

Presented by WACO Inc.

REFRACTIONS REFRACTIONS

**CONCERT
PROGRAMME**

7pm | Sat 5th July 2025

CHURCHLANDS SHS



Acknowledgement of Country

The Western Australian Charity Orchestra Inc. wishes to acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are privileged to work and live.

First Nations People are the original story tellers on this country and we pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

REFRACTIONS REFRACTIONS

Performed by

West Australian Wind Symphony

Conducted by

Samuel Parry

WACO INC.

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Acknowledgments

The WA Charity Orchestra Inc. Committee would like to thank all of our outstanding members and team of volunteers who make these concerts possible.

We'd also love to thank you, our audience, who make these musical experiences as special as they are. Your support is appreciated!

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Churchlands Senior High School - for the use of their rehearsal spaces and percussion

Lynda Luce - for the use of her Contrabassoon

We are truly thankful!

Step into a world of colour, contrast, and powerful storytelling as the WA Wind Symphony presents REFRACTIONS — a vibrant program of music that shifts, shimmers, and surprises.

From the gentle stillness of The Catskills (from East Coast Pictures) to the dramatic sweep of The Creation of Faith, each work explores a unique emotional landscape. Fantasy Variations on a Theme by Niccolò Paganini dazzles with virtuosic brilliance, while the Australian premiere of Serrano's Invocación offers a striking blend of mystery and momentum. Rounding out the program is the soaring energy of How to Train Your Dragon, reimagined in a fresh concert setting.

Join the WA Wind Symphony for an evening where music refracts across styles, cultures, and moods — illuminating the many ways we listen, feel, and connect.

A bold and moving concert experience for curious ears and adventurous hearts.

CONCERT PROGRAMME

WA WIND SYMPHONY

Festival March

Masamicz Amano

“The Catskills” from ‘East Coast Pictures’

Nigel Hess

“The Creation of Faith” from Symphony No. 1

Jodie Blackshaw

How to Train Your Dragon

John Powell arr. Ton van Grevenbroek

- Interval (20 mins) -

Fantasy Variations on a Theme by Niccolò Paganini

James Barnes

Invocación

Luis Serrano Alarcón

Programme Notes

Festival March

Amano was born in 1957 in Akita City. He graduated from Kunitachi College of Music at the top of the composition department and finished postgraduate work also at the top of his class. In his university days, he began writing for diverse fields including jazz, rock, folk music, and pops as well as classical and modern music. After graduation, he mastered C.M.I. (Computer Music Instruments) in Australia, becoming a wizard of computer music in Japan as well as the country's first CD recorded artist. He is very active abroad, especially in Central Europe, recording and conducting his own works with the National Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra and Versailles Chamber Orchestra, while earning commissions from the Warsaw Brass, Trio Classic and Paderewski Festival. In Japan he earned the excellence prize from the 23rd and 24th Japan Academy Award music section, and the composition & arrangement prize from the 10th "Academic Society of Japan for Winds Percussion & Band" Academy Award. Since 1986, he has produced many windband arrangements from the music of Bartok, Ravel, Akira Miyoshi, Akio Yashiro, Toshiro Mayuzumi, etc., as well as original works and ensemble literature. His works are frequently performed at all Japan Band Competitions and concerts throughout his country and the world. Commissioned for the ceremonies of the Akita State/Odate Division Band Association in 1998, the Festival March is a piece of contrast, energy and showmanship.

Throughout the piece you are reminded of musical theatre overtures and marches from the 50s and 60s, television quiz show themes and the slower trio section was written to be reminiscent of an Elgar or Walton coronation March.

The Catskills

Nigel Hess works extensively as a composer for television, theatre, film and the concert hall. He has scored over twenty Royal Shakespeare Company productions and received the New York Drama Desk Award for *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* on Broadway, while scores for Shakespeare's Globe have included: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry VIII* and *Nell Gwynn*.

He has also composed concert music, particularly for symphonic wind band, including commissions from the Royal Air Force and the Band of the Coldstream Guards. Other notable works include the *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* (Classical Brits Nomination for Composer of the Year), commissioned by HRH The Prince of Wales in memory of his grandmother, and premièred and recorded by internationally-renowned pianist Lang Lang, and a ballet based on *The Old Man of Lochnagar*, a children's story written by the Prince of Wales in 1980, commissioned and premièred by the National Youth Ballet of Great Britain. A *Christmas Overture* was commissioned by John Rutter and premièred by the RPO at the Royal Albert Hall; an orchestral version of his choral

work *Jubilate Deo* was commissioned by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and the *Celebration Overture* commissioned by Classic FM Live was premièred by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, again at the Royal Albert Hall.

The *Catskills* forms the second movement of *East Coast Pictures*, which is a suite of three short 'pictures' that were inspired by several visits to a small part of the American East Coast, an area that provides great extremes in both the geography and the people.

In upstate New York lie the Catskills Mountains - an extraordinary combination of tranquillity and power, peace and majesty. Once seen, they call you back again and again. This piece brings to life the tranquillity of lakes near the mountains, glorious sunsets and the peace of being out in nature.

Creation of Faith

Jodie Blackshaw (b. 1971) grew up in south-east rural Australia and formed a very personal relationship with music early in life through the creative application of her imagination to musical colours and movement. Today, she continues to seek creative experiences for students through her teaching and composing so they, too, may enjoy the personal relationship she discovered in her formative years. In 2020 Blackshaw completed her PhD in Composition at the Australian National University. In addition to composing and presenting music education workshops, Blackshaw is passionate about fostering equality in concert programs, especially in schools.

In 2017 she founded the Female Band Composer database which is now cited as a tool for repertoire selection by The Midwest Clinic. Jodie has thrice presented at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago and in 2006 she won the inaugural Frank Ticheli Composition Contest and was the BandQuest composer-in-residence in 2014. Her music is played frequently internationally with performances of her first symphony appearing in Portugal, France, Germany, Switzerland, Australia and the United States. In June 2022 Blackshaw launched her 'Conservation Series', an infinitely growing set of works that raises both funds and awareness surrounding climate change and endangered species.

Symphony No. 1: Leunig's Prayer Book was inspired by four prayers written by Australian poet Michael Leunig. Movement titles are derived from each prayer that celebrate the arrival of a new season. The subtitles for each movement are derived from the prayers themselves and take the audience on a familiar journey.

The final movement injects hope into despair, releasing the audience from the heaviness of Winter. In alignment with the prayer, "the returning and the rejuvenation of the natural world" is brought about by ascending, pedalled chords, resonated by mallet percussion and a single pedal note shared throughout the ensemble. From the opening to the beginning of the dance, "I have aimed to capture the feeling of flying through the air with gay abandon". Parts weave in and out around a simple Flute melody, underpinned by pulsating, dove-tailed percussion.

The dance is the rebuilding of human faith with “bits and pieces” as Spring brings us warmth, wildlife and the return of goodness and faith in humanity.

How to Train Your Dragon

Born in England in 1963 John Powell grew up playing violin and viola, then studying at Trinity College London, before starting to work as a composer. He was a member of Hans Zimmer’s music studio, Remote Control Productions , where he worked with Harry Grayson-Williams and Hans Zimmer himself on many scores.

The music from How to Train Your Dragon by John Powell is possibly the best film score in the last twenty years, and earned the composer an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Score. This beautiful animated film is sublimely supported by the music, which has been skilfully arranged by Ton van Grevenbroek into this concert setting. Including the titles: This is Berk, The Downed Dragon, See You Tomorrow, Romantic Flight, Battling the Green Death and Coming Back Around, we hope you enjoy musically exploring the realm of Berk.

Interval

Snacks and Refreshments

Head to the foyer to purchase some delicious snacks and refreshments during interval.
Enjoy!

The WACO RAFFLE is back!

Tickets for tonight's raffle are available before the show and during interval, in the foyer.

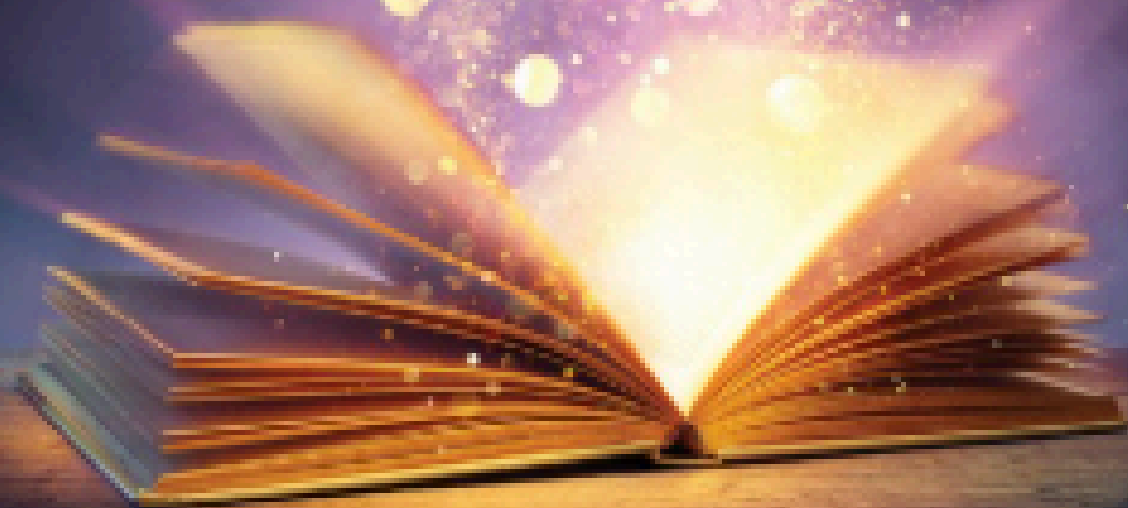
All proceeds go towards supporting the WACO future fund.

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WA WIND SYMPHONY

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Fantasy Variations on a Theme

James Barnes was born in 1949 in Hobart, Oklahoma, United States. After studying composition and music theory at the University of Kansas, he earned a bachelor's degree in music in 1974 and Master of Music in 1975. He later studied orchestra conducting privately with Zuohuang Chen. From 1977 until he retired, he taught orchestration, arranging and composing, wind orchestra history and repertoire knowledge at the University of Kansas, as well as conducting many of their bands.

Comissioned by Col. John Bourgeois for the United States Marine Band, "Fantasy Variations on a Theme by Niccolo Paganini" was premiered by the Marine Band in the 1988. "The set of twenty variations is based on the famous theme of Paganini's "24th Caprice in A Minor" for solo violin, which, or course, is the same theme used by Brahms and Rachmaninoff for their famous compositions, as well as by more contemporary composers. For many years I had intended to write a set of variations on this clever theme for wind band, but I was waiting for the opportunity to write it for a really superb group of players, so that I could write whatever I wanted to say. I had been thinking of the piece and improvising portions of it at the piano for so long that, when I finally had the chance to start work on it in late December 1987, I wrote the sketches for it in one week. After completing the piece, I realised why so many composers have used the theme. First, the harmonic progression is much more interesting that the tune itself, but when put together, the melody and the harmony are fantastic, and, secondly, it is impossible to get the tune out of your mind.

When working on it, I couldn't stop whistling the tune. I would wake up in the middle of the night and hurry to write another variation. I rushed to finish sketching this work so I could get that silly little tune out of my head.

My overall concept was to use the variation technique to showcase every solo instrument and/or every instrumental section of the modern wind band. In doing so, it was my intent to give the Marine Band a work they could play almost anywhere for almost any kind of audience: a piece full of energy, drama, and even a little humour.”

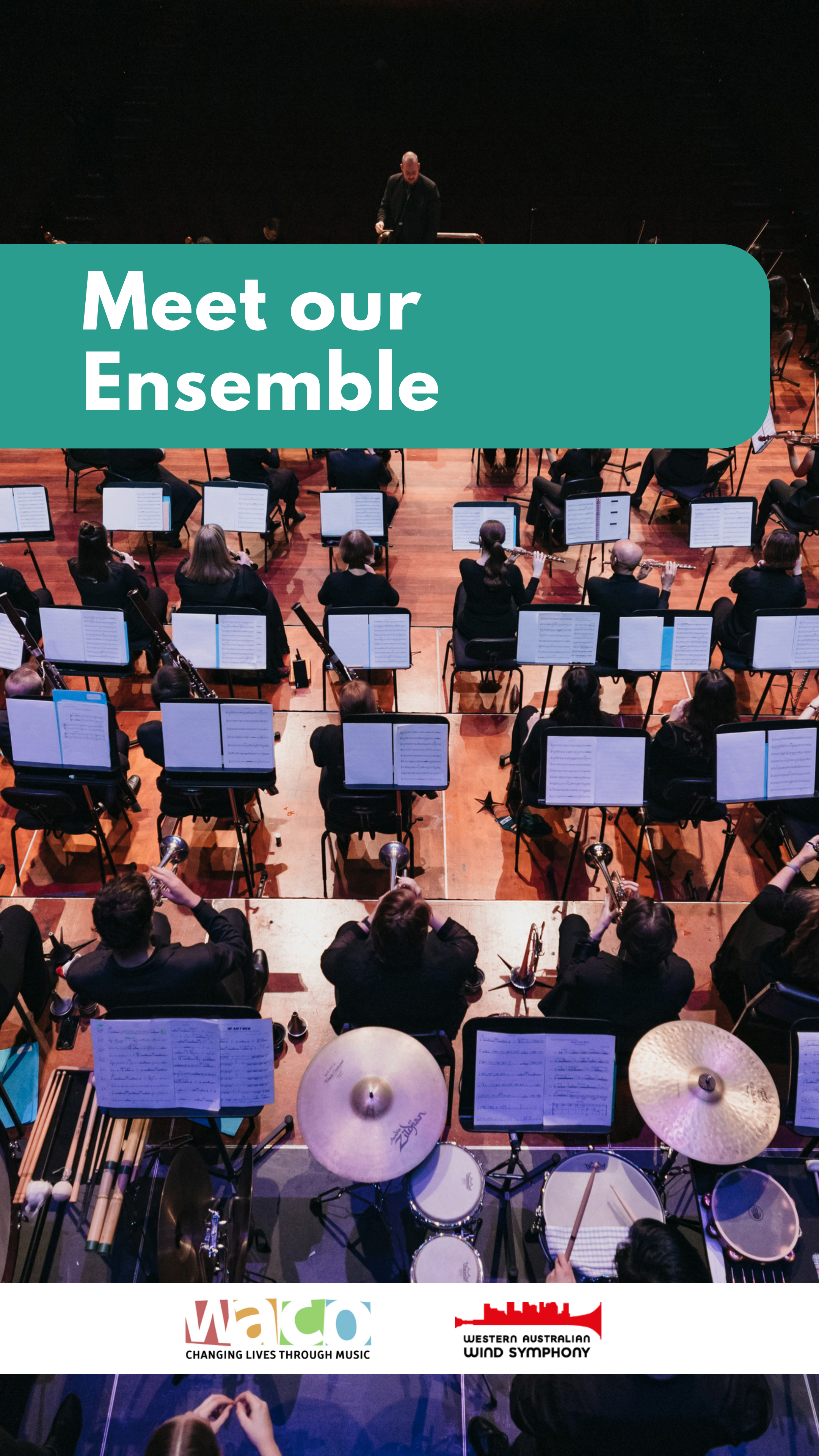
Invocación

Born in Valencia in 1972, Luis Serrano Alarcón is a Spanish composer and conductor. His works have been performed in more than 30 countries, he has been invited to conduct his own music in Spain, Italy, Singapore, USA, Colombia and Hong Kong and has received commissions from important national and international organizations and groups. He has twice won the First Prize of the International Composition Competition for Band of Corciano (Italy), in 2006 with the piece Preludio y Danza del Alba, for brass quintet and symphonic band and in 2009 with La Dama Centinela.

This piece was born with the intention of transforming an existing music work. In this case, it treats of the piano piece El Puerto, second number of the Suite Iberia by Isaac Albéniz, which the composer himself performed in his youth. From the perspective of the composer, the action of revisiting shows, on the one hand, the influence of his own experiences and memories and, on the other,

challenges him to be conscious and to evaluate his own musical evolution and maturity in the timeline.

As a play on words, the title *Invocación* (Invocation) resembles and contrasts with *Evocación* at the same time (*Evocación*, evocation, is the title of the first piece of the *Suite Iberia*). While evoking means remembering in a suddenly way or motivated by something external, invoking is a request, thus denotes intention. That is the reason why Albéniz's original music (supported by the lightness of a *guajira*) is transformed into a faster tempo and a more rhythmic character, which brings it closer to the personality of a ritual dance.



Meet our Ensemble

Western Australian Wind Symphony

Flute

Gabriel McMahon
Tarmon Gibson
Flynn Throssell

Piccolo

Sophie Royle

Oboe

Erynn Bye
Janine Taylor

Cor Anglais

Anne Phillips

Bassoon

Melissa Mikucki
Sarah Newman

E-Flat Clarinet

Clarine Arlidge

Clarinet

Jack Claeys
Vivian Fu
Ethan Chua
Ted Godderidge
Sarah Bond
Sean Hayes
Carlton Perfect
Justin Farinosi
Steph Winter

Bass Clarinet

Eugene Tan
Shuni Kogo
Alto Clarinet

Contrabass Clarinet

Christian Colgan

Alto Saxophone

James Calvert
Soprano Saxophone
Andrea Jordan-Keane

Tenor Saxophone

Blake Faulkner

Baritone Saxophone

Jasmin Hardie

Trumpet

Sarah Brown
Bayden Adams
Samantha Marley
Chris Zappa
Joseph Hays

Horn

Ingrid Waters
Sarah Robinson
Sandra McKenna
Basil Gerad Cyril

Trombone

Jules Arnold
Eshaa Dalal

Bass Trombone

Jade Kingston

Euphonium

Aarabhi Ashwin
Madeleine Eliot

Tuba

Wafi Zainal
Alex Parkinson

Double Bass

Sarah Crawford
Melissa Dennehy

Piano

Shuni Kogo

Percussion

Matthew Arnold
Jasper Jackson
Domenic Lamattina
Olivia Christiansen
Mischa Wong
Caleigh Rhee



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tonight's concert and
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