

Precis

STRAUSS HORN CONCERTO

Friday 8 April, 7.30pm, Federation Concert Hall, Hobart

Johannes Fritzsch conductor

Greg Stephens horn

Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra

MOZART (23')

Symphony No 31 in D, K 297, 'Paris'

Allegro assai

Andante

Allegro

RICHARD STRAUSS (20')

Horn Concerto No 2 in E flat, AV 132

Allegro –

Andante con moto

Allegro molto

INTERVAL (20')

MELODY EÖTVÖS (9')

Hic Svnt Dracones

HUMPERDINCK (27')

Arr. Rudolf Kempe

Hänsel und Gretel, Suite

Vorspiel [Prelude]

Act II Prelude, Witch's Ride

The Gingerbread House (Act III)

Gingerbread Waltz (Act III)

Sandman, Evening Prayer and Dream

Pantomime (Act II)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) travelled to Paris on a job-hunting expedition in 1778 and it was there, around the middle of the year, that he composed the D-major symphony, 'Paris'. Mozart was delighted to discover that the French orchestra included pairs of clarinets, instruments that were unknown in the smaller orchestra back home in Salzburg. French audiences loved the sound of the entire orchestra playing at once – a grand tutti – which is how the 'Paris' symphony begins (Mozart records that the audience erupted into applause when they heard the effect). A graceful slow movement follows, and the symphony ends with a vigorous finale in which Mozart mixes 'learned' styles with cheery tunefulness and further examples of the 'grand tutti'. As it turned out, Mozart didn't secure a job in Paris, but he scored a hit with local audiences with this symphony.

In 1942, while aged in his late 70s, Richard Strauss (1864-1949) returned to the horn concerto, a genre he last visited in the 1880s, and produced the beautifully autumnal Horn Concerto No 2. Strauss grew up with the sound of the horn in his ears; his father, Franz Strauss, was one of the most celebrated horn players of the day. The Second Horn Concerto opens with a brief, bold statement for the solo instrument, which is quickly followed by a series of themes, all of which will be developed in the course of the opening movement. The second movement is built around a ravishing, long-breathed melody introduced by the oboe before being taken up by the horn, and the concerto finishes with a lively rondo in 6/8 where the spirit of Mozart is close to hand. The Second Horn Concerto was premièred at the Salzburg Festival in August 1943.

Hic Svnt Dracones, by Melbourne-based composer Melody Eötvös (born 1984), was commissioned by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and receives its world première in this concert. The composer writes:

This piece is a highly spirited attempt to capture the sense of adventure and of the unknown, with musical characters shifting quickly and moving somewhat unpredictably, navigating a world that is both chartered and undefined.

The title, which means 'Here be dragons', is a term from European cartography. It is found on a 16th-century globe.

Hänsel und Gretel, the most famous work by Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921), was premièred in 1893. In this concert, we hear selections from the opera (itemised above). Humperdinck's music is imbued with folk-like charm and beautifully judged orchestral colours.

Robert Gibson, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, © 2022

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MOZART Symphony No 31 in D major, K297, 'Paris'

RICHARD STRAUSS Horn Concerto No 2 in E-flat

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MELODY EÖTVÖS Hic Svnt Dracones

HUMPERDINCK arr **KEMPE** Hänsel und Gretel, Suite

Violin

Emma McGrath *Concertmaster*

Margaret Blades *Associate Concertmaster*

Jennifer Owen *Principal Second*

Miranda Carson *Principal First*

Yue-Hong Cha

Frances Davies

Edwina George

Michael Johnston

Christine Lawson

Elinor Lea

Susanna Low

Christopher Nicholas

Rohana O'Malley

Hayato Simpson

Viola

Paul McMillan #

Douglas Coghill

Anna Larsen Roach

William Newbery

Cello

Jonathan Békés *

Ivan James

Martin Penicka

Anna Pokorny

Double Bass

Stuart Thomson *

Aurora Henrich

Matthew McGrath

Flute

Douglas Mackie *

Rachel Howie

Lloyd Hudson *Piccolo*

Oboe

Eve Newsome #

Dinah Woods *Cor Anglais*

Clarinet

Andrew Seymour *

Eloise Fisher *Bass Clarinet*

Bassoon

Tahnee van Herk *

Glenn Prohasky *Contrabassoon*

French Horn

Saul Lewis #

Julian Leslie #

Jules Evans

Roger Jackson

Wendy Page

Trumpet

Yoram Levy *

Mark Bain

Trombone

David Robins *

Jackson Bankovic

Bass Trombone

Mitchell Nissen *

Tuba

Tim Jones *

Timpani

Matthew Goddard *

Percussion

Gary Wain *

Stephen Marskell

Tracey Patten

Harp

Emily Granger #

* principal player

guest principal

