



ORCHESTRA NOVA

PRESENTS

FROM MARS TO
MUSWELLBROOK:

THOMAS PARMETER'S

Symphony No. 1

2PM, SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

HAROLD LOBB CONCERT HALL



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

**CONSERVATORIUM
OF MUSIC**

We are thrilled to be taking you *From Mars to Muswellbrook* this afternoon. This program celebrates the incredible commitment and talent of our musicians and the achievements of our featured composer, Thomas Parmeter.

We extend a huge thanks to the University of Newcastle for their valued sponsorship of this event, and to the Charlestown Uniting Church for their ongoing support in providing a home for our rehearsals and equipment storage. Thanks also to all of our players for their commitment and hard work throughout what has been a challenging and rewarding term. With many travelling over an hour to join us at weekly rehearsals and all the countless practice sessions in between, we are deeply grateful for every contribution to our growing musical community.

To our audience - thank you for travelling from near and far to support us and celebrate the remarkable new works showcased today.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our local businesses supporters, HealthSave Chemist Charlestown, The Craft Butcher Lambton and Earp Distilling Co., as well as to our players who generously provided prizes for our raffle.

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Just 15 years old and based locally, Thomas Parmeter is an exceptionally talented young composer, proficient on piano, cello, clarinet, saxophone and bassoon. Over a year ago he approached Orchestra Nova with his recently completed *Symphony No. 1*, and in early 2025 we set a date to perform it while also commissioning a new work, the *Miniature Symphony*, for today's program. Thomas and his family along with their musical network have played with the orchestra throughout this term, and it has been an honour to collaborate with them on bringing this music to life.



"Over the past few months, it has been a joyful journey for Orchestra Nova to rehearse and discover the many colours of *Symphony No. 1*. With its lively rhythms, changing meters, and shifting tempos, the work has challenged and inspired us in equal measure. What makes this performance truly special is the chance to premiere such an exciting piece by one of our own, a talented young composer from Muswellbrook, right here in the heart of the Hunter."

— Kevin Young, Musical Director

"The *Miniature Symphony* invites listeners to journey through nature, struggle, and triumph, resonating across time and place. As assistant conductor, I am honored to bring Parmeter's vision to life. His score demands precision and passion, challenging Orchestra Nova to balance intimate lyricism with exhilarating climaxes.

Commissioned for Orchestra Nova's 2025 season, this vibrant work enriches the orchestral repertoire. Join us in celebrating this historic premiere as we explore the boundless imagination of Thomas Parmeter."

— Stephen Aveling-Rowe, Assistant Conductor

Musical Director

Kevin Young



Kevin Young is a veteran music educator, conductor, composer, and arranger with nearly four decades of experience. A graduate of the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music, Kevin began his teaching career at Dubbo South High School, where he directed a wide range of ensembles that gained strong recognition across the Central West. His dedication to music education earned him the Citizen of the Year award in 2000.

For the past 22 years, he served as Director of Music Performance at Newcastle Grammar School, leading ensembles such as the award-winning NGS Symphony Orchestra and directing major productions including *Annie*, *Wicked*, and *Anastasia*. Though he stepped down from this role in 2023, classroom teaching and ensemble direction remain central to his career.

Kevin's compositional journey began with *Peregrini Fortium*, premiered on the NGS Symphony Orchestra's U.S. tour in 2013. Recognized for his melodic innovation and rhythmic complexity, Kevin has continued to compose for student ensembles, earning praise from renowned conductor George Ellis. He has collaborated with some of Australia's leading musicians and composers and has directed ensembles in national and international tours.

Now semi-retired, Kevin remains actively involved in music education teaching casually around Newcastle, as a guest conductor and tutor with the Newcastle Youth Orchestra, and as Musical Director of Orchestra Nova. His focus today lies in composition, mentorship, and fostering musical growth in the community.

Assistant Conductor

Stephen Aveling-Rowe



Stephen Aveling-Rowe is an emerging organist, conductor, and cellist. He holds an A.Mus.A. in Pipe Organ (2014) and an L.Mus.A. with Distinction in Pipe Organ (2019) from Sydney, as well as a BA with a specialization in Music from Avondale Conservatorium (2019). His musical journey began early; at 16, he started a BMus at the University of New England before transferring to Avondale Conservatorium in 2016.

Stephen has performed internationally, including concert tours in the Netherlands and the UK, study tours throughout Europe, and completed an intensive in liturgical and choral music at Cambridge.

For five years, he was principal cellist with the Newcastle Youth Orchestra, and now leads as principle cellist with the Fernleigh Orchestra, where he collaborates with Dr. Ian Cook in an informal mentorship as an occasional conductor. Having studied organ under Philip Swanton, Stephen continues to refine his musical skills. Since 2021, he has lectured in photography at Avondale University, blending his love for the arts and humanities. After pausing a Masters in Ministry, he plans to pursue a Masters in Theology, exploring the intersection of the musical arts and sacramental theology.

Concert Program

Florentiner March

Julius Fučík

Composed in 1897, the *Florentiner March* is one of Julius Fučík's most famous military marches. With lively rhythms, catchy melodies, and colourful orchestration, it captures the energy and charm of the march tradition. Brass fanfares sparkle alongside woodwind flourishes, creating a sense of pageantry and celebration. Its infectious drive and jubilant character make it a fitting tribute to the accomplishments we're here to celebrate today.

Ritual Fire Dance

Manuel de Falla

Part of de Falla's 1915 ballet *El amor brujo* (*Love, the Sorcerer*), *Ritual Fire Dance* pulses with the rhythms and intensity of Andalusian flamenco. The music evokes the drama of a midnight ritual intended to drive away a restless spirit. Castanets and driving percussion heighten the sense of urgency, while the surging momentum reflects the struggles of love and passion. Its vivid storytelling and thrilling energy bring the ritual vividly to life for the listener.

Flying Theme from *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*

John Williams

Composed for Steven Spielberg's film *E.T.* (1982), the *Flying Theme* captures the innocence and wonder of childhood adventures. The music represents the bond between the young boy Elliott and the alien E.T., conveying friendship, joy and the thrill of discovery. A soaring melody carried by the strings, layered with woodwinds and brass, evokes the sensation of flight and freedom. Williams' masterful orchestration creates a lush soundscape, inviting the listener to experience the magic of flight alongside the characters.

Tango: Por una Cabeza

Composer: Carlos Gardel

One of the most beloved tangos of all time, *Por una Cabeza* blends passion and melancholy. Its title, meaning "by a head," refers to a narrow loss in a horse race and serves as a metaphor for the risks and thrills of love. In numerous notable films, characters glide across the dance floor to this sweeping theme, capturing moments of drama, romance, and joyous abandon.



Mars from *The Planets*

Gustav Holst

Mars, the Bringer of War is the first movement of Holst's orchestral suite *The Planets*. Its relentless rhythms and bold harmonies evoke the menacing power of war, opening with a striking, militaristic march driven by brass and strings. Composed ~1916 and inspired by astrology and myth, *Mars* offers a symbolic, almost cinematic depiction of conflict. Its famous 5/4 time signature gives the piece a distinctive, unsettling momentum that sets it apart from traditional marches.

Miniature Symphony

Thomas Parmeter

Parmeter crafts a three-movement symphony that traverses vast emotional and sonic landscapes. Though titled “miniature,” the work’s expressive depth and orchestral brilliance evoke epic vistas. The first movement unfolds in a tranquil, verdant soundscape, with lush strings and delicate woodwinds painting a serene pastoral scene that gradually expands to reveal a breathtaking panorama. The second movement shifts to a brooding modality, driven by restless harmonies and relentless rhythms that surge with gripping intensity. The third movement mischievously emerges with two playful duets, then broadens and descends into a fray of furious rhythmic and textural intricacies culminating in a striking moment: a triumphal fife-tune emerges, like a herald of victory, which following more motivic development, finally swells into an uplifting, radiant and grand orchestral chorus.



Superman Returns

John Williams and John Ottoman

Composed for the 2006 film *Superman Returns*, this score draws on the iconic legacy of Williams' original 1978 *Superman* theme. The collaboration between Williams and Ottoman brings a fresh yet familiar take on this beloved superhero.

Heroic motifs and lush orchestration create an emotive soundscape that mirrors Superman’s journey and aspirations. The central theme, with bold brass intertwined with strings and woodwinds, evokes courage, adventure and hope. This music honours the legacy of the original films while capturing Superman as a timeless symbol of resilience.

Raffle

Symphony No. 1

Thomas Parmeter

Symphony No. 1 is a remarkable achievement that showcases Thomas Parmeter's musical maturity and creativity. Across four movements, the work takes listeners on a vivid journey, moving from moments of serene reflection to passages of thrilling intensity, all crafted with orchestration well beyond Thomas' years.

Each movement presents distinct thematic material, often shared and transformed across the orchestra, giving the symphony a strong sense of unity and variety. As a gifted bassoonist and cellist, Thomas has naturally written especially challenging and rewarding parts for these instruments, allowing them to shine.

The symphony's emotional depth is enriched by striking dynamic contrasts and rhythmic vitality. The use of mixed meters, such as 5/8 and 7/8, alongside more traditional time signatures injects energy and unpredictability, while the full palette of orchestral tone colours is explored to great effect.



Musicians

Violin I

Philip Hazell *†
Carolyn Behrens
Leala Darby *
Van de Groot *
Lilly Knox
Zara Lynch
Jacinta O'Brien
Clara Parmeter
Eliezer Sanchez-Lasaballett
Tamara Uson

Violin II

David Vardeh
Indy Brock
Daniella Cahill *
Hannah Doolan
Karen Drury
Josephine Gallop
Dylan Gonçalves-Sear
Ash Hannah
Sue Pickett
Audi Sanjaya

Viola

Caitlin MacGregor
Laura Bedoya
Miles Bore
Samantha Cobcroft
Carolyn Mather*
Amalinde Mueller
Patricia Roberts

Cello

Charlie Donald
Stephen Aveling-Rowe *
Susan Bone
Naomi Dart
Juno Folpp
Christine Kearns
Helen Palmer
Jonathon Spencer

Double Bass

Linda Alford
Rebecca Hale

Flute

Alyssa Ayling *
Vanessa Lynch
Aaron Rothmund
Carolyn Wilson *

Piccolo

Alyssa Ayling *

Oboe

Georgia Hore

Clarinet

Chantal Balman
Oona Sullivan
Ryan Ambrose

Bass Clarinet

Ryan Ambrose

Bassoon

Alana de Malmanche
Thomas Parmeter
Heidi Prichard

Contrabassoon

Rachel Heath

French Horn

Margaret Ellicott
Jillian de Malmanche
Louise Gleeson

Trumpet

Bryn Wilson-Kellaway
Andrew Cahill
Kevin Young *

Trombone

Andrew Hocquard *
Vince Parmeter

Bass Trombone/ Euphonium

Hannah Gibbons

Tuba

Peter Barlow
Paul Mather

Percussion

Jennifer Gibbons
Isaac Hill
Simon Junker

Piano

Anita Zielonka

* Committee Member

† Acting Concert Master

2025 Term 4 Concert



Get into the festive spirit with our Christmas Spectacular on Saturday, 29th November at the stunning Christ Church Cathedral! This magical evening will be filled with joyful carols and traditional seasonal favourites. We're especially thrilled to be joined by soprano Jade Riordan, tenor Paul Tabone, and the Waratah Girls Choir, whose combined voices and artistry will make this a Christmas celebration to remember.



Membership Applications Welcome!

We're thrilled to have an extra-large ensemble on stage today: 65 musicians, including our featured composer Tom and his family! If you love making music and want to be part of our community, we warmly welcome membership applications. We currently have vacancies for all strings and French horn, and with the Christmas season approaching, now is the perfect time to get involved.

Rehearsals for Term 4 start on
Thursday 25th of September
at the Charlestown Uniting Church,
24 Milson St, Charlestown, NSW, 2290.

**Apply here on
our website:**



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