

MEDIA RELEASE



June 2005

Swoon in June with the Sutherland Shire Symphony

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra (SSSO) will reach dizzying heights this month when Guest Conductor Rocky Thomas raises the baton for *Swoon in June*.

Swoon in June will feature an eclectic mix of beloved musical favourites, primed to keep the winter chills at bay. Patrons will be thrilled by Rossini's rousing *William Tell Overture* and the world premiere of a new orchestration of Leroy Anderson's frantic *The Typewriter*.

Then settle in for Anderson's quirky *The Waltzing Cat*, Haydn's *Farewell Symphony*, and Piazzolla's *Soul of the Tango*, featuring as soloist the orchestra's own Principal Cellist, Margaret Lзанus.

The orchestra's Leader, Ynping Mak, will perform solo violin in the "Summer Concerto" from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*.

Southern Sydney's only community symphony orchestra will take to the Sutherland Entertainment Centre stage on Sunday, 26 June 2005 at 2.30pm.

Guest conductor, Rocky Thomas, will bring the fruits of a stellar international musical career as a conductor, musical director, orchestrator and composer to the program.

"I am thrilled to be Guest Conductor of the Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra's June concert," said Mr Thomas. "*Swoon in June* is a very varied program which will offer something for everyone to enjoy, while at the same time showcasing the wonderfully talented musicians in the orchestra.

"I look very forward to the opportunity to working with such dedicated players and am sure we will all make some beautiful music together."

Rocky Thomas is emeritus Principal Trumpet in the SSSO. A multi gold record-winning arranger, orchestrator, conductor and producer, Mr Thomas has recorded artists such as Cleo Laine, Johnny Dankworth, Thomas Edmonds, John Laws, Johnny O'Keefe and Col Joye

A nine-time Mo Award nominee, the Rocky Thomas Orchestra has accompanied such luminaries as Frank Gorshin, Anthony Newley, Gene Pitney, Harry Secombe, Ricky May, Max Bygraves, Ronnie Corbett and Phyllis Diller. Two Australian tours with Henry Mancini foresaw a lifetime friendship with him. Of interest, the baton Mr Thomas will use for *Swoon in June* was presented to him, autographed, by Mr. Mancini himself.

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Mr Thomas has also toured as Musical Director with Tom Jones, performing throughout Paris and the UK, including at the London Palladium and Wembley Stadium. He has performed on numerous television programs including Channel 7's *It's All Happening* with Billy Thorpe, and was a prolific musical arranger for Channel 9's *The Mike Walsh Show*.

Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1970. Over the past 35 years, it has developed to become one of Australia's most prestigious community orchestras and a major training orchestra for young musicians. The orchestra performs a series of four concerts each year in Sutherland and regularly tours to other centres around NSW as well.

Tickets for ***Swoon in June*** are available by contacting Sutherland Entertainment Centre on 9521 8888. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$17 for concessions (primary school children accompanied by an adult are admitted **free**). Sutherland Entertainment Centre is located in Eton Street, Sutherland. Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra is generously supported by Sutherland Shire Council. For more information about the orchestra, visit www.sssso.org/

***Swoon in June* – full concert program**

Gioacchino Rossini: Overture *William Tell*

Carl Maria von Weber: *Invitation To The Waltz*, selections

Antonio Vivaldi: *The Four Seasons*, Concerto No.2: "*Summer*",
Soloist: Ynping Mak, violin

Joseph Haydn: *The Farewell Symphony*

A. Khachaturian: *Sabre Dance*

Leroy Anderson: *The Waltzing Cat*

Leroy Anderson: *The Typewriter*

Astor Piazzolla: *The Soul Of The Tango*. Soloist: Margaret Lazanus, cello

Arthur Benjamin: *Jamaican Rumba*

Nikolai Rimski-Korsakov: *Capriccio Espagnol*