

Queensland Ballet
Academy



Donizetti Variations

7 June 2025

Talbot Theatre, Thomas Dixon Centre



From the Academy Director

Welcome to Queensland Ballet Academy's first program of our 2025 Season, *Donizetti Variations*. We are thrilled to collaborate with Queensland Youth Orchestras (QYO) for the fourth time and this alliance continues to strengthen and grow with each opportunity to work together.

Not only is this production an invaluable experience for the young artists of both Queensland Ballet Academy and Queensland Youth Orchestras, as they bring a full program to life on the Talbot Theatre stage, but also offers a wonderful cultural experience for lovers of live music and dance.

It is a pleasure to see *Donizetti Variations*, a beautifully classical and sensitive piece, return to the stage in a new format and specially updated for this program. I must acknowledge the Academy's Ballet Master and Resident Choreographer Paul Boyd, and Queensland Youth Orchestras Conductor, David Deacon for their spectacular work on this project, as well as extend a big thank you to all creatives involved.

There are many more individuals and teams I wish to acknowledge, including of course the Pre-Professional Program dancers who through great dedication and hard work, have shown to take every opportunity

to grow as technicians and artists as they prepare to launch their careers. Live performance is an integral part of their training, and I have no doubt they will benefit greatly from this experience with live accompaniment by QYO2 and remember it for many years to come.

Of course, we also appreciate the exceptional work of our Academy Business team, and thanks must go to all the Queensland Ballet teams involved in enabling this event and bringing it to life. Thank you also to our passionate supporters, including our partners, donors and of course our audience for empowering us to continue developing these young artists of the future.

Enjoy the performance!



Christian Tatchev
Director of Queensland Ballet Academy

From Queensland Youth Orchestras

Performing *Donizetti Variations* with Queensland Ballet Academy has been a richly rewarding experience for the young musicians of QYO2. Donizetti's music demands clarity, energy, and precision—and when paired with the brilliance of Paul Boyd's choreography, it becomes an exciting challenge that calls for exceptional musical responsiveness and teamwork.

For many of our players, this is their first time working in a live ballet setting, where flexibility and attention to detail are key. It's been wonderful to see them rise to the occasion, bringing colour and vitality to every note.

Collaborations like this are invaluable in preparing these talented young artists for the diverse demands of professional performance.



David Deacon
Conductor Queensland Youth Orchestra 2

Queensland Ballet Academy 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.

Program

Act I

Music performed by _____ Queensland Youth Orchestra 2

Gayane Suite

Dance of the Young Maidens
Mountaineers Dance
Lullaby
Lezghinka
Sabre Dance

Music/Composer _____ Aram Khachaturian
Conductor _____ David Deacon

Danse Macabre

Music _____ Saint Saens
Conductor _____ Zachary Miezio

Excerpts from Swan Lake

Writer/Composer _____ Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Conductor _____ David Deacon

Interval

20-minutes with Q&A.

Please remain in the auditorium should you wish to hear David Deacon and Paul Boyd in their informal Q&A about the production.

Duration: Approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes including a 20-minute interval featuring a special Q&A with the choreographer and conductor.

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.

Act II

Music performed by _____ Queensland Youth Orchestra 2

Dancers _____ Queensland Ballet Academy
Pre-Professional Program

Donizetti Variations

Rob. Forberg Musikverlag
(Universal Music Publishing Group)

Choreographer _____ Paul Boyd
Music* _____ Gaetano Donizetti
Conductor _____ David Deacon

*Gaetano Donizetti

Don Sebastiano Variationen für kleines Orchester aus dem Ballett

Arr. Peter March & Don Irving

Rob. Forberg Musikverlag

"By arrangement with G. Ricordi & Co. (London) Ltd."



Staff and Production Credits

Queensland Ballet Academy Staff

EXECUTIVE

Artistic Director

Ivan Gil-Ortega

Executive Director

Dilshani Weerasinghe

Assistant Artistic Director

Greg Horsman

ACADEMY ARTISTIC TEAM

Director of Queensland Ballet Academy

Christian Tatchev

Academy Ballet Master

& Resident Choreographer

Paul Boyd

Academy Ballet Mistress

Zenia Tatcheva

Head of Lower School

Veronika Sheremetieva

Upper School Coordinator

Claire Phipps-Males

Pre-Professional Program

Coordinator

Camilo Ramos

Guest Academy Program

Coordinator

Guy Wheatstone

Foundation Program

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

Brett Sturdy

Catherine Yu

Feodora Zu Hohenlohe

ACADEMY BUSINESS TEAM

Head of Academy Operations

Gabrielle Johnston

Academy Manager

Taylor Atley

Enrolments & Pathways

Specialist

Madelyn Coupe

Wellbeing Manager

Jacinta Eaves

Academy Coordinator

Jane Wilkinson

Academy Receptionist

Hannah Carden

Facilities Officers

William Brettell

Stephen Grenfell

Riley van der Werf

PERFORMANCE HEALTH TEAM

Academy Physiotherapists

Michelle Istria

Academy Strength Coach

Tony Lewis

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Academy Costume Manager /

Associate Designer

Kathryn Lee

Costumier / Theatre Dresser

& Maintenance

Chiahui Tseng

To view our full staff list, please visit

[queenslandballet.com.au/discover/
company/staff](https://queenslandballet.com.au/discover/company/staff)

THOMAS DIXON CENTRE

HOME OF Queensland Ballet


On Yuggera and Turrbal Country


From its beginnings in 1908 as a boot factory, the heritage-listed Thomas Dixon Centre has been transformed into a world-class performing arts destination, cultural precinct, and home of Queensland Ballet. It features a state-of-the-art theatre, stunning public art, dance studios, and will soon unfold a beautiful café, and restaurant. With health and wellbeing at its heart, the Thomas Dixon Centre has become the first arts precinct in the world to achieve the International WELL Building Certificate.

The revitalisation of the Thomas Dixon Centre is an incredible story of passion, tenacity, and altruism. Queensland Ballet, a not-for-profit arts company, refurbished 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.

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

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 Youth Orchestras Staff

Executive Director

Amanda Jolly

Artistic Director

Simon Hewett

Business Manager

Roman Maya

Program Producer

Brianna Butters

Assistant Producer

Felicity Mohr

Venue Manager

Sandra Hall

Photography Credits

Cover: Queensland Ballet Academy Pre-Professional Program dancers Kyra Martynov and Xavier Xué Barriga. Photography David Kelly.

Page 3: Queensland Ballet Company Artist Ruby Day performing in *Tchaikovsky Suite*, the QYO2 and Queensland Ballet Academy's 2024 collaborative season. Photography David Kelly.



Scan for dancer
and orchestra lists



Queensland Ballet Academy



Queensland Ballet



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