instrument'. When selecting his HSC music repertoire, Max felt a real connection with its expression and energy. The vibrant playfulness and colour attracted him, and he found its technicality made it a lot of fun to learn and tweak over time.

Max began learning drum kit in Year 1. He developed as a musician through playing in various jazz and classical ensembles, becoming the timpanist and principal percussionist in the Orange Symphony Orchestra and the Regional Youth Orchestra. It wasn't until the lockdown period of 2020 that Max started learning mallet percussion through video calls with former

Opera Australia percussionist Iain Scotland, borrowing instruments from his school and the local conservatorium. Max experienced a steep learning curve, vastly improving his melodic instrument technique under the inspirational mentoring of his school's Head of Music, Jacqueline Shields. Occasionally, Max travelled to Sydney for in-person lessons with Iain and also Claire Edwardes, who premiered 'Flash' in 2015.

Jacob Koseff

Moriah College

Jacob chose to compose a string quartet as he regards that form as 'the most sonically and intellectually stimulating medium of composition'. He composed 'Fall in a Daydream' to explore the fine line that exists between reality and fantasy, expressing it sonically through the incorporation of motif, quartal and quintal harmonies, and counterpoint. Scored for string quartet, the piece experiments with compositional techniques such as artificial harmonics, timbral and textural changes, and shifting time signatures to create an atmospheric dreamlike quality. It reaches its climactic point within the first half where all instruments climb up into their high registers, employing a shrill tone colour as if to wake the persona from their daydream. It ends with a cello pizzicato figure, with the upper strings holding a pedal chord cluster, slowing down and reducing in volume to nothing. Jacob plays cello and is joined by Charlotte Fetherston, viola, Michelle Kelly, violin 1, Tracy Lynch, violin 2.

Jacob has always loved music, and began learning cello at the age of seven. Being active in his school's music program, he was principal cellist in his school's Sinfonia and Symphony Orchestras, and in 2020 was offered a place in an international orchestra tour to the US and Israel. In 2021 he received a music scholarship and was able to progress with his studies, playing and working with professionals and conductors at music camps, participating in the 'Strike a Chord' string quartet competition, and in 2022 achieving a high distinction in his Certificate of Performance (CMUS). He has been a member of Sydney Youth Orchestra and has been accepted into the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where he will pursue a Bachelor of Music Performance with advanced studies in Commerce.

Jialin (Patricia) Li

Ravenswood School for Girls

'Battling the Typhoon' 战台风 ('Zhan Tai Feng') is an all-time guzheng classic, composed by Wang Changyuan. She composed it in 1965 to express the drama of the Shanghai harbour workers battling the forces of nature. Its vivid musical imagery represents the power and energy of a typhoon but also gives the performer the opportunity to explore diverse guzheng playing styles. Jialin chose this piece as it showcases the versatility and expressiveness of the guzheng, from the rapid and intense introduction to its slower, more lyrical sections.

Jialin says that she felt disconnected from her culture when coming to Australia with her family at a young age, but that playing the guzheng allowed her to connect with that culture. She has completed grade 9 of her guzheng studies as well as successfully completing her HSC Music Extension course.

Charlie McMurray

Mater Maria Catholic College

This drum piece is an interpretation of Juan 'Carlito' Mendoza's winning performance at the 24th Annual Guitar Centre Drum Off. It uses a Roland SPD30 Octapad to play samples, sound effects and more, while soloing around the drum kit with experimental techniques. Charlie began constructing the piece at the beginning of 2023 and continued to develop and refine it for his Music Extension program. He chose this piece of music as he loves pushing boundaries

in music and performance. As he says, 'I enjoy the constant change that happens throughout and also the new ways of using drums and cymbals to create awesome sounds and grooves.'

Having started learning drums in Year 2, Charlie continues to pursue his love for drumming and is always looking for new ideas and ways to further explore his drumming techniques, skills and prowess. Over the years Charlie has played in many bands, been involved in a diverse range of gigs, concerts and competitions, and recently began writing music for his originals band, Bozway. He is enrolled to study a Bachelor of Audio and SAE in Sydney in 2024. He will also maintain his regular gigs with the different bands that he is a part of as well as continuing to tutor younger students.

Ryan Xu

Conservatorium High School

'Lamentatio' was written in 1998 by Italian composer and cellist Giovanni Sollima, for solo cello and voice. Although categorised as a contemporary classical work, like other compositions by Sollima it incorporates numerous features of other modern genres such as rock 'n' roll. The piece itself can be divided into two different 'atmospheres', characterised by their wildly contrasting natures – the first is a tranquil, melancholy duet between the cello and the voice, reminiscent of ethnic and folk singing styles, with use of *portamento* against a drone in the cello. The second is a furious, rapid and abrasive *moto perpetuo* (perpetual motion) cello solo, filled with modal inflections and rhythmic complexity. The two sections, when placed in alternating order, fuse to create a riveting and highly emotional piece. Ryan chose this piece for its emotional depth and because playing it is often a cathartic experience.

Ryan began learning piano at the age of five, then picked up a cello when he was eight. He recently passed his LMus AMEB exam with distinction. In 2023 he performed at numerous concert halls and various other venues throughout Sydney. He intends to pursue a career in music, in composition, conducting or performing.

Gracelyn Sarah Irawan Yu

Meriden School

Gracelyn's composition, 'Psalm 6:2-4', is written for treble choral ensemble to be performed *a cappella*. It explores the feeling of hopelessness and remembrance of hope contained in the biblical passage of its title. The harmonic development and layering of voices represents this message, inviting the listener to experience the same emotions as the psalmist. This piece draws inspiration from the works and styles of Michelle Roueché and Jeffery L Ames. Gracelyn's composition is performed by Danielle Berkmann, Zoe Chan, Rebecca Hong, Anastasia Ibrahim, Talia Jee, Evangeline Lee, Erika Lee, Annaliese Reid, Lucinda Russell, Celeste Ryan, Jodie Spooner-Ryan, Elsie Starling, Maddy Wood, Rita Yeung.

Gracelyn started taking an interest in music from the age of four, starting with violin lessons and picking up singing lessons in 2014. She has participated in a number of eisteddfods for solo singing, including Sydney, Ryde and Penrith, and performed at the Sydney Opera House in 2022 with the Gondwana National Choir, Season 4: Voices of Angels. She has participated in numerous school ensembles and two musical productions, including *Into the Woods* and *Annie*, as well as being Music Prefect in 2023. She intends to seek out university choir and orchestra opportunities during her tertiary studies.

MUSIC EXTENSION

Harvey Abrahams

Sydney Grammar School

Eugène Bozza was a French composer who lived for most of the 20th century. He wrote an enormous amount of chamber music for wind instruments. The *Serenade en Trio* reflects the wit and complexity that often feature in Bozza's compositions. Harvey loved the challenge of Bozza's music, and found the trio to be the perfect ensemble performance to learn. He counts himself very fortunate to play it alongside his twin brother Milo Abrahams, bassoon, and Ivan Zhang, clarinet, as they 'made every rehearsal a joy'.

Harvey loves art in all its forms, and has performed music from an early age. He has received his LTCL (Licentiate of Trinity College London) and LMusA with distinction in flute. He plays jazz piano and piccolo as well. His video drama, *Substratum*, for which he composed and performed the soundtrack, was selected for OnSTAGE 2024. He has been accepted into AFTRS and intends to follow a career in the film industry.

Milo Abrahams

Sydney Grammar School

Eugène Bozza was a French composer who lived for most of the 20th century. He wrote an enormous amount of chamber music for wind instruments. The *Serenade en Trio* reflects the wit and complexity that often feature in Bozza's compositions. Milo loves the 20th century French style, and Bozza in particular. In the *Serenade en Trio* he particularly enjoys the beautiful 2nd movement – a rest from the frenzied 1st and 3rd movements. Milo says 'it's a dream come true' to play this piece with his brother Harvey Abrahams, flute, and Ivan Zhang, clarinet.

Milo has achieved an LMusA in bassoon. He also plays contra bassoon and violin. He won the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra (KPO) secondary school concerto competition in 2022 and has performed as a soloist with KPO, Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra and the Lane Cove Wind Band.

Emma Lang

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts

'After you, Mr. Gershwin!' is a tribute by Béla Kovács to the compositions of George Gershwin. Throughout the piece Kovács, a Hungarian clarinetist and composer, samples motifs of Gershwin's famous pieces, such as 'Rhapsody in Blue' and 'An American in Paris'. Emma chose this piece as its style was a contrast from the rest of the repertoire she was studying for her HSC. With its more jazz-oriented style, she found it challenging to configure her usual classical style to fit. She found this challenge enjoyable, forcing her to learn new techniques and develop her playing characteristics to successfully perform the piece.

Emma started playing music at the age of five with piano lessons. At six she started on cello and at seven she was introduced to the clarinet. She particularly loved the clarinet and her improvement through primary school led to a successful audition for Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, performing the opening glissando to Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue'. She has been active in The Arts Unit, performing with its String Sinfonia, Wind Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra over the past ten years. In 2024 she commences clarinet performance studies at the Sydney Conservatorium.

Mary Charlotte Peter

St Ives High School

'Don't Rain on my Parade' was written by Bob Merrill (lyrics) and Jule Styne (music) for the 1964 musical *Funny Girl*, performed both on stage and in the subsequent film by leading lady and Broadway legend Barbra Streisand. Based on the life of comedian Fanny Brice, *Funny Girl* tells the story of her rise to stardom, from vaudeville to the Ziegfeld Follies. This song occurs at the end of Act 1, expressing her determination to follow her career. It has been described as 'a song of emancipation and freedom'. The challenge of its many dramatic tempo changes has been taken up by a range of singers, including Lea Michele in *Glee*. Mary's musical theatre upbringing involved heavy replays of *Glee* episodes, which gave her a newfound obsession with Golden-Age Broadway, Lea Michele, and this song in particular. Mary is accompanied by Darren Mapes, piano, Gordon Rytmeister, drums, Dave Stratton, electric bass.

Mary says she has been doing music, 'since I could talk!' She has released two singles, is a graduate of the 2023 Talent Development Project, was a featured artist in the Schools Spectacular 2023, and the lead in the feature film *Plan B*. In 2024 she will be attending Victorian College of the Arts, majoring in interactive composition.

Benjamin Pirom

Sydney Boys High School

Benjamin's composition 'Incognito' marries the suspense of a detective thriller with the groovy vibes of jazz fusion. He chose Composition for his HSC Music Extension course as he finds that it is a medium that gives him the opportunity to experiment with all sorts of creative possibilities. In this piece, the instrumentation of a saxophone quartet gave him the opportunities he wanted 'for each voice to sing loud'. He says that the most satisfying part of the process is, 'relishing the end product and comparing it with each step of the journey to see how much my pieces have grown'. 'Incognito' is performed by Dave Bell, alto saxophone, Steve Lamante, drum kit, Jordan Chung, electric keyboard, Michael Walder, electric bass.

Music has been a key feature of Benjamin's life, with his study of music beginning at the age of eight with classical piano and moving to percussion in 2017. He was selected for the Sydney Southeast Symphonic Winds Ensemble that year. He completed his CMus piano at age 13 and the accelerated HSC Music 2 course in Year 11, majoring in Performance as a drummer. He section-led his school's Senior Concert Band and Senior Stage Band, among other ensembles, was elected as School Music Prefect and appointed drum major of his school's Anzac Day marching band.

Kotoko Takehara

Abbotsleigh

Invited to compose a chamber work piece by clarinettist David Shifrin, 'Freylakh' is the first movement of Paul Schoenfield's *Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano*, composed in 1990. This movement was inspired by the celebratory music at Hassidic gatherings in Europe. The characteristic intensity and frenetic energy of the piece expresses the lively pace of *freylakh* dances and entertainment. Kotoko is joined by Stephanie Wong, violin, and Zi Hao Li, piano.

Kotoko began playing piano at age four and clarinet at age eight. She has performed in a variety of ensembles, including her school orchestra, and received her AMus in clarinet with distinction in 2021. She has participated in various eisteddfods and competitions as well as the Rising Stars Program, the 2022 AYO Young Symphonists program, and the 2021 Juilliard Summer Winds program. Kotoko intends to continue exploring her passion for music throughout university.

Kanon Ito

Conservatorium High School

Kanon has been exploring the world of Sergei Prokofiev, playing his sonatas, etudes and 5th Piano Concerto over the past few years. She enjoys the energy all his pieces bring and the space they provide for interpretation. She has chosen to perform the 3rd movement, 'Precipitato', from Piano Sonata No.7. This is the second of Prokofiev's three 'War Sonatas', composed in 1942 and first performed in Moscow in 1943. Its inaugural performer, Sviatoslav Richter, later described it as a work in which, 'we are brutally plunged into the anxious threatening atmosphere of a world that has lost its balance'.

Kanon began studying the piano at the age of four, and the violin when she was five. As well as performing and competing in eisteddfods across Sydney, she accompanies for auditions, exams and competitions and in 2023 was an official accompanist at Ryde Eisteddfod. While at the Conservatorium High School she has conducted a school orchestra and been part of a piano trio. This trio was the guest performer in the 2023 Sydney Eisteddfod Kawai Senior Scholarship. She has completed her Associate Diploma on Violin and her Associate and Licentiate Diploma on the Piano. She was concertmaster of the Arts Unit Symphony Orchestra from 2021–2022. In 2022 she was invited to provide music at Government House for a dinner hosted by the Governor. In 2023 she participated in a masterclass by Uta Weyand, one of the judges from the Sydney International Piano Competition. Kanon has a keen interest in modern music and hopes to explore more in the following years of her study. She will be starting her university studies in Piano at the Sydney Conservatorium in 2024. She is working towards becoming a concert pianist, with a keen interest in the chamber world.

Harry Zhi-Xi Wang

The King's School

The Polonaise de Concert in D Major, Op.4, (*Polonaise brillante*) is the first of two polonaises composed by Henryk Wieniawski. This version was finalised during the composer's concert tour of Russia in 1852, although an initial version had been sketched in Dresden in 1849 under the influence of Karol Lipiński, to whom the piece is dedicated. This polonaise represents the first time in his youthful compositions that Wieniawski displayed independence and maturity, as well as a nationalistic touch in its verve, heroic spirit and virtuosity steeped in contrast and drama. Harry chose this work for its challenging technical aspects and dulcet melodic lines.

Harry has performed as a soloist with the Mosman Symphony Orchestra in the Sydney Town Hall as well as with the Beethoven Academy Symphony Orchestra in Vienna's Musikverein. He was awarded 1st place at the Singapore International Solo Competition and at various eisteddfods across New South Wales. Harry was awarded a scholarship to study violin performance at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Music.

Stephanie Wong

Abbotsleigh

Invited to compose a chamber work piece by clarinettist David Shifrin, 'Freylakh' is the first movement of Paul Schoenfield's *Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano*, composed in 1990. This movement was inspired by the celebratory music at Hassidic gatherings in Europe. The characteristic intensity and frenetic energy of the piece expresses the lively pace of *freylakh* dances and entertainment. In playing this piece, Stephanie challenged her instrumental and ensemble ability. She is joined by Kotoko Takehara, clarinet, and Zi Hao Li, piano.

Stephanie began playing music at the age of four, studying both violin and piano. She later completed her Level 4 (ATCL) and Level 6 (LTCL) Diploma in Music Performance for both

instruments with distinction. She has also pursued an interest in composition, and was awarded a Diploma in Fourth Degree in the international 2015 Golden Key Piano Composition Competition. She played violin in her school's symphony orchestra and camerata, as well as in the orchestra for the school performance of the musical *Into the Woods*, and was a member of the school choir.



ENCORE

Acknowledgements



Showcase Lead:

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