

Queensland **Ballet**

OB25



MY FIRST BALLET

Peter and the Wolf

27 June – 5 July 2025

Thomas Dixon Centre, Talbot Theatre



Queensland
Government



Australian Government



LIVE MUSIC PARTNER
Griffith UNIVERSITY
Queensland Conservatorium
Queensland, Australia

From the Artistic Director

It is a joy to welcome you to *My First Ballet: Peter and the Wolf*, performed here in the beautiful Talbot Theatre at the Thomas Dixon Centre.

There is something truly magical about the first time a child experiences ballet. The wonder, curiosity and delight in discovering the language of movement can spark a lifelong love of the arts. That is why *My First Ballet* holds such a special place in Queensland Ballet's heart.

This production also marks a meaningful continuation of our Company's legacy. Greg Horsman's playful choreography offers a fresh and engaging take on this beloved story, honouring the original 1960s version choreographed by our founder, Charles Lisner OBE, while delighting today's audiences with colour, charm and creativity.

Sergei Prokofiev's timeless score, written to introduce children to the instruments of the orchestra, remains as powerful and enchanting today as ever. In our production, each musical theme comes alive, from the fluttering flute of the bird to the bold French horns of the wolf, creating an immersive experience of movement and music. We're proud to once again collaborate with the talented student musicians of the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.

With whimsical costumes by Noelene Hill and evocative lighting by Ben Hughes, *Peter and the Wolf* is a delightful way for young families to experience the magic of live theatre and the wonder of storytelling through dance.

A heartfelt thanks to all the talented creatives and artists who have helped bring this production to life. We're equally grateful to our community of supporters, donors, and partners — your generosity makes it possible for us to continue sharing these joyful moments and the transformative power of ballet with families across Queensland.

This production reflects our deep commitment to sharing ballet with young people and families — offering an accessible, engaging introduction to our artform. I hope this performance inspires curiosity, wonder and maybe even a few future dancers or musicians in the audience today.

Whether it's your first ballet or your fiftieth, thank you for joining us as we continue to explore new ways to tell immersive stories. Enjoy the adventure.



Ivan Gil-Ortega
Artistic Director



Scan for
cast sheets

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.

Credits

Choreographer _____ Greg Horsman
Composer _____ Sergei Prokofiev
Music Arranger _____ Nigel Gaynor
Costume Designer _____ Noelene Hill
Set Designer _____ Josh McIntosh
Lighting Designer _____ Ben Hughes
Dramaturge _____ Thom Browning
Narrator _____ Hugh Parker
Music performed live by — Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University
Pianists _____ Yuko Yoshioka and Mia Huang

Duration: This performance lasts approximately 60 minutes, with 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 queenslandballet.com.au for updates.

From the Choreographer

It has been both a joy and a privilege to create *Peter and the Wolf* for Queensland Ballet's My First Ballet series. This is a ballet I've long dreamed of bringing to the stage, and having the opportunity to do so with Queensland Ballet has made the experience especially meaningful.

From the outset, I felt it was essential to include live music. Prokofiev originally composed *Peter and the Wolf* as a "symphonic fairy tale" to introduce children to the instruments of the orchestra, and its vivid musical storytelling is central to its enduring charm. I'm thrilled we are able to share this production with live accompaniment, bringing the music — and the story — fully to life.

As the original score runs just 25 minutes, I wanted to expand the adventure and delve deeper into Peter's world. To do this, I created a new prelude exploring Peter's life with his grandfather. To help tell this extended story, I turned to another of Prokofiev's enchanting works for young audiences: *Music for Children, Op. 65*.

Composed just a year before *Peter and the Wolf*, these twelve short piano pieces brim with character and imagination. I selected six to complement the original score, and they blend seamlessly into the fabric of our version.

Bringing *Peter and the Wolf* to life has been a collaborative effort. I'm grateful to Joshua McIntosh (sets), Noelene Hill (costumes), Ben Hughes (lighting), and Nigel Gaynor, who created a brilliant new arrangement for a small but mighty ensemble. I'd also like to thank Thom Browning, our dramaturge, whose contributions to the narration and storytelling have been invaluable.

I'm so excited for young audiences to experience this ballet — many for the very first time. My hope is that both children and adults find joy, wonder, and inspiration in our *Peter and the Wolf*.



Greg Horsman
Choreographer

The Music and the Characters

RUSSIAN-BORN COMPOSER SERGEI PROKOFIEV COMPOSED THE MUSIC AND CREATED THE STORY OF PETER AND THE WOLF IN 1936 WITH THE MUSICAL EDUCATION OF YOUNG LISTENERS FRONT OF MIND.

You can hear the distinct voices of each character throughout the story, represented by different instruments. Prokofiev also uses tempo, volume and rising instrumental registers to contribute to the escalating tension in the story.

The original *Peter and the Wolf* was composed for an entire orchestra. For this production, Queensland Ballet's Music Director and Principal Conductor Nigel Gaynor has rearranged the score to be played by a chamber music size of eight musicians, who perform live on stage with the dancers.

Peter

Peter is a young boy who is different from other boys his age. He likes nature and animals and even has a book where he writes down facts and draws pictures of new animals that he meets. He is friends with the Bird, Duck and Cat. He lives with his Grandfather who is very overprotective of him. He is a Scout. Peter's musical theme is carried by the sonorous warmth of the **strings** and is the central theme linking everyone together.

Grandfather

Peter's Grandfather and the Scoutmaster of Peter's troop. He is overly protective of Peter. His character is conveyed by a low register **bassoon**.





The Wolf

A wild animal who doesn't like being in a cage. The **french horn's** frightening theme matches the growing malevolence of the Wolf.

The Duck

Peter's friend who thinks she is as elegant and as beautiful as a swan. She fights with the Bird all the time. The **oboe's** rich nasal timbre sounds remarkably close to an actual duck.



The Bird

Peter's friend. She is jealous of the Duck's friendship with Peter and teases the Duck all the time. The **flute** rapidly trills and flourishes in a high register to match the Bird.

The Cat

Peter's friend. She is very independent and a bit lazy. She always tries to catch the Bird. The shadowy tonal qualities of the **clarinet** represent the sly steps of the Cat.



The Zookeepers

The Zookeepers are represented by the **timpani**.



The Story

BY GREG HORSMAN AFTER SERGEI PROKOFIEV

For those of you who know this tale, you might think we'd begin with Peter in the great green meadow. Instead, our story starts one day before, when Grandfather, Peter and the rest of their Scout troupe visit the Zoo.

Peter and the Scouts are very excited to be at the Zoo. Peter is eager to share his knowledge of the animals who, upon inspection, don't seem as lively as he'd expected. Wanting some more excitement from the animals, the Scouts start to rattle the cages. Peter intervenes: "How would you like it if you were stuck in a small cage and people were poking and yelling at you?" Grandfather tries to move the group along in the direction of the reptiles, but the Scouts see the ice cream sign and push Grandfather towards the ice creams. Peter stays behind as he is intrigued by a majestic creature – the Wolf.

The Wolf looks very cramped in his cage and Peter feels sorry for him. He doesn't understand why people keep animals in cages and wishes they were free to roam around and live their lives as they should. Peter sees the Wolf looking at the lock on the cage and thinks about how sad the Wolf seems. When the Scouts and Grandfather return with their ice creams, Peter is nowhere to be seen. Suddenly he appears looking a little guilty and is in a hurry to get home.

Returning to their little house by the meadow, Grandfather is exhausted and turns the radio on to relax while Peter goes to bed. Suddenly the music is interrupted by an important alert – "A wolf is on the loose having mysteriously escaped from the Zoo!" Grandfather springs into action. He shuts the gate and locks the door, with Peter and himself safe inside.

Early the next morning, Peter cautiously ventures into the great green meadow. "Don't worry, all is quiet!" chirped his friend the Bird, perched happily in the tree. Peter calls the Bird down so they can play. Just then, the Duck comes waddling along. The Duck and Peter dance and play together, while the Bird watches on, jealous of the Duck's friendship with Peter.

The Bird perches next to the pond and starts teasing the Duck. Across the meadow, something catches Peter's eye – the Cat. "Look out!" Peter shouts. The Cat makes her move as the Bird immediately flies up into the tree, with the Duck quacking angrily from the pond. Grandfather then bursts through the door, "I told you to stay inside the gate! It's not safe to be out here while that wolf is on the loose." Grandfather takes Peter by the hand and leads him home.

At that very moment the Wolf comes out of the forest. In a twinkling, the Cat shoots up the tree, but no matter how hard the Duck tries to run, she just can't escape the Wolf. With one big gulp, he swallows her up.

The Wolf then turns with greedy eyes to look for the Bird and the Cat. Meanwhile, Peter finds a strong rope beside the house and climbs up the tree to make a lasso. Peter says to the Bird: "Fly down and circle over the Wolf's head." While the Bird acts as a distraction, Peter uses his lasso to trap the Wolf.

Just then, the Zookeepers come out of the woods, following the Wolf's trail. "Don't harm him!" Peter shouts to the Zookeepers. "Birdie and I caught the Wolf. You must help us take him back to the Zoo."

Once the Wolf is back at the Zoo, Peter is starting to feel sorry for him again... What do you think Peter will do next?



Peter and the Wolf

Merchandise

TAKE A PIECE OF PETER AND THE WOLF HOME!

Step into the world of *Peter and the Wolf* with our limited-edition merchandise, created especially for our young fans.

Our special collection includes:

- A soft cotton T-shirt in your choice of khaki or pink, available in youth sizes 4 - 14.
- A vibrant, BPA-free water bottle – perfect for school bags and adventures.
- A playful charm bracelet featuring the story's beloved characters and musical instruments.

Whether you're reliving the music or remembering your favourite characters, this limited-edition range is the perfect keepsake from your ballet experience.

Visit the Welcome Desk in the foyer to browse and buy.

Hurry! Stock is limited and only available during the season.



Our Dancers

JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS



Annie Chen



Declan Daines



Jai Fauchon



Moeki Kojima



Georgia Lorange



Seth Marshall



Levi Miller



Mia Paske



Francesca Poi



Eli Southurst



Brooke Tarry



Telia Townsend

The Jette Parker Young Artist Program is generously supported by Oak Foundation, Barbara Bedwell, Darren & Carmel Brown, Marietjie & Keith Brown, Brett Clark AM & Maria Clark, Dr Ben Duke & Ms Cate Heyworth-Smith KC, Frazer Family Foundation, Goldberg Family Foundation, Patricia Macdonald Memorial Foundation, CP Morris Fund at the APS Foundation, and Liz & Graeme Wikman.

Queensland Ballet Celebrates the Legacy of Denise Wadley OAM Through Support for Young Artists

Queensland Ballet is proud to honour the extraordinary legacy of long-time supporter and arts advocate Denise Wadley OAM, whose recent philanthropic gift is helping to shape a vibrant future for the performing arts in Queensland.

Through Denise's generous support, Queensland Ballet is strengthening its commitment to nurturing the next generation of artists by creating meaningful opportunities for young dancers and musicians to collaborate and perform together. This gift enables

Queensland Ballet to expand its live music offerings and invest in youth development programs that inspire and engage the artists — and audiences — of tomorrow.

Queensland Ballet is deeply grateful to the Wadley family for their support of live music and artistic development. Denise's legacy lives on in the joy and inspiration sparked each time young performers take the stage – reminding us all of the transformative power of the arts.

Musicians

STUDENTS OF QUEENSLAND CONSERVATORIUM,
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

GROUP A

Flute

Keisha Neale

Oboe

Logan Nutley

Clarinet

Angel Stevens

Bassoon

Mairin Thompson

Horn

Isabelle Raíz-Scanlon

Violin

Sophia Di Lucchio

Percussion

Sana Rane

GROUP B

Flute

Nathan Smith

Oboe

Liam Robinson

Clarinet

Hamish Cassidy

Bassoon

Zane Lai

Horn

Matilda Monaghan

Violin

Lydia Hwang

Percussion

Connor Dinneen

Our Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge all who have supported Queensland Ballet so far. Our family of supporters all play a vital part in helping Queensland Ballet enrich lives through the beauty and joy of ballet. Philanthropy is what enables us to share the gift of ballet with communities in Queensland and beyond, to make the greatest impact, and to create a legacy for future generations to access and enjoy ballet.

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Our grateful thanks go to our supporters who have dedicated a Theatre Seat or Dancers' Dressing Room Station in support of our Thomas Dixon Centre re-development. For the opportunity to Take Your Seat, please contact give@queenslandballet.com.au or **07 3013 6660**.

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If you would like to know more about how you can be involved in Queensland Ballet's philanthropic program, please call **07 3013 6660**, email give@queenslandballet.com.au or visit queenslandballet.com.au/support

Queensland Ballet

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BY CHARLES LISNER OBE.

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Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM,
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08 Queensland Ballet Petit Pointer

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To view our full staff list, please visit

[queenslandballet.com.au/discover/company/
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THOMAS DIXON CENTRE

HOME OF Queensland Ballet


On Yuggera and Turrbal Country

From its beginnings in 1908 as a boot and shoe factory, the heritage-listed Thomas Dixon Centre has been transformed into a world-class performing arts destination and cultural precinct, abundant with stories and home of Queensland Ballet. It features a state-of-the-art theatre, stunning public art, community dance studios, and will soon unfold a beautiful café, and bars. With a WELL Platinum Certification the Thomas Dixon Centre has health and wellbeing at its heart.

The Talbot Theatre at the Thomas Dixon Centre is an extraordinary performance space, where stories are shared, creativity flourishes, and connections between artists and audiences are forged.

The revitalisation of the Thomas Dixon Centre is an extraordinary story of passion, tenacity and altruism. Queensland Ballet, a not-for-profit arts company, chose to refurbish its heritage home, not only to house its own artists and arts workers for years to come, but to create a vibrant space for its neighbours, sector and wider community.

Discover more about the Thomas Dixon Centre at thomasdixoncentre.com.au and see stories unfold.

 @thomasdixoncentre

 Thomas Dixon Centre

We are welcoming and accepting of people from diverse backgrounds and identities, and strive to create an accessible and inclusive environment for all.

Queensland Ballet is proudly supported by:

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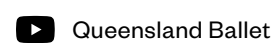
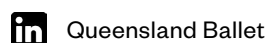
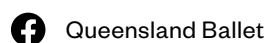
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