

Academy of
Queensland Ballet



Nature's Gathering

14 March 2026

The Old Museum Concert Hall



Queensland
Government



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Welcome

From the Academy Director

Welcome to the Academy of Queensland Ballet's first program of our 2026 Season, *Nature's Gathering*.

We are delighted to celebrate our fifth year of collaboration with Queensland Youth Orchestras (QYO). Each year, this partnership continues to flourish, offering extraordinary learning and performance opportunities for the emerging artists of both organisations.

This season also marks a welcome return to the historic Old Museum, a venue cherished for its rich character and deep connection to the performing arts in Queensland. It is a joy to once again present our young dancers and musicians in this iconic space.

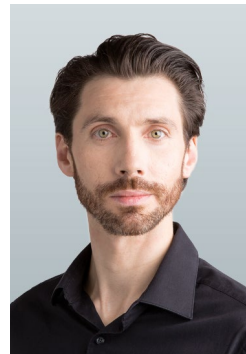
Nature's Gathering brings together the evocative and atmospheric music of Edvard Grieg, whose work so powerfully reflects the majesty and delicacy of the natural world. The dancers of the Academy of Queensland Ballet alongside the musicians of QYO2, bring this program to life with artistry, commitment, and passion.

I would like to acknowledge the Academy's Ballet Master and Resident Choreographer, Paul Boyd, and Queensland Youth Orchestras Conductor, David Deacon, for their exceptional vision and dedication in shaping this production. My sincere thanks also extend to all creatives and collaborators involved.

Our Clark Pre-Professional Program dancers continue to demonstrate unwavering commitment as they refine their craft and prepare for their professional journeys. Live performance remains a vital part of their development, and I have no doubt this experience - supported by live orchestral accompaniment - will remain a highlight of their training.

We are also immensely grateful for the exceptional work of our Academy Business team and all Queensland Ballet teams whose efforts make this event possible. And to our valued supporters - our partners, donors, and of course our audience - thank you for empowering us to continue nurturing the next generation of artists.

Please enjoy the performance.



Christian Tatchev
*Director, Academy of
Queensland Ballet*

From Queensland Youth Orchestras

Working alongside the dancers of the Academy of Queensland Ballet in an all-Grieg program has been an inspiring and deeply educational journey for QYO2. Immersing ourselves in the rich colours and national character of Edvard Grieg's music; from the drama of *Peer Gynt* and the vitality of the *Symphonic* and *Norwegian Dances*, to the lyricism of the *Piano Concerto* and *Nordic Melodies*, challenges our musicians to refine style, articulation, and expressive nuance within a distinct musical voice.

Opening with *In Autumn Overture*, the orchestra sets the emotional landscape for an evening where music and movement are inseparable. Performing with live dancers heightens our students' awareness of pulse, phrasing, flexibility, and collaboration; they learn to

listen and respond in real time, shaping tempo and character to support the stage. This partnership celebrates not only Grieg's artistry, but the shared discipline, imagination, and storytelling that unite orchestral performance and ballet.



David Deacon
*Conductor, Queensland Youth
Orchestra 2*

The Program

From the Choreographer

In keeping with composer Edvard Grieg's Norwegian heritage, my initial inspiration for *Nature's Gathering* came from research into the Norwegian mythological gods and goddesses.

It came upon me that in our ever fast-paced digital world that we currently inhabit, that the elements that these gods and goddesses represent, are maybe what we crave for in today's modern society.

The gods and goddesses of Nature, the Sea, the Sun, Peace, and the Night Sky and Moon became my inspiration. A gathering of all things miraculous, calming, soothing but powerful.... at sunrise they gather.

My heartfelt thanks to my creative team, Kathryn Lee for her exquisite costume designs and to Zenia Tatcheva for her keen and watchful eye.

Credits

Choreographer _____ Paul Boyd

Composer _____ Edvard Grieg

Conductor _____ David Deacon

Dancers _____ Clark Pre-Professional Dancers

Music performed by _____ Queensland Youth Orchestra 2

Duration: 60 minutes, no interval.

Every effort was made to ensure program details were correct at the time of printing, however details are subject to change where necessary and without notice. Please check academy.queenslandballet.com.au for updates.



Queensland Ballet acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we train and perform. Long before we arrived on this land, it played host to the dance expression of our First Nations Peoples. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the valuable contribution they have made and continue to make to the cultural landscape of this country.

Staff and Production Credits

EXECUTIVE

Executive Director
Dilshani Weerasinghe
Artistic Director
Ivan Gil-Ortega

ACADEMY ARTISTIC TEAM

Director of Academy of Queensland Ballet
Christian Tatchev
Academy Ballet Master & Resident Choreographer
Paul Boyd
Academy Ballet Mistress
Zenia Tatcheva
Head of Lower School
Veronika Sheremetieva
Head of Upper School
Claire Phipps-Males
Pre-Professional Program Coordinator
Camilo Ramos
Guest Academy Program Coordinator
Guy Wheatstone
Foundation Program and Visiting Student Coordinator
Kym Stokes
Academy Teachers
Lisa Edwards
Paige Ristevski
John Sandurski
Associate Teachers
Grant Aris
Tabitha Buttsworth
Amelia Waller
Academy Pianists
Benjamin Drozdovskii
Michelle Kim
Mark Leung
Anna Li
Sunny Na
Catherine Yu
Feodora Zu Hohenlohe

ACADEMY BUSINESS TEAM

Director of Academy Business Operations
Kelly McBurnie
Enrolments Manager
Dr Madelyn Coupe
Education Support and Student Wellbeing Manager
Jacinta Eaves

PERFORMANCE HEALTH TEAM

Head of Performance Health
Michelle White
Academy Physiotherapists
Michelle Istria
Kate Martyn
Academy Strength Coach
Tony Lewis

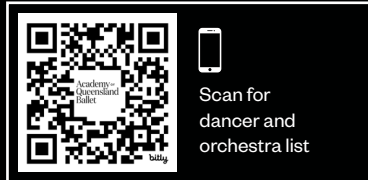
To view our full staff list, please visit
queenslandballet.com.au/discover/company/staff

QUEENSLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRAS STAFF

Executive Director
Amanda Jolly
Artistic Director
Simon Hewett
Business Manager
Roman Maya
Marketing Officer
George Webster
Venue Manager
Sandra Hall

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Dancers of the Academy of Queensland Ballet.
Photography David Kelly.



Academy of Queensland Ballet



Queensland Ballet



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