



79th Year ~ Concert No. 3

Tuesday 25 June 2024

7.30pm

Venue : Lane Cove Mowbray Anglican Church  
19 Rosenthal Avenue, Lane Cove 2066

## SYDNEY MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA

Conductor : Werner Ruecker

presents

### Mandolin Travels

**Die Heimreise** - Konrad Wölki

**Ave Maria** - Astor Piazzola arr. Werner Ruecker

**Impression D'Espagne** - Eugène Boucheron

**La Vita è Bella** - Nicola Piovani arr. Tomaso Gabucci

#### INTERVAL

**Winter Collection** - Stephen Lalor

**Saints and Fairies** - Brent Keogh

**Lifeline** - Brent Keogh

**Omaggio a Trento** - Giacomo Sartori

Supported by



Lane Cove Music thanks Lane Cove Council for its generous financial support  
for our concerts over many years and again for 2023

Celebrating 79 years of music in our community

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**Werner Ruecker** began learning classical guitar at the age of 10 from his father Josef who co-founded the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra with Dr. Peter Evans in 1967. Werner played in the orchestra's inaugural concert in Melbourne 1968 and over the ensuing years featured many times as guitar soloist with the MMO. In 1979 after a number of years as Assistant Conductor Werner was appointed conductor of the MMO for the first time and held that position until the end of 1984 subsequently returning to the orchestra as conductor in 1989-90. After moving back to Melbourne in 2013 Werner was reappointed conductor of the MMO and led the orchestra on its successful tour of Europe in April 2018 where the orchestra gave concerts in Tilburg, Köln, Luxembourg, Metz, Sessenbach, Kirkel. The MMO finished the tour with two performances at the prestigious BDZ Festival in Bruchsal Germany held every 4 years. Werner is a respected classical guitar teacher in Melbourne whose students regularly achieved excellent results in their AMEB examinations. Over the last few years he has turned his hand to composition, writing mainly for mandolin and guitar and of course mandolin orchestra. In 2019 he was appointed as an Honorary International Board member of the Classical Mandolin Society of America. After spending most of his life in Melbourne, Werner moved to Sydney in 2019 where he teaches classical guitar privately and conducts the Sydney Mandolin Orchestra.

**The Sydney Mandolin Orchestra** was founded in 1932 by musician and mandolin teacher Phil Skinner MBE as the Blue & Gold, Banjo, Mandolin & Guitar Club. Whilst its original focus 90 years ago was of a then more popular stream of music, since the mid 1970's SMO has continually sought to present original mandolin orchestra music to its audiences. In doing so, it has on many occasions connected with different cultures, ethnicities and like-minded groups in a mainstream classical music environment. Over many years the SMO has delighted concert goers with a broad range of repertoire which has often included music from Japan, Greece, Germany etc. This evening is no exception! The orchestra has also been instrumental in the development of repertoire from Australian composers and for this concert has commissioned a new work by internationally renowned mandolin virtuoso and composer Dr. Stephen Lalor Ph.D. As a former member of the orchestra in his teenage years, Stephen was the ideal choice for such a commission. Members of the SMO would also like to acknowledge the huge legacy left to them by Phil Skinner MBE, the orchestra's founding conductor. Phil conducted the orchestra until the late 1970's and no doubt he would be very proud that his fledgling group from 1932 has continued to exist and develop well beyond his passing.



Your committee :

PRESIDENT Christine Butters 9428 4287                      SECRETARY Carolyn Shaw 9427  
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Rosalie Lucas – Publicity Officer 0418 937 861

2024 Concert Dates: Tuesdays at 7.30pm  
13<sup>th</sup> August, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 26<sup>th</sup> November.

[www.lanecovemusic.org.au](http://www.lanecovemusic.org.au)