

BEST OF ALL WORLDS



Concert Program

Sunday 30 August 2026

CLOCKTOWER CENTRE, MOONEE PONDS



PROGRAM

Essendon Symphony Orchestra
Dr Kathleen McGuire, conductor
Jarrod Butler, assistant conductor*

Overture to *Candide* (1956)
by Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
70th anniversary

D'un Matin de Printemps (Of a spring morning) (1917-18)
D'un Soir Triste (Of a sad evening) (1917-18)
by Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)*

Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95, "From the New World" (1893)
by Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

I. Adagio - Allegro molto
II. Largo
III. Scherzo: Molto vivace
IV. Allegro con fuoco

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to Best of All Worlds, our second concert for 2026.

Community orchestras occupy a special place in Australia's cultural landscape. They provide opportunities for musicians of all ages and stages to perform challenging repertoire, develop their skills, and share exceptional musical experiences with audiences. Essendon Symphony Orchestra is no different. We are community members from the northwest of Melbourne with diverse personal, professional and musical backgrounds, who are brought together by our love of orchestral music. We play together, learn together and share a passion for lifelong participation in music.

Today, we welcome to the podium our new music director Dr Kathleen McGuire in her ESO debut.

We extend our sincere thanks to our musicians, volunteers, supporters, business partners, families and friends whose contributions make performances such as this possible. We are also grateful to the Clocktower Centre, the Moonee Valley Council, the wider community, and to you, our wonderful audience, for your patronage.

Please read through this program, which includes information about how to join the orchestra. For the remainder of 2026 we are seeking additional violins, oboe, and percussion.

We hope you enjoy this afternoon of music and thank you for being part of our musical journey.

Kristie Baker
Committee President

PROGRAM NOTES

What happens when composers seek inspiration beyond their own time and place? Best of All Worlds brings together music shaped by cultural exchange, inherited ideas, and creative reinvention—echoing Voltaire’s famous question at the heart of *Candide*.

Leonard Bernstein’s Overture to *Candide* revisits Voltaire’s Enlightenment satire through vibrant mid-century American musical idioms, bursting with wit and theatrical energy.

In contrast, Lili Boulanger’s *D’un Soir Triste* and *D’un Matin de Printemps*—composed near the end of her brief but remarkable life—trace opposing emotional worlds. The former unfolds with sombre intensity, the latter sparkles with vitality, together revealing a distinctly personal, forward-looking voice shaped by impressionist sensibilities and the turmoil of the Great War.

Czech composer Antonín Dvořák’s symphony “From the New World”—voted no 17 in the ABC’s 2026 Classic 100—responds to cultures he encountered when visiting America, transforming their spirit through a European lens. While listening, see how many tunes you recognise.

Our exciting program celebrates the idea that music—like optimism itself—is often forged by drawing on the best of all worlds. In our world today, we need this optimism as much as ever.

Dr Kathleen McGuire
Music Director

ESSENDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1998, the Essendon Symphony Orchestra provides high-quality orchestral experiences by bringing together players from across Melbourne who share a commitment to artistic growth, collaboration and community engagement. We're passionate about making great symphonic music accessible to players and audiences in Melbourne's northwest, while having plenty of fun along the way! We perform a diverse range of repertoire spanning the classical, romantic, twentieth-century and contemporary periods. We rehearse every week, and perform a 3-4 concert season each year. Thank you for joining us for today's concert.

Orchestra Personnel

Flute: Belinda Collins, Andrew Scott, Katherine Anderson

Piccolo: Katherine Anderson

Oboe: Michael Chang, Victor Brincat

Cor anglais: Greg Leibel (guest), Andrew Derrett

B-flat Clarinet: Tanya Misiurak, Stephanie Abela

E-flat Clarinet: Jarrod Butler

Bass Clarinet: Angus Kemp

Bassoon: Natasha Broadstock, Ruth MacKinnon

Contrabassoon: Andrew Derrett

Horn: Kristie Baker, Kevin Close, Alex Green, Claire Terris, Henrietta Schmidt

Trumpet: Josh Romero, Jackie Ogier, Freddy Hayward

Trombone: Sarah Jessup, Kieran Washburn, Ben Danson

Tuba: Ben Danson

Percussion: Simon Cleary, Allison Summers (guest), Chen-Yu Yang (guest)

Harp: Sarah Frances (guest)

Celesta: Chen-Yu Yang (guest)

Violin I: Prue Jury (concertmaster), Michael Hakala, Kathryn Glover, Charlotte Stockwell, Leila Jacobi

Violin II: Louisa Walsh, Méabh Hicks, Madeline Mooney, Sandra Canaroto, Katie Polus, Emanuela Sabatiello (guest)

Viola: Josh Attard, Miki Henderson, Sarah Helmond, Emily Carver

Cello: Yoko Henderson, Tim Westcott, Jordan Rosman, Lucy Olsen, Luke Steward, Niamh Ryan Atwood, Rosemary Robins

Double Bass: Caitlin Phillips, Vincenzo Ruberto, Jude Angove (guest)

Committee

President – Kristie Baker

Treasurer – Tanya Misiurak

Secretary – Rosemary Robins (acting)

Librarian – Michael Hakala

Grants Coordinator – Charlotte Stockwell

Marketing – Louisa Walsh

Concert Day Manager - Claire Terris

General – Joshua Attard

General – Katherine Anderson

Concertmaster – Prue Jury (ex officio)

Assistant Conductor - Jarrod Butler (ex officio)

Music Director – Dr Kathleen McGuire (ex officio)

DR KATHLEEN McGUIRE, Music Director and Conductor

Dr McGuire is a Melbourne-born conductor, composer and educator whose international career has spanned more than four decades and nine countries, including 19 years in the United States. Her conducting credits include performances at some of the world's most prestigious venues, including the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall in New York City, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Mentored by distinguished maestros Young, Alsop, Edwards, Catoni-Conlon, Kuchar, Spillman, Conran, Braithwaite and Rosen, she holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the University of Colorado Boulder, a Master of Music with Distinction from the University of Surrey (as a Rotary Ambassadorial Fellow), and music qualifications from the University of Melbourne, Monash University and the Victorian College of the Arts. Since returning to Australia in 2013, Dr McGuire has combined an active conducting and composing career with her role as Senior Lecturer in Music Education at Australian Catholic University. Renowned for her engaging leadership style and musical insight, she inspires musicians, students and audiences through exceptional music-making and her deep commitment to cultivating vibrant and inclusive communities.

JARROD BUTLER, Assistant Conductor

Jarrold Butler has served as Assistant Conductor of the Essendon Symphony Orchestra since 2023, supporting rehearsals, sectional preparation and artistic development across the ensemble. An accomplished musician and educator, Jarrold brings enthusiasm, musical insight and a collaborative spirit to his work with the orchestra. In addition to his role with ESO, Jarrold is Head of Bands, Brass and Woodwind at Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School, tutors with Melbourne Youth Orchestras, and conducts at the annual Border Music Camp.

PRUE JURY, Concertmaster

Prue Jury has served as the Concertmaster of the Essendon Symphony Orchestra since 2020. She is a passionate musician, conductor and educator dedicated to inspiring young musicians through creative and engaging learning experiences. A graduate of Monash University with a Bachelor of Music (Performance) and recipient of the Australian Society of Music Educators (Victoria) Award, she has performed, taught and conducted with ensembles, orchestras, theatre productions and bands across Australia and internationally. Prue is Head of Strings and Ensembles at Overnewton Anglican Community College and has worked extensively with youth music programs including State Music Camp and Melbourne Youth Orchestras. She also serves as Secretary of Australian Strings Association, Victoria, supporting excellence and professional learning within the string community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Essendon Symphony Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the support of:

- Clocktower Centre, Moonee Ponds
- Moonee Valley City Council

The orchestra and committee thank everyone whose time, expertise and generosity make our performances possible.

JOIN THE ORCHESTRA

ESO welcomes expressions of interest from experienced orchestral musicians. Current vacancies include oboe, violins, violas, and double bass. Membership offers opportunities to:

- Perform diverse and rewarding orchestral repertoire
- Develop ensemble and performance skills
- Work with experienced conductors and section leaders
- Participate in a vibrant musical community
- Contribute to high-quality community music-making

Vacancies vary throughout the year and interested musicians are encouraged to contact the orchestra regarding current and future opportunities. Please submit your Expression of Interest via the ESO website.

REHEARSALS

Regular rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings in Moonee Ponds during school terms and concert preparation periods. Prospective members are welcome to enquire about attending a rehearsal and discussing suitable opportunities within the orchestra.

CONTACT US

- Website: <https://www.essendonsymphony.com/>
- Facebook: [The Essendon Symphony Orchestra](#)
- [Mailing list sign up](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Big Sing for a Big Cause: Never Too Late!

Saturday 10 October 2026, 2:30PM, Cathedral Hall, Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy. Tickets and full details available soon on Humanitix.

- ESO is joining forces with others in a special collaboration on a theme of climate action and environmental protection, featuring the Australian premiere of *Songs of the Reef* by Cassie To, plus works by Sir John Rutter, Peter Garrett OA and more!

End of Year Concert

Saturday 21 November 2026, 2:30pm Essendon Baptist Community Church

- Celebrate the conclusion of our 2026 season with an exciting concert featuring Nigel Westlake's Antarctica Suite for orchestra and classical guitar. Soloist: [Dan McKay](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to future performances throughout 2026 and beyond.