

SYDNEY HILLS YOUTH ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

HILLS YOUNG MUSICIANS CONTEST

2026

FINALS CONCERT

Sunday 27 September 2026 | 4:00 PM

TLC Theatre, Baulkham Hills High School



IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HILLS ORANGE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

SYDNEY HILLS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Finals Concert of the Hills Young Musicians Contest 2026.

Tonight we celebrate not only achievement, but also the courage, discipline and imagination shown by every young musician who steps onto the stage. This contest was created to give local students a meaningful performance goal and the experience of sharing music with a live audience. I warmly congratulate all finalists and thank their families, teachers and accompanists for the support behind each performance.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to our adjudicators for contributing their time and professional insight. May this concert inspire every participant to continue learning,

listening and making music with confidence and joy.

With warmest wishes,

Dr Brian Chatpo Koo

Artistic Director
Sydney Contemporary Orchestra
YOUTH SYMPHONY

FINALS CONCERT

Concert at a glance

DATE

Sunday, 27 September 2026

TIME

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

VENUE

**TLC Theatre
Baulkham Hills High School**

AWARDS

1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize in each group

Running order

- 01** Welcome
- 02** Group A performances - 12 years and under
- 03** Short interval
- 04** Group B performances - 13 to 18 years
- 05** Adjudicators' deliberation
- 06** Announcement and presentation of prizes



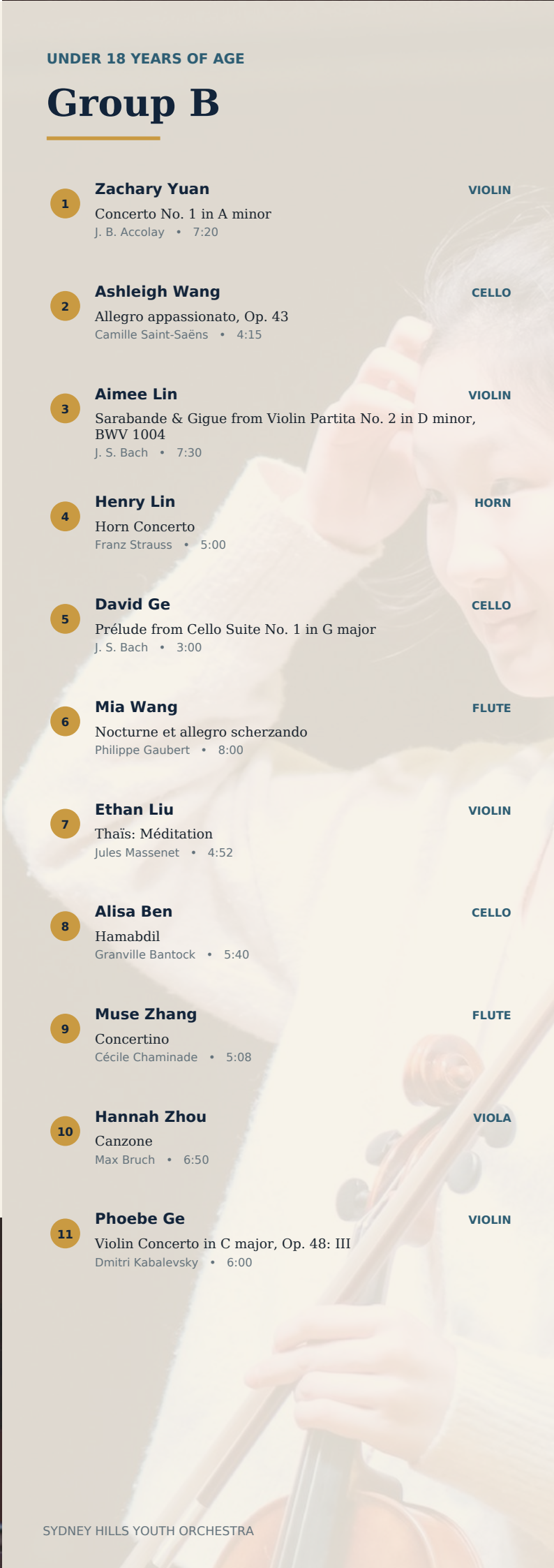
SYDNEY HILLS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Group A

1	Gabbi Huh Romance Sergei Rachmaninoff • 4:00	HORN
2	Joseph Gu Souvenir Pablo de Sarasate • 3:30	VIOLIN
3	Juechen Xie The Swan Camille Saint-Saëns • 3:00	CELLO
4	Jamie Lee Romanian Folk Dances Béla Bartók • 4:35	VIOLIN
5	Danbi Huh Méditation Jules Massenet • 4:34	FLUTE
6	Isabella Leung Zigeunerweisen Pablo de Sarasate • 8:00	VIOLIN

Group B

1	Zachary Yuan Concerto No. 1 in A minor J. B. Accolay • 7:20	VIOLIN
2	Ashleigh Wang Allegro appassionato, Op. 43 Camille Saint-Saëns • 4:15	CELLO
3	Aimee Lin Sarabande & Gigue from Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004 J. S. Bach • 7:30	VIOLIN
4	Henry Lin Horn Concerto Franz Strauss • 5:00	HORN
5	David Ge Prélude from Cello Suite No. 1 in G major J. S. Bach • 3:00	CELLO
6	Mia Wang Nocturne et allegro scherzando Philippe Gaubert • 8:00	FLUTE
7	Ethan Liu Thaïs: Méditation Jules Massenet • 4:52	VIOLIN
8	Alisa Ben Hamabdil Granville Bantock • 5:40	CELLO
9	Muse Zhang Concertino Cécile Chaminade • 5:08	FLUTE
10	Hannah Zhou Canzone Max Bruch • 6:50	VIOLA
11	Phoebe Ge Violin Concerto in C major, Op. 48: III Dmitri Kabalevsky • 6:00	VIOLIN



About the Contest

Hosted by the Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra in conjunction with the Hills Orange Blossom Festival, the Hills Young Musicians Contest is an annual opportunity for young people to showcase their musical talent and potential. The contest encourages disciplined preparation, confident performance and an understanding of competition etiquette in a positive environment.

2 AGE GROUPS

3 PRIZES IN EACH GROUP

13 ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENT TYPES

The First Prize winner may have the opportunity to perform a concerto with the Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra or the Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Panel of Adjudicators

BS

BEATA STANOWSKA

Concertmaster
Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

SM

SAMANTHA MAILER

Principal Flute
Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

MB

MARLEEN BROEKMANS

Cellist

With our sincere thanks

The adjudicators assess musical communication, technical assurance, stylistic understanding and overall performance. Their collective decision determines the three prize recipients in each group.



Beata Stanowska

Master of Arts (Violin – Poland)

Teacher of Violin Beata has extensive experience as a performer and music teacher. She gained her qualifications in the Lyceum of Music in Warsaw, Poland and completed her Master of Arts study in the class of Professor T. Kochanski, in the Academy of Music in Gdansk Faculty of Instrumental Studies, where she held a concertmaster position with the Symphony Orchestra.

She was awarded a distinction in the National Children's Violin Competition in Lancut (Poland). Beata became a principal violinist with both the State Opera and Philharmonic Orchestra and Baltic Chamber Orchestra, with which she toured extensively throughout Europe, including France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and

Spain. She has performed at such famous venues as The Munich Philharmonic, Alte Oper in Frankfurt and Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

Since arriving in Australia in 1992, Beata has performed with Willoughby Symphonic Orchestra (leader), East-West Symphonic Orchestra, Amadeus Players (co-leader), Macquarie Symphony Orchestra and Choir at the Macquarie University (leader) and a variety of string ensembles. In 1995 she gave her solo performance during the Gala Concert with WSO, receiving an excellent review.

In 2015 Beata performed at The Flute Tree Studio and Utzon Hall at the Opera House with Hourglass Ensemble. Currently, she holds a concertmaster position in Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, leads a string quartet (Strings Attached), works as a recording musician (soundtrack for Water Diviner and movies by Pixar) while continuing teaching from her private studio in Castle Hill and providing tuition in Tara Anglican School for Girls and Marist College.



Samantha Mailer

Flautist

Australian flautist Samantha Mailer (née Joseph) has performed in concerts in Australia, Scandinavia, Russia, the United Kingdom and Italy, and live on ABC Classic FM, ArtSound FM and Sydney Live 2GB 873AM. Samantha divides her time performing regularly as flute soloist and chamber musician.

Samantha has been a recipient of several scholarships and grants including a Friends of the School of Music travel grant, Domann Flute Scholarship, ANU Head of Music School grant, Associazione Rome Festival and Rome Festival Orchestra, Ltd. Subsidy, prizewinner of the ANU School of Music Chamber Music Competition, and NSW Encore Award.

Following a Masters of Music degree at the Australian National University, Samantha travelled to participate in master classes and private study with the leading flautists around the world. This included a short residency at the prestigious Oxford Flute School, and a contract with the Rome Festival Orchestra.

In addition to her love of classical music performance, Samantha is equally comfortable exploring a wide range of styles and sounds, experimenting with modern works and 20th century techniques.

Her philanthropic work sees Samantha performing at fundraising events and charity concerts, as well as being an active committee member of the Flute Society of NSW.

Samantha currently works as Principal Flautist with both the orchestra of Sydney Independent Opera, and the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, and is a Preferred Player with the Australian Discovery Orchestra.



Marleen Broekmans

Cellist

A graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Marleen completed both her Bachelor of Music Performance and Graduate Diploma of Music Performance in the class of Danish cellist, Georg Pedersen. She has furthered her study abroad in France, Austria and Belgium, with international cellists including the likes of Maria Kliegel and Robert Cohen, at the 2010 Euro Music Festival. Marleen holds a Licentiate in Cello Performance with the Trinity College of Music in London. She currently performs for the George Ellis Orchestra (formerly Australian Symphony Orchestra), Southern Cross Symphony, Sydney Lyric Orchestra, and the Aussie Pops Orchestra.

Despite her classical training, Marleen is no stranger to the contemporary stage, having performed on television in collaboration with artists such as Boy George (The Voice), Guy Sebastian (X Factor), and Delta Goodrem (Christmas With Delta). In 2018 she was also cast as a cellist in the four part television series 'Dead Lucky', alongside Australian actress Rachel Griffiths. More recently her playing was featured on Bruce Beresford's film 'The Traveller.'

A keen educator, Marleen teaches cello and music theory approximately forty hours a week at her private studio, Parramatta Cello School. She has previously held peripatetic positions at Santa Sabina College (Strathfield), The Pittwater House School, Carlingford West Primary School, and the Sydney Conservatorium Open Academy. Amongst her past students is Lily Dai, currently an undergraduate at the Juilliard School of Music in Manhattan.

Marleen has a particular interest in adult beginner pedagogy, and runs frequent cello ensemble workshops which cater to these students. She is blessed to have the use of some wonderful instruments and bows, but shares a great affinity for her 1790 Dutch cello, which she acquired in 2011.



Dr Brian Chatpo Koo Artistic Director

Founding Conductor and Artistic & Executive Director Dr. Brian Chatpo Koo is a Sydney-based musician. Having studied music at the University of Hong Kong and the University of Sydney, Brian was the first person in Australia to receive a Ph.D. degree in music composition.

Supported by the Hong Kong University Grant, Brian also studied music at the International Summer Course for New Music in Darmstadt, Germany, and obtained his Licentiate and Fellowship Diplomas from the Trinity College of Music in London.

As a composer, his compositions have been performed all around the world.

As a conductor, he has conducted many symphony orchestras around the world for his compositions' premieres.

He founded the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra in 2013. Together with about 100 of Sydney's finest professional musicians and a volunteer management team, Brian is dedicated to creating a platform where more new orchestral works can be performed, heard, recorded, published, and become a part of our music culture, as he believes music development history is written by composers' creativities. To encourage and reach the pinnacle of this creativity and art, we must through devotion, perseverance, determination, and most importantly constant performance.

Brian also founded the SCO Youth Symphony in 2011, a training arm of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, to provide professional orchestral training to young musicians, as he believes with classical music training and carefully selected programs covering a variety of cultural perspectives, young musicians can be equipped to broaden their vision and to enhance their understanding of culture, civilisation, and human society.

ADVANCED SYMPHONIC TRAINING

Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra

The Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra welcomes committed young musicians ready to explore large-scale orchestral repertoire. Members perform complete, multi-movement symphonies rather than isolated excerpts, building musical stamina, concentration and a deeper understanding of structure, phrasing and orchestral colour.

AGE	Under 20 years
LEVEL	AMEB Grade 5 to LMusA, or equivalent
TIME	Fridays, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
PLACE	TLC Theatre, Baulkham Hills High School

What members develop

- Advanced sight-reading and rhythmic accuracy
- Following a conductor with confidence
- Symphonic style, balance and ensemble awareness
- Physical and mental capacity for extended works
- Experience supporting AMEB and HSC performance goals

BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Sydney Hills Junior Orchestra

The Sydney Hills Junior Orchestra introduces younger musicians to the special demands and rewards of playing in a symphony orchestra. Training focuses on ensemble awareness, careful listening, counting, following a conductor and understanding orchestral etiquette.

AGE	Under 15 years
LEVEL	AMEB Grade 2 to Grade 5, or equivalent
TIME	Fridays, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
PLACE	TLC Theatre, Baulkham Hills High School

A pathway for young players

String players learn to coordinate bowing, articulation and section sound. Wind, brass and percussion players encounter techniques and repertoire beyond the usual concert-band setting. As their skills mature, members are prepared to progress to the Youth Orchestra, school ensembles, leadership chairs and further performance opportunities.



Symphonic Training Program

The Symphonic Training Program provides young musicians with a structured pathway to grow, learn and excel through orchestral performance. Under the guidance of an experienced conductor, students build classical repertoire while developing communication, teamwork, discipline and confidence. The annual program includes 40 scheduled rehearsals and two public concerts. Carefully selected works introduce important symphonies, concertos and music of diverse cultural and artistic value.

40

REHEARSALS

Friday evenings during school terms

2

PUBLIC CONCERTS

One at the end of each semester

2

TRAINING LEVELS

Junior and Youth Orchestra pathways

The Training Experience

Regular ensemble training complements individual instrumental lessons. Each musician learns how an independent part contributes to a shared interpretation and how preparation, punctuality and responsibility affect the whole orchestra.

MUSICAL

Sight-reading, intonation, rhythm, balance, phrasing and stylistic awareness.

ENSEMBLE

Listening across sections, responding to the conductor and adjusting in real time.

PERSONAL

Concentration, resilience, confidence, discipline and performance readiness.

COMMUNITY

Communication, teamwork, mutual respect and contributing through music.



A PLACE TO GROW TOGETHER

Join the Orchestras

Applications are welcome throughout the year from students who play an orchestral instrument and are ready to participate consistently in rehearsals and concerts.

How to join

- 1 Complete the online membership application form.
- 2 Submit a short performance video and audition fee.
- 3 Successful applicants receive membership and music-download information.
- 4 Join the orchestra level appropriate to age and playing standard.

ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp, Piano and Percussion.

WEBSITE www.sys.org.au

EMAIL management@sys.org.au

PHONE 0449 776 872

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

2025 Prize Winners

12 YEARS AND UNDER

1ST	Matisse Mok	Clarinet
2ND	Isabella Leung	Violin
3RD	Alice Shen	Violin

13 TO 18 YEARS

1ST	Rachael Gock	Violin
2ND	Sophie Li	Violin
3RD	Maz Wortham	Trombone



2024 Prize Winners

12 YEARS AND UNDER

1ST	Chloe Lee	Violin
2ND	Isabella Leung	Violin
3RD	Henry Lin	Horn
SPECIAL	Haojun Raymond Kong	Bassoon

13 TO 18 YEARS

1ST	Jason Lim	Flute
2ND	Haobo Rainier Kong	Clarinet
3RD	Jemimah Chohan	Trombone

2023 Prize Winners

10 YEARS AND UNDER

1ST	Connie Huang	Clarinet
2ND	Matisse Mok	Clarinet
3RD	Celina Nguyen	Cello

11 TO 14 YEARS

1ST	Clara Kwon	Cello
2ND	Xinluyi Zhang	Flute
3RD	Grace Lee	French Horn

15 TO 18 YEARS

1ST	Emma Kan	Violin
2ND	Calleigh Chow	Violin
3RD	Lyra Xi	Double Bass



SYDNEY HILLS YOUTH ORCHESTRA



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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING

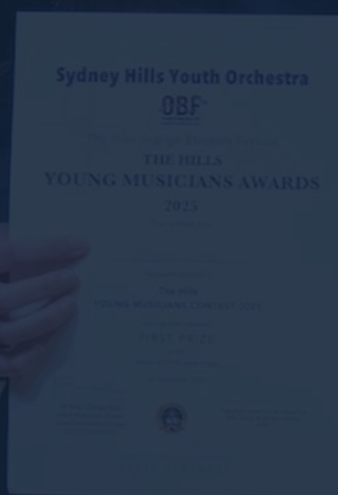
YOUNG MUSICIANS

Listen generously. Celebrate courage.
Encourage the next performance.

Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra

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PROGRAMME DETAILS VERIFIED 13 SEPTEMBER 2026