



Musica da Camera

String Orchestra

Leonard Weiss

Musical Director

SATURDAY 2 MAY 2015 2.30 pm

Holy Covenant Anglican Church
89 Dexter Street, Cook, ACT

SUNDAY 3 MAY 2015 2.00 pm

Shire Hall,
Copeland Street, Gunning, NSW

PROGRAM

COPLAND: Hoe Down from *Rodeo*

WILLIAMS: Theme from *Schindler's List*

VIVALDI: Concerto in G major

WHITACRE: *October*

KELLY: Elegy for String Orchestra "*In Memoriam Rupert Brooke*"

— Interval —

SHOSTAKOVICH: Chamber Symphony Op 110A

RUTTER: Suite for Strings

Program notes were sourced and adapted from: *The New Grove Dictionary of Music & Musicians*, *The Oxford Companion to Music*, *Wikipedia*, *Barbara Jane Gilby*, *Conrad Wilson* and *Eric Whitacre*.

LEONARD WEISS: Musical Director



Leonard is an ANU graduate and a conductor, composer and performer, currently in the final weeks of studying a Masters in Teaching. Leonard's conducting education includes master classes with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and with Richard Gill OAM. He conducted choir concerts around Dublin in June 2014.

Recently, Leonard has enjoyed the privilege of performing solo carillon recitals in the USA and throughout Europe, including a premiere of his newest commissioned work, *Three Reflections*, in Belgium. He is returning to the USA in July to perform in the Summer Recital Series of The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America.

Aside from performing regular concerts on the National Carillon, Leonard has performed with the Canberra Youth Orchestra on both harp and French Horn, as well as performing in the Canberra Theatre and across Australia including in the Sydney Opera House and in Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane.

He is a regularly commissioned composer and has won many awards for his compositions, including being awarded the Mix 106.3 Award for Best Original Score at *Lights! Canberra! Action!* in 2014.

In Canberra, Leonard conducts the National Capital Orchestra, the Maruki Community Orchestra, the Canberra Gay and Lesbian Qwire, and the Echo Voices Community Choir. He performs as Musical Director and repetiteur for Pied Piper Productions; and he conducts various ensembles at Canberra Grammar School and Merici College.

Leonard is privileged to be conducting Musica da Camera for his fourth year in a row, and would like to thank all of the amazing musicians for bringing this fantastic program to life.

PROGRAM NOTES



Hoe Down from *Rodeo*

Aaron Copland (1900–1990)

Beginning in 1938, Copland, a writer on music, pianist, conductor, teacher and composer wrote a series of ballets that reached a wide audience. *Billy the Kid*, *Appalachian Spring* and *Rodeo* were written in a style described as “plain, clean-colored, deeply imaginative...theatrically functional...it has style”. All three works rely on the use of

borrowed folk melodies, usually presented straight and then modified with syncopation or changing metre. The Hoe Down scene from *Rodeo* conjures up images of American folk dancing and is especially suited to strings with its country fiddle melodies and style.



Theme from *Schindler's List*

John Williams (b. 1932)

(arr. Calvin Custer)

John Williams is an American composer, conductor, and pianist, who has composed some of the most popular and recognizable film scores in cinematic history, including the *Star Wars* series, the *Indiana Jones* series, the first two *Jurassic Park* films, and *Schindler's List*. Williams has won five Academy Awards, and numerous other awards. Today we play the theme from *Schindler's List*. The film was produced in 1993 and was based on the novel *Schindler's Ark* by Thomas Keneally.



Concerto in G major

Antonio Vivaldi (1676–1741)

Presto; Adagio; Allegro

Vivaldi's Concerto for Strings in G major, RV 151, commonly referred to as the *Concerto alla rustica*, is a concerto for orchestra without soloists and was written between mid-1720 and 1730.



October

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Eric Whitacre is an American composer and conductor, known for his choral, orchestral and wind ensemble music. He composed *October* in 2000 (originally as a work for brass) with the intention of evoking a peaceful musical representation of the month he has called his favourite. He

writes: "Something about the crisp autumn air and the subtle changes in light always make me a little sentimental, and as I started to sketch I felt the same quiet beauty in the writing. The simple, pastoral melodies and the subsequent harmonies are inspired by the great English Romantics, as I felt this style was also perfectly suited to capture the natural and pastoral soul of the season..."



Elegy for String Orchestra "*In Memoriam Rupert Brooke*"

Frederick Septimus Kelly (1881-1916)

Frederick Septimus Kelly was an Australian and British musician and composer. He was born in Sydney in 1881 and educated at Sydney Grammar School, Eton College and Oxford University. He served in Gallipoli and died fighting in the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

He was also a very competent rower and won a gold medal at the 1908 Olympic Games.

After leaving Oxford, Kelly studied the piano at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt. In 1911 he visited Sydney and gave some concerts, and in 1912 took part in chamber music concerts in London. He performed with Pablo Casals, and he helped organise a concert in London by Maurice Ravel.

Following the outbreak of war in 1914, Kelly was commissioned into the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve for service with the Royal Naval Division with his friends, the poet Rupert Brooke and critic and composer William Denis Browne. Kelly was wounded twice at Gallipoli, where he was awarded the DSC. At Gallipoli he wrote his scores in his tent at base camp, including his tribute to Brooke, *Elegy for String Orchestra "In Memoriam Rupert Brooke"* (1915).

His output included songs, piano and string trios, sonatas and works for piano and organ. Much of his work has been edited and promoted by Australian musicologist Richard Divall.



Chamber Symphony No 1 in C-min Op 110A

Dimitri Shostakovich (1906-1976)

[arr. Barshai]

Largo; Allegro molto; Allegretto; Largo; Largo

This work is a transcription for string orchestra by Rudolf Barshai of Shostakovich's 8th Quartet. Barshai was one of Shostakovich's former pupils and the transcription was prepared with the composer's approval. The quartet was written in 1960 during a visit to war-torn Dresden, and was triggered - or so it seemed - by the composer's memories of his own shattered St Petersburg. It was dedicated to the Memory of Victims of Fascism; the work's vivid portrayals of brutality and sorrow have understandably established it as the most famous of all his quartets.



Suite for Strings

John Rutter (b. 1945)

We finish today's program on an up-beat note...

This suite for string orchestra consists of four movements and each is based on a well-known English folk song.

John Rutter CBE is a British composer, conductor, editor, arranger and record producer, mainly of choral music.

He was educated at Highgate School before reading music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he was a member of the choir. He served as director of music at Clare College from 1975 to 1979.

MUSICA DA CAMERA was formed in 1979 as a small baroque ensemble. Over the years and under successive musical directors it has grown in size and its repertoire has expanded to embrace music of all styles and periods.

The orchestra performs three concert series each year. Each series comprises two performances—one in Canberra, and a second in a nearby town.

The orchestra has a different musical director for each of the year's concerts, thus providing a range of repertoire and performance styles. It also provides opportunities for talented young conductors, soloists and composers to work and perform with the ensemble.



Vale Jill Greenwell (1945–2014)

Jill was a member of *Musica da Camera* from its origins as a baroque ensemble in 1979 and, as president, took the group along innovative lines.

In 1980 a 'Dinner in the Age of Baroque' was held at Gold Creek homestead with dishes such as turtle soup, pigeon pie and syllabubs on the menu. Music was provided by *Musica da Camera* under the baton of John Stinson. Later that year *Musica da Camera* gave the first concert of free music in the foyer of The High Court of Australia. Other interesting venues organised by Jill were 'The Old Mill' and 'Bedervale' in Braidwood.

In 1982 a Boccherini sinfonia featured Jill on her newly acquired baroque cello (over 200 years old).

Jill played in *Musica da Camera* under the direction of John Stinson, Brian Hingerty, Warren Bebbington, Cynthia O'Brian, Rodney Hall, Adrian Keenan and Hans Gunter Mommer.

Around 1986 Jill stopped playing with the group but continued as a loyal audience member. She was a warm person, full of creative ideas, and will be sadly missed by myself and many others. *Musica da Camera* owes her a huge debt.

Heather Shelley

THE PLAYERS

1st Violin Jocelyn James, Rosemary Macphail, Heng Lin Yeap,
Christine Davidson, Su McClelland, Sarah Bloustein

2nd Violin John Dobson, Heather Shelley, Jon Rosalky,
Penelope Layland, Jeustelle Staver

Viola Paul Whitbread, Marcus Hussein, Heather Powrie,
Jackelyn Kemp

Cello Helen Larmour, Margaret Kahn, Martin Elias,
Myles Wrigley

Double Bass Juliet Flook

Concert Manager—Paul Shelley

Our next concerts

Saturday 8 August 2015 – 2.30 pm
Holy Covenant Anglican Church
Cook, ACT

Sunday 9 August 2015 – 2.30 pm
St Paul's Anglican Church
Cooma, NSW

Musical Director: Michael Sollis

Saturday 14 November 2015 – 2.30 pm
Holy Covenant Anglican Church
Cook, ACT

Sunday 15 November 2015 – 2.30 pm
Venue TBA

Musical Director: Jonathan McFeat

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Send your address to: Musica da Camera, 6B Clisby Close, Cook, ACT 2614;
or email to: epshms@grapevine.com.au

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