Lullaby a walk in the park

By KILMENY ADIE

KONRAD Schultz has perfected the pre-teen shrug that conveys anything from mild interest to complete nonchalance.

But the shrug does not mask the pride the 10-year-old son of composer and University of Wollongong Creative Arts Dean Andrew Schultz has for his father's talents.

Tonight the pair will share a special moment when the Steel City Strings plays the lullaby Willow Bend in their program.

Professor Schultz wrote the piece 10 years ago after he was inspired by his early morning walks with Konrad trying to get his first child to sleep.

"He used to sleep in the stroller from the motion of it and we would end up in the botanic gardens, early in the morning when it was tranquil and peaceful," Schultz said.

"The idea came to me in those mornings with the motion of the stroller and the early hours which seemed quite a ... beautiful time for us to be together."

The ABC had asked Schultz to write a piece for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra to play on a CD of children's lullabies.

The piece, reworked for the Steel City Strings, is in four-four time but features a symbolic extra beat, making every fourth bar five-four time.

"This was because I'm very tall and there was insufficient leg room for me to walk comfortably without kicking the stroller," Schultz said.

"So I developed a technique of pushing the stroller with my right hand. What I found was by about the 20th beat the stroller would have turned inwards and I would have to pull it back straight. That's why there's an extra beat."

The performance by the Steel City Strings will have further significance for the Schultz family including younger son Max. Wife and mother Nicole Saintilan plays viola in the group.

"I have written a piece dedicated to my wife and another to my other son Max," Schultz said.

The orchestra performs at 7pm today at Wollongong Town Hall and at 7pm tomorrow at Albion Park Presbyterian Church.

Inspiration: Composer and University of Wollongong Creative Arts Dean Andrew Schultz has given his son Konrad a special legacy - his own lullaby. Picture: ADAM McLEAN