

Concordia

Mandolin & Guitar Ensemble

in concert at the

Clayton Community Theatre

9/15 Cooke Street, Clayton

Sunday 4th May 2025 at 2:00pm



A musical journey through time and place

Musical Directors: Basil Hawkins & Juliette Maxwell

Soloists: Christopher Ondaatje (Clarinet), Juliette Maxwell (Accordion)

&

Katie Maxwell-Hawkins (Soprano)

Proudly supported by Monash Council



Our Program

Granada

Berceuse

Waltz of Lost Dreams

Here, There and Everywhere /

Michelle

May It Be

(Katie Maxwell-Hawkins - Soprano)

Rue de Montmartre *

- Matin Lent (Slow Morning...)
- Mademoiselle
- La Baguette Solitaire (The Lonely Baguette)
- Le Méchant (The Bad Guy!)
- La Chasse ...
- Le Soir Vient (Evening Comes)
- Soirée ...

(Christopher Ondaatje - Clarinet)

Isaac Albéniz

Gabriel Fauré (arr. M Nelson)

Manos Hadjidakis

John Lennon & Paul McCartney

(arr. R Mizzi / M Nelson)

Enya

Michelle Nelson

Interval

Suite Calypso

- Life in Paradise
- Kingston Time
- Reggae Nocturne
- Festiva: rondo

Once Upon a December

(Katie Maxwell-Hawkins - Soprano)

Habanera

(Christopher Ondaatje - Clarinet)

Michelle Nelson

Stephen Flaherty

Phillip Lane (arr. B. Hawkins)

Valse Ballet

Libertango

(Juliette Maxwell – Accordion)

Erik Satie (arr. M Nelson)

Astor Piazzolla (arr. M Nelson)

* Read the story behind **Rue de Montmartre** below

Our Players

Musical Directors

Basil Hawkins and Juliette Maxwell

First Mandolins

Marion Blazé (Leader), Michelle Wright, Evan Webb and Raymond Mizzi

Second Mandolins

Jenny Whittam, Dierdre O’Sullivan, Margaret O’Donnell, Shirley Watson and Celia Doncon

Mandolas

Holly Brick, Joan Harris, Nola Mackay, Gunnar Rasmussen and Christina Pavlidis

Guitars

Michelle Nelson, Carol Robinson, Rowan Lucas and Kosta Balalas

Double Bass

Bruce Packard and Juliette Maxwell

Guest Percussionist

Ben Holt

Soloists

Christopher Ondaatje – Clarinet

Juliette Maxwell – Accordion

Katie Maxwell-Hawkins – Soprano

Our Leaders

Musical Director

Basil Hawkins



Basil Hawkins has been Concordia’s musical director since 1989. Born in India, Basil was awarded a scholarship to the Calcutta School of Music, studying with visiting professors Jean and Kenneth Wentworth from New York’s Julliard School of Music. He studied at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, where he was awarded degrees in teaching, performance and conducting. Basil is best known for his work in conducting musicals, light opera and orchestras.

Leader

Marion Blazé



Marion Blazé joined Concordia in 2015 and has been its leader since 2017. Marion began playing mandolin with the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra and was a member of its 50th Anniversary European tour in 2018.

**Resident Composer
& Guitar Leader
Michelle Nelson**



Michelle Nelson is a Melbourne based guitarist, composer and creative educator. She was the guitar section leader for the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra from 2001 to 2010 and joined Concordia in 2013. Michelle's compositions for plucked stringed instruments blend contemporary with traditional practices and attract regular airplay and performances in Australia, Europe and the UK. Michelle's composition *Rue de Montmartre*, which is part of today's program, was performed for the first time by the **Moonlight Mandolin Orchestra** in Cambridge, England in 2024.

Our Soloists

**Juliette Maxwell
Accordion**



Originally from England, Juliette began learning the accordion when she was eight years old. Since joining Concordia in 1994, Juliette has played the accordion, the double bass and percussion. Juliette is now Concordia's Assistant Musical Director. Juliette has been a soloist for the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra and will be its conductor in its upcoming Geelong concert. Juliette has performed in the stage show *Fiddler on the Roof* (featuring Topol) at the Regent Theatre.

**Christopher
Ondaatje
Clarinet**



Originally from the United Kingdom, Christopher studied Clarinet with Ian Morgan (MSO) at Melbourne State College, now part of Melbourne University. Christopher has performed in master classes with Han Deinzer (Munich Phil) and John McCaw (London Phil). He has performed in numerous musicals and orchestras, including Melbourne Camerata, Australia Pro Musica and Opera Victoria and has also recorded the music of Piazzola with Move Records. Christopher is the woodwind teacher at Blackburn High and MacRobertson's Girls' High and also conducts their ensembles.

**Katie Maxwell-
Hawkins
Soprano**



Born into a musical family, Katie was just five when she joined the Australian Girls Choir. At the age of ten she was promoted to its Senior Performance Group, Camerata. Katie has opened a number solo, during a performance by the choir at the Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University. Katie played the role of Alice in her primary school's musical *Alice in Wonderland* and more recently, the role of Lydia in *Beetlejuice the Musical*, winning the best actress award at Blackburn High. Katie loves singing, acting and playing the piano. She looks forward to taking her artistic talents to greater heights

Rue de Montmartre

Set on the fictional Rue de Montmartre, this whimsical set of vignettes creates a soundtrack to an imaginary 1980s French arthouse film. It is inspired by the French romantic comedies of that era and the wonderful soundtrack writing that accompanies many such films.

Scene 1: Matin Lent

~ slow morning, some fog gradually clearing as the sun struggles through. Our accidental hero, new to the area, has coffee and croissant, served by the young waitress, the baker's daughter.

Scene 2: Mademoiselle

The young man, naturally, has become smitten with the young woman and . . .

Scene 3: La Baguette Solitaire (The Lonely Baguette)

Somewhat clumsily, he asks for a baguette to take home as he pays. Distractedly, she gives him the baguette her father had put aside for a 'friend' . . . The young man tucks the baguette under his right arm, shoves his hands in his pockets and leaves . . .

Scene 4: Le Méchant (The Bad Guy!)

Unnoticed by our young lover, a large, stern looking man with a pencil-moustache and dark sunglasses is also at the café, sitting in a corner with his morning coffee. Shortly after the young man has left, the baker comes out to greet his 'friend'. They chat, superficially, before the baker says "and monsieur, I have put a baguette aside for you" . . . only to find it is gone! "What have you done, where is monsieur's baguette?" he roars at the girl. Alarmed, the man in dark glasses becomes agitated. She tells them who has it. "Well, where is he? Where does the boy live?" they ask. "In the old flats at the end of Rue de Montmartre, next to the park, maybe on the second floor" she says. The moustachioed man makes his way, impatiently down the road toward the old flats. He climbs the old wooden stairs to the second floor . . . and knocks on the door . . .

Scene 5: La Chasse

Our young hero is unaware the baguette contains rare, stolen diamonds . . . Naturally, a chase ensues . . . The Bad Guy eventually snatches the baguette and makes off! . . .

Scene 6: Le Soir Vient (Evening Comes)

~ evening comes, finally. The calm of the Parisian sunset turning to early evening settles the scene on Rue de Montmartre . . .

Scene 7: Soirée

Tired but relieved, and both unaware of what the fuss was about the baguette, our young lovers just happen to bump into one another at the jazz club a few doors down from the bakery . . .

Discography

Eclipse (2022)



Commenced in 2018 and intended for release in 2020, this album was eclipsed by the pandemic. All works on this album are composed by Michelle Nelson. *Eclipse* was first performed in 2015 at Malvern Town Hall to a large appreciative audience. *Bishops Spell* was commissioned by our leader Marion Blazé (née Bishop) in memory of her parents, Ida and Frank. This album features dazzling solo performances by Will Hardy (recorder) and Darryl Barron (mandola).

Ring the Strings (2016)



This album boasts music by Peter Sculthorpe, Gabriel Fauré, Stephen Lalor, Erik Satie, François Menichetti and the ensemble's own Michelle Nelson.

Here is a good deal of easy listening, the works selected for their charm and felicitous adaptability to the mandolin/guitar forces available. While there are no Schoenbergian shocks, this CD is amiably honest in its prime intention of entertaining. Clive O'Connell, O'Connell the Music

Flight (2005)



Flight draws on the virtuosic, lively and passionate items in the ensemble's repertoire. The idea of flight is evoked in the choice of many of the pieces, notably *The flight of the bumble bee* and *The witches*. With their energy and vitality, the other pieces in one way or another, echo the rapture of flights of fancy. This album features inspiring solos by Kurt Jensen, Juliette Maxwell and Petra Laity.

Forgotten Dreams (2002)



Concordia's musical director, Basil Hawkins, first came across *The waltz of forgotten dreams* by Manos Hadjidakis in 1999 and was struck by its atmospheric and evocative nature. In keeping with this nostalgic ambience, this album includes pieces such as Eileen Pakenham's *Reverie*, *Sakura* and Fred Witt's *Memories of Bendigo*. Kurt Jensen delivers a masterful mandola solo in Ritter's *Romanze*.

Eclectic Collection (1998)



The mandolin orchestra is versatile both in its own right and as an accompanying ensemble. The Eclectic Collection demonstrates this diversity and distinctive character. Its works range from the Baroque period to more contemporary, and features wonderful solo performances of voice, clarinet, accordion, cello, shakuhachi, flute, oboe and mandolin.

Salut d'Amour (1996)



Concordia's maiden recording features an atmospheric and distinctively beautiful collection of pieces arranged for mandolin orchestra. This album includes works by Wolki, Mozart, Elgar, Dunnebeil and Witt and features soprano Irena Grainge, flautist Petra Webb and accordionist Juliette Maxwell.

About Concordia

The Mandolin Orchestra

Mandolin orchestras have existed in Australia since the beginning of the 20th century. There are currently eight mandolin orchestras in Australia, with Melbourne boasting three of them, namely the **Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra**, **Concordia** and **Mandolins D'Amour**. A mandolin orchestra is an ensemble of plucked string instruments, similar in structure to the string sections of a symphony orchestra. There are the first and second mandolin sections (like the first and second violins), a mandola section (like the violas), classical guitars and a double bass. Many such orchestras may also include a percussion section and instruments such as the accordion, woodwind and brass. Mandolin orchestras enjoy popularity in Australia, Europe, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom.



The Mandolin and Mandola

The *mandolin* is a fretted steel stringed instrument, which evolved in the 18th century from the Italian mandora, a type of lute. It has the same tuning as a violin and is played with a plectrum. The *mandola* is similar to the mandolin, but tuned an octave lower. If you are a violinist and are interested in playing the mandolin, please let us know.



Concordia is a dedicated plucked-strings chamber orchestra based in East Malvern. Formed in 1978, its first conductor was prominent Melbourne guitarist John Griffiths. Concordia has performed hundreds of concerts in Melbourne and regional Victoria. We toured in Italy in 1984, performing in cities such as Rome, Florence, and Milan. Concordia's repertoire ranges from Baroque to Romantic to contemporary and original Australian works. For more information about Concordia, please check out our brand new website at concordiamandolins.org.au or scan the QR code.



You can also find us on Facebook at [concordiamandolins](https://www.facebook.com/concordiamandolins).

Become a Friend of Concordia

If you would like to receive regular information about our concert schedules, please sign up as a **Friend of Concordia** on our website. We welcome new players so if you would like to find out more, please talk to us after the concert or contact our president Marion Blazé at president@concordiamandolins.org.au.