

ADELAIDE WIND ORCHESTRA

Presents

KINGFISHERS CATCH FIRE

7:30PM · Saturday 13 June 2026

Elder Hall, The University of Adelaide

Conductors Sean Renaud / Benjamin Wohlfeil

P R O G R A M M E

JENNIFER JOLLEY *Dune Aurora* (2025)

FRANK TICHELI *Sanctuary* (2006)

ADAM GORB *Pike's Peak* (2017)

INTERVAL – 20 minutes (Drinks available in foyer)

PERCY GRAINGER *Lincolnshire Posy* (1937)

JOHN MACKEY *Kingfishers Catch Fire* (2007)

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we gather on. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of the Kaurna people to country and we respect and value their past, present and ongoing connection to the land and cultural beliefs. Adelaide Wind Orchestra (AWO) seeks to unite, educate, challenge, and enrich the South Australian public through the engaging and transformative power of music. Please visit our website to read more about our history, vision and our plans for 2025 and beyond. www.awo.org.au/vision

PROGRAMME NOTES

Jennifer Jolley — Dune Aurora (2025)

Jennifer Jolley is an American composer whose music is characterised by a vivid sense of colour and an ability to conjure atmosphere through sound. *Dune Aurora*, written in 2025, takes its inspiration from a rare meteorological phenomenon: a dune aurora, a new type of aurora that appears as luminous horizontal stripes stretching across the night sky rather than the familiar curtains of the southern or northern lights.

The music engulfs the listener in layers of colour and texture, building from hushed, shimmering beginnings to moments of overwhelming radiance. Jolley's orchestration is masterful in its economy: each section of the ensemble contributes to the ever-shifting palette, evoking the slow pulse and drift of light across a dark horizon.

"The sky looks as though it has been brushed with fire — silent, vast, and impossibly beautiful." — Programme note, Jennifer Jolley

Frank Ticheli — Sanctuary (2006)

Frank Ticheli is one of the most celebrated composers writing for wind ensemble today. *Sanctuary* (2006) is a work of profound stillness and inner reflection — a deliberate counterweight to the turbulence of the modern world. Ticheli composed the piece as a personal meditation, drawing on the idea of sanctuary not merely as a physical place of safety, but as a state of the spirit.

The opening is marked by a long, unfolding melodic line in the upper woodwinds, evolving into rich harmonic clusters that suggest both shelter and vulnerability. The work avoids dramatic climax, preferring instead a quality of sustained contemplation that asks the listener to be still. AWO was privileged to collaborate with Ticheli at the WASBE International Conference in Gwangju, South Korea in July 2024.

Adam Gorb — Pike's Peak (2017)

Adam Gorb is a British composer whose work spans concert music, opera, and film. *Pike's Peak* (2017) was inspired by the 4,302-metre summit that dominates Colorado's Front Range — a mountain accessible yet magnificently prominent, described by Gorb as "standing over the eastern plains with a kind of democratic majesty, visible to all." The work opens with broad, expansive gestures that paint the mountain's scale before launching into passages of rhythmic energy that capture the exhilaration of the summit. There is a lyricism in Gorb's writing that never allows technical display to crowd out genuine feeling: the listener is invited not merely to observe the peak, but to feel its pull.

Percy Grainger — Lincolnshire Posy (1937)

Percy Grainger (1882–1961) was born in Brighton, South Australia — and you can still visit his grave at Adelaide's West Terrace Cemetery. Lincolnshire Posy (1937) stands as one of the most important and beloved works in the wind ensemble canon. Far from a literal collection of flowers, it is Grainger's personal arrangement of six traditional folk tunes collected from labourers, shepherds, and fishermen of Lincolnshire, England, in the early twentieth century.

Grainger's orchestrations are remarkable for their rhythmic complexity and freedom, often employing "elastic scoring" that allows the conductor and performers considerable latitude. Each movement bears the name of the folk singer from whom it was gathered, anchoring the music in the lives of real people. The result is a work fragrant and diverse, rich with character and contrast — a tribute to a vanishing world preserved in sound.

Movements: I. Lisbon · II. Horkstow Grange · III. Rufford Park Poachers · IV. The Brisk Young Sailor · V. Lord Melbourne · VI. The Lost Lady Found

John Mackey — Kingfishers Catch Fire (2007)

The concert's title work, by American composer John Mackey, takes its name from a line in Gerard Manley Hopkins' poem *As Kingfishers Catch Fire* (1877): "As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame." Hopkins' poem celebrates the intrinsic nature of every created thing — each creature expressing, in its very being, something essential and irreplaceable.

Mackey's music opens in the early morning stillness just after a heavy rainstorm: the kingfisher emerges slowly from its nest, cautious and shimmering, before launching out into dazzling sunlight. The work builds from intimate fragility to incandescent brilliance, with a rhythmic vitality in its final pages that is among the most exhilarating in the wind ensemble repertoire. It is a fitting conclusion to a concert devoted to nature, colour, and the full spectrum of what music can express.

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Our next concerts in 2026

Gloriosa – 7:30pm Saturday 19 September – Elder Hall

Twisted Rivers – 7:30pm Saturday 19 September – Elder Hall

Flutes

Melanie Walters
Tegan Beck
Madeleine Stewart
Gemma Vice
Sam Taylor

Oboes

Jo Bridgman
Louise Dellar
Maria Lin

Clarinets

Terry Bickley
Jacki Hatcher
Steve Jarman
Michaela Scherer
Anna Day
Katie Marshall
Zac Serghis
Daniel Hurst
Amber Bader-Hayes

Bassoons

Timothy Rosen
Kathy Bickley
Ethan Li

Saxophones

Daniel Burgess
Daniel Webber
Olivia Marton
Alisha Roberts
Kate Flint
Rachel Banham

French Horn

Lauren Owens
Lucy Rattigan
Ben Bersten
Lex Bailiht

Trumpet

Will Madden
William Smith
Angelo Valdivia
Henry Bradley
Paul Monaghan
Xavier Russell

Trombone

Adam Draper
Matthew Madden
Charlie Makaev

Euphonium

BJ O'Donovan
Anthony Rogers

Tuba

Sian Watt
Chris Venning

String Bass

Madeleine Harris-Kinloch

Piano

Martin Cheney

Percussion

Amber Watkins
Isabella van Loenen
Cameron Edmiston
Sasha Molotchnikova
Oadly Vongphaky
Damon Ashworth
Levi Whitworth



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