### Australian Chamber Orchestra

RICHARD TOGNETTI – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# BAROQUE & BEYOND



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Inside you'll find features and interviews that shine a spotlight on our players and the music you are about to hear. Enjoy the read.

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## WELCOME

If you are reading this, I assume that you, like me, will once again be rejoicing in the fact that your ACO is back on stage performing live, and that we have confidently launched a national concert series for 2022.

This is our first live concert in six months. While it's unfortunate that Joseph Tawadros couldn't join us in Australia for these concerts as planned, we've brought you a magnificent Baroque celebration inspired by Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. Together we will enjoy music by Baroque greats Bach, Vivaldi and Handel, before Richard Tognetti and the Orchestra trace their influence throughout the centuries.

In early 2022 we celebrate a transformative new era as we move to our permanent home at Pier 2/3 in Sydney's Walsh Bay Arts Precinct. Pier 2/3 brings with it an explosion of opportunity, from inspired artistic collaborations, theatrical productions for young audiences, new partnerships, intimate recitals and the expansion of our Learning & Engagement programs. We cannot wait to share these new initiatives with you here in Sydney and right across the country. I thank the NSW Government and our generous Capital Campaign patrons for their investment in this remarkable facility.

You too could have a piece of Pier 2/3 action by buying a seat for yourself or someone you love in The Neilson, Australia's most beautiful new concert venue. Take a look here: aco.com.au/revealed

The past two years have been the most challenging that the ACO has ever faced. Shakespeare summed it up in Part 1 of Henry IV, "This sickness doth infect the very life blood of our enterprise". Our own plague now under cautious management, I thank the NSW and Federal Governments and you, our family of audience and donors, for the unwavering support throughout the past months for the ACO, our arts colleagues and many other associated and impacted industries.

Within our clutch of corporate supporters, our partner for these concerts is Wesfarmers Arts. Wesfarmers have supported the ACO, and in particular ACO Collective, for 23 years and I thank them for their leadership and our essential, enduring partnership.

It's great to be back, and with the advent of Pier 2/3, 2022 is a bright new year with our most comprehensive and exciting offering to date.



Richard Evans Managing Director

#### News



### Our new home at Pier 2/3

We're excited to announce our brand new home at Pier 2/3 in Sydney's Walsh Bay Arts Precinct.

Perched above a breathtaking expanse of the harbour in Sydney's revitalised cultural precinct, Pier 2/3 will be a place where extraordinary music is not just created and performed, but truly shared with everyone.

For further information and to donate, please visit aco.com.au/revealed



#### ACO 2022 SEASON

The ACO has always blazed its own trail. 2022 is no exception. We hope you'll join us for our most transformative season yet.

Explore the 2022 Season at aco.com.au

#### Coming up

#### **FEBRUARY**



Piazzolla 1 – 14 FEBRUARY Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne,

Adelaide, Brisbane

This irresistible season opener led by Richard Tognetti is driven by the rhythms of South America, and features long standing friend of the ACO, classical accordion virtuoso and arranger James Crabb.

### MARCH



TarraWarra Festival

We are excited to return to the TarraWarra Museum of Art for a weekend of music, art, wine and some of the most breathtaking views in Victoria's Yarra Valley. Book early for this intimate and exclusive cultural weekend.



#### Sketches of Spain 31 MARCH – 13 APRIL

Newcastle, Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Wollongong

The fascinating textures and perfumes of Spain have inspired artists and influenced cultures all around the world. Richard Tognetti leads the ACO for this musical adventure that knows no boundaries.

### APRIL



#### Pier 2/3 Opening Festival 29 APRIL - 1 MAY

Join us for a whole weekend of festivities as we officially open the doors and invite you into our new home in Sydney's Walsh Bay Arts Precinct. Look out for further announcements over the coming months.



Featuring a live National Concert Season, our acclaimed on-demand ACO StudioCast films and exciting programs from our new home in Sydney's Walsh Bay Arts Precinct.



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## PROGRAM

Richard Tognetti Director and Violin Timo-Veikko Valve Cello Satu Vänskä Voice Australian Chamber Orchestra

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The concert will last approximately one hour and 50 minutes, including a 20-minute interval. The Australian Chamber Orchestra reserves the right to alter scheduled artists and programs as necessary.



ACO concerts are regularly broadcast on ABC Classic.

Baroque and Beyond will be broadcast on Sunday 12 December at 1pm.

# MUSICIANS

The musicians on stage for this performance.

#### **Discover more**

Learn more about our musicians, watch us Live in the Studio, go behind the scenes and listen to playlists at:

aco.com.au



Richard Tognetti Director and Violin

Richard plays the 1743 'Carrodus' Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù violin kindly on Ioan from an anonymous Australian private benefactor. His Chair is sponsored by Wendy Edwards, Peter McMullin Am & Ruth McMullin, Louise Myer & Martyn Myer Ao, Andrew & Andrea Roberts.

#### Helena Rathbone Principal Violin

Helena plays a 1759 Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin kindly on Ioan from the Commonwealth Bank Group. Her Chair is sponsored by Margaret Gibbs & Rodney Cameron.



#### Satu Vänskä Principal Violin

Satu plays the 1726 'Belgiorno' Stradivarius violin kindly on Ioan from Guido Belgiorno-Nettis Am & Belgiorno-Nettis. Her Chair is sponsored by David Thomas AM.



Aiko Goto Violin

Aiko plays her own French violin by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume. Her Chair is sponsored by Anthony & Sharon Lee Foundation.



## Mark Ingwersen

Mark plays a 1728/29 Stradivarius violin kindly on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund. His Chair is sponsored by Prof Judyth Sachs & Julie Steiner AM.



#### Maja Savnik Violin

Maja plays the 1714 'ex-Isolde Menges' Giuseppe Guarneri filius Andreæ violin kindly on Ioan from the ACO Instrument Fund. Her Chair is sponsored by Alenka Tindale.



Ilya Isakovich Violin

Ilya plays his own 1600 Marcin Groblicz violin made in Poland. His Chair is sponsored by Meg Meldrum.



#### Liisa Pallandi Violin

Liisa plays her own Elina Kaljunen violin made in 2019. Her Chair is sponsored by The Melbourne Medical Syndicate.



#### Stefanie Farrands Principal Viola

Stefanie plays her own 2016 viola made by Ragnar Hayn in Berlin. Her Chair is sponsored by peckvonhartel architects.



Elizabeth Woolnough Viola

Elizabeth plays her own 1968 Parisian viola by Pierre M. Audinot.



#### Meagan Turner Viola

Meagan plays a 2019 viola by Samuel Zygmuntowicz on private loan.



#### Timo-Veikko Valve Principal Cello

Tipi plays a 1616 Brothers Amati cello kindly on Ioan from the ACO Instrument Fund. His Chair is sponsored by Prof Doug Jones Ao and Prof Janet Walker.



#### Melissa Barnard Cello

Melissa plays a cello by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume made in 1846. Her Chair is sponsored by Dr & Mrs J Wenderoth.



#### Julian Thompson Cello

Julian plays a 1729 Giuseppe Guarneri filius Andreæ cello with elements of the instrument crafted by his son, Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù, kindly donated to the ACO by Peter Weiss Ao. His Chair is sponsored by The Grist & Stewart Families.



#### Maxime Bibeau Principal Bass

Max plays a late-16thcentury Gasparo da Salò bass kindly on loan from a private Australian benefactor. His Chair is sponsored by Darin Cooper Foundation.



Chad Kelly Harpsichord and Organ

Chad plays a Ruckers double harpsichord by Carey Beebe, Sydney 2003, and a continuo organ by Henk Klop, Garderen, Nederland 2004. Instruments prepared by Carey Beebe.



#### Simon Martyn-Ellis Theorbo

Simon plays a theorbo made by Jiří Čepelák, Prague, 2004, and a baroque guitar made by Markus Wesche, Bremen, 2010.

### Wesfarmers Arts

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AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA & WESFARMERS ARTS: BRINGING PEOPLE & MUSIC TOGETHER

## WELCOME FROM WESFARMERS

Twenty-three years after we first collaborated with the ACO, initially to bring this wonderful Orchestra to Perth on a regular basis, we are honoured to support the ACO as the National Tour Partner for *Baroque and Beyond*, and as the Principal Partner of ACO Collective.

Wesfarmers has stood by its arts partners throughout the crisis of COVID-19 and, after the unprecedented challenges to our national arts community over the last two years, we are delighted that the ACO is back on stage, once again bringing exceptional live music to audiences.

It is a privilege and a joy to support the tremendous work of the ACO as part of our commitment to making a broader contribution to the communities in which we live and work. We hope you enjoy this performance as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you.



Rob Scott Managing Director Wesfarmers Limited

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# PROGRAM



### Antonio Vivaldi

Violin Concerto in D major, RV208 "Grosso Mogul": II. Grave, III. Allegro

Vivaldi's virtuosity as a violinist was well known during his lifetime, with accounts of his playing typically reading as follows: "For such playing has never been heard before and can never be equalled. He placed his fingers but a hair's breadth from the bridge, so that there was hardly room for the bow." Vivaldi composed hundreds of concertos, but few match such accounts more closely than "II Grosso Mogul", named for the Mogul emperors of India. The concerto boasts two enormous violin cadenzas in the fast movements and a thoroughly exotic middle movement. Bach was a great admirer of Vivaldi, transcribing many of his concertos, including this one, as new works.



## Johann Sebastian Bach

#### Cello Suite No.4 in E-flat major, BWV1010: I. Prelude

Like the sonatas and partitas for solo violin, Bach's six suites for unaccompanied cello represent the pinnacle of solo repertoire for the instrument. An air of mystery surrounds the suites: the earliest known manuscript is not in Bach's hand, but that of his wife, Anna Magdalena, and it is not known why Bach composed them – he is not known to have played the cello. Each suite begins with a substantial Prelude followed by an assortment of French dances that show off the full range of the instrument's capabilities.



### Thomas Adès

#### **O** Albion

O Albion is an arrangement for string orchestra of the most celebrated movement from the string quartet *Arcadiana* by British composer Thomas Adès. Each movement evokes a sense of lost time and place: "an image associated with ideas of the idyll, vanishing, vanished or imaginary". "O Albion" is an archaic term for Britain, and the music opens with a clear evocation of another piece that stirs nostalgic devotion to country in the hearts of Britons – "Nimrod" from Edward Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. Played "Devotissimo", the movement unfolds as a hushed hymn with no final resolution, implying "a wistful lamenting for a lost and more attractive age".

## Johann Sebastian Bach

Partita for Solo Violin No.2 in D minor, BWV1004: V. Chaconne Arranged by Richard Tognetti

Bach's six sonatas and partitas for solo violin stand as one of western music's most glorious and monumental achievements. The Chaconne that concludes the Partita in D minor is perhaps the single greatest piece written for unaccompanied violin. It is a series of variations on a repeating four-bar ground bass, but over the course of its 15-plus minutes, seems to transcend time and music itself. It is presented here in a new arrangement for string orchestra by Richard Tognetti.

Many have written about the Chaconne, but few more poignantly than Johannes Brahms: "The Chaconne is for me one of the most wonderful, incomprehensible pieces of music. On one stave, for a small instrument, the man writes a whole world of the deepest thoughts and most powerful feelings. If I imagined that I could have created, even conceived the piece, I am quite certain that the excess of excitement and earth-shattering experience would have driven me out of my mind".

### Isabella Leonarda

#### Sonata for 2 Violins in F major, Op.16, No.10

Isabella Leonarda is one of few women of the Baroque era to have her works published, and composed the very first sonatas ever published by a woman. Her 12 "sonatas da chiesa" Op.16 are among her most notable achievements, employing more expansive structures than those of her contemporary Arcangelo Corelli. In the Sonata for Two Violins No.10 in F major the music positively dances with florid double violin passages.



### Steve Reich

#### Duet

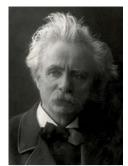
Steve Reich's particular brand of minimalism involves the use of canons (where one voice follows another), pulsing patterns, and repetitions of small cycles of music to create a trance-like effect. His 1994 *Duet* for two violins and strings is dedicated to Yehudi Menuhin and "to the ideals of international understanding which he has practiced throughout his life." The piece is built around simple unison canons between the two violins who, from time to time, slightly vary the rhythmic distance between their two voices. As an accompaniment to the two solo violins, the strings create a wash of sound that seems to pulse and shimmer endlessly while undergoing subtle changes in harmony.

### Antonio Vivaldi

#### The Four Seasons: Summer, Op.8, No.2

The Four Seasons come from Vivaldi's 1725 set of concertos entitled The Contest of Harmony and Invention. They are the most performed pieces of classical music today, celebrated for their recognisable melodies, their virtuosity and innovation, and for being vividly programmatic. In the second concerto, Summer, everything languishes in the extreme heat of the sun. The turtledove and goldfinch sing out, but are engulfed by the turbulent north wind, which draws storms ever closer until thunder interrupts the buzz of insects in the second movement. In the finale, the storm breaks.

## **Edvard Grieg**



Holberg Suite, Op.40

In Scandinavian countries, Norwegian writer Ludvig Holberg has a literary status akin to Shakespeare. To celebrate Holberg's bicentenary in 1884, Grieg composed the piano suite *From Holberg's Time* as an homage to the Baroque suites of Holberg's age. As with a number of his piano works, Grieg arranged the suite for string orchestra, and it is this version that has become the better known. Indeed, it is hard to imagine this music any other way, particularly its sparkling first movement. Grieg perfectly marries the Gavotte's rustic and courtly roots in the third movement, without ever sounding pastiche, and then releases an outburst of folk fiddling in the Rigaudon finale.



## George Frideric Handel

Concerto Grosso in D major, Op.6, No.5

Handel is one of the few Baroque composers who could truly be said to be in Bach's league, with Bach himself saying that Handel was "the only person I would wish to see before I die, and the only person I would wish to be, were I not Bach." His Concerto Grosso in D major, Op.6, No.5 is part of a set of 12 composed over the course of only a few weeks, each inspired by the concerti grossi of Arcangelo Corelli and Francesco Geminiani. As with those of his contemporaries, Handel's concerti grossi feature a group of concertino soloists who are pitted against the orchestra.



## Igor Stravinsky

#### Apollon musagète: X. Apotheosis

Stravinsky's ballet *Apollo*, composed in 1927 and 1928, is magnificently at odds with the modern world. His first collaboration with choreographer George Balanchine, it is among the purest, most serenely tonal of Stravinsky's neoclassical works: its steadily pulsing rhythms recall dances at the court of Louis XIV, in particular the ballets of Lully. The story tells of the maturation of the young god Apollo, who receives instruction from the Muses. In the final movement, "Apotheosis", which depicts Apollo's ascent to Parnassus, hypnotically circling patterns suggest a sublime stasis. As rhythmic values progressively lengthen, the mythic figures seem to dissolve into a motionless frieze, their flesh turning to marble.



### Hans Leo Hassler

#### Finnish Hymn: "Oi rakkain Jeesukseni"

At the heart of many of Bach's church cantatas and Passions were the chorale melodies of the Lutheran church, tunes which were intrinsic to people's everyday experience of liturgical worship. Bach set this particular melody (written by Paul Gerhardt and harmonised by Hans Leo Hassler) five times in his *St Matthew Passion*, which has led to it becoming known as the Passion Chorale. So popular and versatile is the melody that it has entered into the Finnish hymnal as "Oi rakkain Jeesukseni" ("O my dearest Jesus").

## Johann Sebastian Bach

St Matthew Passion, BWV244: "Erbarme dich"

If the Passion Chorale is the heart of the *St Matthew Passion*, then one could call "Erbarme Dich" its soul – exemplifying a tragic sadness that ties Bach's Passion together as a whole. Following Peter's betrayal of Jesus, this haunting aria expresses Peter's penitence and bitter lamentation: "Have mercy, O God, for my tears' sake. Look how my heart and eyes weep bitterly before Thee." Originally sung by an alto, the aria becomes even more emotional as a duet for a weeping cello accompanied by solo violin.

#### Brandenburg Concerto No.3 in G major, BWV1048

Bach's six concertos presented to the Margrave of Brandenburg are considered to be among the finest orchestral compositions of the Baroque era. They are like the concerti grossi of Corelli, Handel or Vivaldi in featuring groups of solo instruments, but are even more daringly scored. Where Corelli and Handel would pit a small group of concertino soloists against the orchestra, Bach makes no such distinction in his Third Brandenburg Concerto. All nine performers are soloists, making this concerto in particular a true showpiece for its musicians.

Program notes by Bernard Rofe.

"The opportunity for the ACO to finally have a permanent home at Pier 2/3 has been an ambitious and long-held dream, one that has been decades in the making, and represents a new era for the ACO and for our supporters.

Our relocation to the vibrant, inspiring, and collaborative Walsh Bay Arts Precinct ushers in a vast spectrum of new programs and opportunities, from the expansion of our Learning & Engagement programs, to hosting engaging and provocative talks and ideas, and intimate recitals that spotlight the extraordinary talents of my colleagues in the Orchestra.

None of this is possible without you, our generous supporters. With your help, Pier 2/3 will not just be a new space for the ACO; it will be a home for all of us – now, and for generations to come."

- Richard Tognetti, Artistic Director and Lead Violin



# EXPLORE OUR NEW HOME

Responding to both the history of Walsh Bay's piers and the beauty of the natural surroundings, our new home is state-of-the-art, sustainable and architecturally sensitive, with a reach beyond its physical location in Sydney. Light-drenched, expansive and inspirational, the ACO will occupy the top two floors at the harbour end of Pier 2/3, affording audiences astounding bridge and harbour views, with easy access to the bustling cultural precinct.

Take a tour with our flythrough video:







#### Belgiorno Room 1

A unique events space, complete with a commercial finishing kitchen and adjoining private balcony – flooded with light and with spectacular views of the water, harbour and bridge from its prime location at the harbour end of Pier 2/3. The Belgiorno Roorn will play host to pre and post performance functions, and will be available for corporate and community





#### The Neilson 7

A flexible and intimate performance space capable of being used with raked retractable seating or in flat floor mode, engineered for classical, acoustic and amplified music, as well as talks, recordings and large workshops.

#### Media Suite

An innovative digital studio for developing and sharing new program content, music and learning resources, bringing the ACO to everyone, everywhere, anytime.

#### Artistic Director's Office and four additional Practice Rooms

Soundproofed and dedicated rooms giving our musicians private spaces in which to rehearse on their own or in small groups.

#### Rehearsal Room ←

A flexible space for music rehearsals, workshops, recordings, masterclasses, talks and presentations with a glass wall for students and audiences to observe musicians and for musicians to enjoy views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.





# HELP MAKE HISTORY

When you donate to the Pier 2/3 Capital Campaign, you become a part of our new and permanent home. But it's much bigger than that. This is an opportunity for you to make history and leave a legacy that will resonate for generations to come. The value of music and the performing arts in all our lives has never been so significant. Your gift is a profound way to contribute towards the cultural life of Australians, young and old, well into the future.

There are different donation levels available and donations may be made in full or in instalments. For the first time in our history, we are also able to offer you the opportunity of dedicating a chair in someone's name. All contributions and chair dedications are deeply valued and appreciated. We can't do this without your help.

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Reims



## RICHARD TOGNETTI



#### Artistic Director

Richard Tognetti is Artistic Director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra. He has established an international reputation for his compelling performances and artistic individualism.

Richard began his studies in his home town of Wollongong with William Primrose, then with Alice Waten at the Sydney Conservatorium, and Igor Ozim at the Bern Conservatory, where he was awarded the Tschumi Prize as the top graduate soloist in 1989. Later that year he led several performances of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and that November was appointed as the Orchestra's lead violin and, subsequently, Artistic Director.

Richard performs on period, modern and electric instruments and his numerous arrangements, compositions and transcriptions have expanded the chamber orchestra repertoire and been performed throughout the world. As director or soloist, he has appeared with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Academy of Ancient Music, Slovene Philharmonic Orchestra, Handel & Haydn Society (Boston), Hong Kong Philharmonic, Camerata Salzburg, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Nordic Chamber Orchestra and all the major Australian symphony orchestras, most recently as soloist and director with the Melbourne and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras. Richard also performed the Australian premieres of Ligeti's Violin Concerto and Lutosławski's Partita. He was appointed the Barbican Centre's first Artist-in-Residence at Milton Court Concert Hall in London in 2016. Richard created the Huntington Festival in Mudgee, New South Wales and was Artistic Director of the Festival Maribor in Slovenia from 2008 to 2015.

Richard was the co-composer of the score for Peter Weir's Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World, starring Russell Crowe; he co-composed the soundtrack to Tom Carroll's surf film Storm Surfers; and created The Red Tree, inspired by Shaun Tan's book. He also created the documentary film Musica Surfica, as well as The Glide, The Reef and The Crowd. Richard collaborated with Director Jennifer Peedom and Stranger Than Fiction to create the film Mountain for the ACO, which went on to become the highest-grossing homegrown documentary in Australian cinemas ever following its release.

Richard was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2010. He holds honorary doctorates from three Australian universities and was made a National Living Treasure in 1999. He performs on the 1743 'Carrodus' Guarneri del Gesù violin, lent to him by an anonymous Australian private benefactor.

## THE ACO



"The Australian Chamber Orchestra is uniformly high-octane, arresting and never ordinary."

- The Australian

The Australian Chamber Orchestra lives and breathes music, making waves around the world for its explosive performances and brave interpretations. Steeped in history but always looking to the future, ACO programs embrace celebrated classics alongside new commissions, and adventurous cross-artform collaborations.

Led by Artistic Director Richard Tognetti since 1990, the ACO performs more than 100 concerts each year. Whether performing in Manhattan, New York, or Wollongong, NSW, the ACO is unwavering in its commitment to creating transformative musical experiences. The Orchestra regularly collaborates with artists and musicians who share its ideology, from instrumentalists, to vocalists, to cabaret performers, to visual artists and film makers.

In addition to its national and international touring schedule, the Orchestra has an active recording program across CD, vinyl and digital formats. Recent releases include *Water | Night Music*, the first Australian-produced classical vinyl for two decades, *Brahms Symphonies 3 & 4*, and the soundtrack to the cinematic collaboration, *River*.

In 2020 the ACO launched its inaugural digital subscription 'ACO StudioCasts', an acclaimed season of cinematic and immersive concert films.

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#### Australian Chamber Orchestra

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ACO thanks the following people for supporting the Orchestra.

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MEDICI PATRON The late Amina Belgiorno-Nettis

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Satu Vänskä Principal Violin David Thomas AM

Stefanie Farrands

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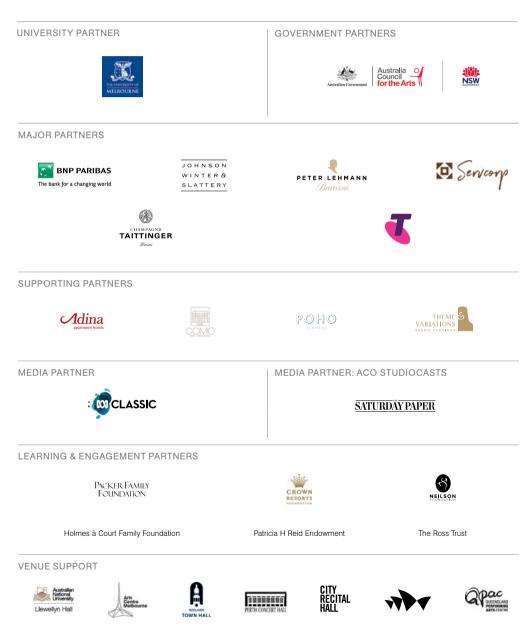
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