

# Whitehorse Winter Concert Series

## Sunday Serenades

presents

# Concordia

## Mandolin & Guitar Ensemble

in concert at the

### Mitcham Bowling Club

306 Mitcham Road, Mitcham

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 2:00pm



# CONCORDIA

Mandolin & Guitar Ensemble  
*Vivaldi, Elgar, Beatles*

# 29 June

### Musical Directors:

Juliette Maxwell & Basil Hawkins

### Soloists:

Christopher Ondaatje (Clarinet), Juliette Maxwell (Accordion),  
Michelle Nelson (Guitar) & Katie Maxwell-Hawkins (Soprano)



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## Our Program

**Granada \***

**Berceuse**

**Waltz of Lost Dreams**

**Chanson de Matin**

**Recuerdos de la Alhambra \***

**Here, There and Everywhere /**

**Michelle**

**May It Be**

*Soloist: 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 Gendarmes
- Le Soir Vient (Evening Comes)
- Soirée ...

*Soloist: Christopher Ondaatje (Clarinet)*

**Interval**

**Suite Calypso**

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

**Lara's Theme (from Dr Zhivago)**

**Concerto for Lute in D Major (RV93) \***

- Allegro giusto
- Largo
- Allegro

*Soloist: Michelle Nelson (Guitar)*

**Once Upon a December (from Anastasia)**

**Too Much Heaven**

**Habanera**

**Hungarian Journey**

**Valse Ballet**

**Libertango**

*Soloist: Juliette Maxwell (Accordion)*

Isaac Albéniz (arr. J Woods)

Gabriel Fauré (arr. M.Nelson)

Manos Hadjidakis

Edward Elgar (arr. B Hawkins)

Francisco Tárrega

John Lennon & Paul McCartney

(arr. R Mizzi / M Nelson)

Enya (arr. V Preema)

Michelle Nelson

Michelle Nelson

Maurice Jarre (arr. M Isaac)

Antonio Vivaldi (arr. S Behrend)

Stephen Flaherty

Robin, Barry & Maurice Gibb (arr. H Boyde)

Phillip Lane (arr. B Hawkins)

François Menichetti

Erik Satie (arr. M Nelson)

Astor Piazzolla (arr. M Nelson)

\* Read the story behind **Rue de Montmartre** and other works in the **Program Notes** below

## Our Players

### Musical Directors

Juliette Maxwell and Basil Hawkins

### First Mandolins

Marion Blazé (Leader), Andrew Russo (MMO), Jenny Krohn, Evan Webb and Raymond Mizzi

### Second Mandolins

Jenny Whittam, Ramona Tilly (MMO), 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

Danny Silver (MMO)

### Guest Percussionist

Ben Holt

### Soloists

Christopher Ondaatje – Clarinet, Juliette Maxwell – Accordion, Michelle Nelson – Guitar and Katie Maxwell-Hawkins – Soprano

*We wish to thank the members of the **Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra (MMO)** who have joined Concordia for today's concert.*

## Our Leaders and Soloists

### Musical Director & Accordion Soloist - Juliette Maxwell



Originally from England, **Juliette** began learning the accordion at the age of eight. Initially self-taught, Juliette drew her inspiration from her mother, who was also an accomplished musician. Since joining Concordia in 1994, Juliette has played the accordion, the double bass and percussion and is our musical director for today's performance. Juliette has been a soloist for the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra and was its guest conductor its most recent concert. Juliette has performed in the stage show *Fiddler on the Roof* (featuring Topol) at Melbourne's Regent Theatre. Juliette has considerable experience as a conductor, including the musicals *My Fair Lady* and *Les Misérables*.

### Ensemble Leader - Marion Blazé



**Marion** 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. Marion played with **La Serenata**, a small mandolin and guitar ensemble which regularly brought the joy of mandolin music to those living in retirement homes who were unable to attend

concerts. Marion is very active in the mandolin world, being the president of Concordia and the acting president of Mandolins Victoria.

### **Emeritus Conductor - 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 at the age of 16, 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 has been involved in music education for many years, teaching violin and piano. Basil is best known for his work in conducting musicals, light opera and orchestras.

### **Guitar Leader, Resident Composer and Guitar Soloist**



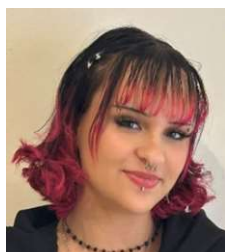
**Michelle Nelson** is a Melbourne based guitarist, composer and creative educator. She was the guitar section leader for the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra from 2001 to 2010 and joined Concordia in 2013. Michelle's compositions for plucked stringed instruments blend contemporary with traditional practices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

### **Christopher Ondaatje - Clarinet**



Originally from the United Kingdom, **Christopher Ondaatje** studied Clarinet with Ian Morgan (MSO) at Melbourne State College, now part of Melbourne University. Christopher has performed in master classes with Hans 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 *Astor Piazzola* with Move Records. Christopher is presently the woodwind teacher at Blackburn High and MacRobertson's Girls' High and also conducts their ensembles.

### **Katie Maxwell-Hawkins - Soprano**



Born into a quite a musical family, **Katie Maxwell-Hawkins** was just five when she joined the Australian Girls Choir. At the age of ten she was promoted to its Senior Performance Group, *Camerata*, where she opened a number solo during a choir performance at Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University. Katie has 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.

# Program Notes

## **Rue de Montmartre** (Michelle Nelson 2023)

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: Les Gendarme**

... but thankfully, the Gendarmerie are close at hand! After a brief chase, followed by a desperate struggle, les gendarme subdues and arrests The Bad Guy – phew!

### **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 . . .

## Granada - Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)



Originally written for piano by **Isaac Albéniz** (pictured), **Granada** is the opening piece from his 1886 work *Suite Española No. 1* (Op. 47). It was premiered by the composer on 24 January 1886 and has become one of the most beloved pieces in the Spanish repertoire. Granada paints a romanticized vision of Andalusian charm, filled with longing and beauty and is often associated with the Moorish heritage of Alhambra, the famous palace-fortress of Granada, known for its mystical gardens, intricate Islamic architecture, and timeless history. Since being transcribed for guitar by Miguel Llobet, it has become one of the

most important works of the classical guitar repertoire, having been recorded by guitarists such as Julian Bream, Andrés Segovia and John Williams to name but a few. Granada's flowing melody and evocative harmonies make it a timeless musical postcard of Spain's deep cultural heritage.

## Recuerdos de la Alhambra - Francisco Tárrega (1852 – 1909)



**The Alhambra Palace**

**Recuerdos de la Alhambra** (Memories of the Alhambra) is a classical guitar piece composed by iconic Spanish composer and guitarist **Francisco Tárrega** in 1899 and is dedicated to his patron, Concepción Gómez de Jacoby. The piece conveys the impression of flowing water, shimmering light, and the Moorish grandeur of the palace, all through the delicate interplay of notes that swirl and cascade, much like the fountains and courtyards of the Alhambra itself. The Alhambra has

long been a source of inspiration for artists, poets, and musicians. Its stunning Islamic architecture, lush gardens, and panoramic views of the Sierra Nevada mountains have made it a symbol of Moorish Spain's cultural legacy. **Recuerdos de la Alhambra** captures the essence of this magical place, transporting listeners to a world of beauty and mystery. Tárrega composed during the Romantic period, which one can hear in his swooping, melancholy melodies that seem to just 'sing' with passionate emotion, longing, and at times, tragedy.

## Concerto for Lute in D Major (RV93) - Antonio Vivaldi (1678 - 1748)



**Antonio Vivaldi**

**The Lute Concerto in D Major** is one of four works featuring the solo lute, two violins, and basso continuo written by **Antonio Vivaldi**. Vivaldi wrote this piece between 1730 and 1731, a period in which he wrote two other works featuring the lute, being the trios for violin and lute in G minor and C major. This concerto is in three movements. The fast tempo first movement begins with a **ritornello** or *little return*, (a recurring passage used in Renaissance and Baroque music) played by the violins (mandolins) and then repeated by the solo lute (guitar). The second movement is described as a *reflective meditation by the soloist* against accompaniment by the violins and pizzicato bass. The third and final movement is another fast movement written in the 6/8-time signature. This concerto was arranged for mandolin orchestra by the renowned German classical guitarist and composer **Siegfried Behrend** (1933-1990).



## Discography

### Eclipse (2022)



Commenced in 2018 and intended for release in 2020, this album was eclipsed by the pandemic. All works presented 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).

### Ringling 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 Wolke, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 percussion 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 have 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 new website at [concordiamandolins.org.au](http://concordiamandolins.org.au) or scan the QR code.



You can also follow 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 and recordings, 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](mailto:president@concordiamandolins.org.au).