

Australian Chamber Orchestra

RICHARD TOGNETTI – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ACO UP CLOSE

RICHARD TOGNETTI

SUNDAY 31 JULY, 2.30PM
THE NEILSON, PIER 2/3

THURSDAY 18 AUGUST, 7.30PM
HANSON DYER HALL



SERIES PARTNER



ASSOCIATE PARTNER



ACO GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PROGRAM

Richard Tognetti Violin
Konstantin Shamray Piano

Kumi Taguchi Host (Sydney)
Zan Rowe Host (Melbourne)

WITOLD LUTOSŁAWSKI (1913–1994)
JOHANN PAUL VON WESTHOFF
(1656–1705)

Partita for violin and piano (1984)
Suite No.1 in A minor (c.1696)
I. Allemande
II. Courante

PETER SCULTHORPE (1929–2014)
JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833–1897)

Irkanda I (1955)
Violin Sonata in D minor, Op.108 (1888)
I. Allegro
II. Adagio
III. Un poco presto e con sentimento
IV. Presto agitato

RICHARD TOGNETTI

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

After studying in Australia with William Primrose and Alice Waten, and overseas at the Berne Conservatory with Igor Ozim, he returned home in 1989 to lead several performances with the ACO and was appointed the Orchestra's Artistic Director and Lead Violin later that year. He performs on period, modern and electric instruments and has appeared with many of the world's leading orchestras as director or soloist. In 2016 Richard was appointed the first Artist-in-Residence at the Barbican Centre's Milton Court Concert Hall and he was Artistic Director of the Festival Maribor in Slovenia from 2008 to 2015.

Richard's numerous arrangements, compositions and transcriptions have expanded the chamber orchestra repertoire and been performed throughout the world. He curated and co-composed the scores for the ACO's documentary films *Musica Surfica*, *The Glide*, *The Reef*, and *The Crowd & I*, and co-composed the scores for Peter Weir's *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* and the soundtrack to Tom Carroll's film *Storm Surfers*. Richard collaborated with director Jennifer Peedom and Stranger Than Fiction to create the films *Mountain* and *River*.

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 a 1743 Guarneri del Gesù violin, lent to him by an anonymous Australian private benefactor.

Richard Tognetti's Chair is sponsored by Wendy Edwards, Peter McMullin AM & Ruth McMullin, Louise Myer & Martyn Myer AO, Andrew & Andrea Roberts.

RECITAL RANT

I'm starting with the ugly-beautiful music of Witold Lutosławski, the Francis Bacon of composers.

The first rehearsal I attended in Europe as a student, greenly optimistic and fresh off the plane, was Witold Lutosławski conducting his concerto for harp, oboe and orchestra with the Berne Symphony and the two Holligers, husband and wife [oboist] Heinz and [harpist] Ursula. What struck me was the contrast of the man with his music – a seemingly tender character producing frightening musical dreams.

One of the last things I did before returning to Australia was perform Lutosławski's *Livre pour orchestre* as concertmaster. I'll never be indifferent to the power this music had over me... ever since I've felt like The Mariner in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', wandering the world trying to explain the feeling of some strong and strange event that has come to pass.

Although he might appear like the Big Bang, there was someone writing music before JS Bach...so who? Born exactly 100 years before Mozart, Johann Paul von Westhoff from Dresden (with the same German Saxon accent as JS), was one of the greatest violinists of his day.

Even though the music is riddled with parallel fifths and other musical vernacular that is foreign to JS, this is the music that inspired *Him* (JS) to write the sonatas and partitas for violin.

Sculthorpe should need no introduction here, but I am concerned that his music, posthumously, is going through a fallow period. Down with the Felt Pianist brigade and open your ears to some good Old Hat modernism.

Like Lutosławski, Sculthorpe used aleatorism in a very successful way. *Irkanda I* dates from 1955 (one of the best years for Fender amps, incidentally) and uses bird song and lingering melodies that ask of us to consider a remote and lonely place (being the meaning of *Irkanda*); possibly what he thought of Australia back then.

And to finish, Brahms' third and final violin sonata, first played in 1888 by Hungarian violinist Jenő Hubay von Szalatna with Brahms himself at the piano. The Adagio second movement boasts one of Brahms' finest melodies, right up there with the famous Poco Allegretto of his Third Symphony.

Richard Tognetti

KONSTANTIN SHAMRAY

An exhilarating performer with a fearless command of the piano, Australian-based pianist Konstantin Shamray burst onto the concert scene when he won First Prize at the Sydney International Piano Competition in 2008, the only entrant in the history of the competition to win both First and People's Choice Prizes.

Since then, Konstantin has performed extensively throughout the world. In Australia recent and future season highlights include engagements with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Queensland and West Australian Symphony Orchestras, as well as regular performances with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra who he enjoys a special relationship with. Last season, Konstantin undertook a prestigious nationwide tour for Musica Viva with players of ANAM directed by Sophie Rowell. Outside of Australia he has worked with the Russian National Philharmonic, the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, Moscow Virtuosi, Orchestre National de Lyon and Prague Philharmonia amongst many others.

Chamber music plays a strong role in Konstantin's career. He has collaborated with the Australian String Quartet, Richard Tognetti, Kristof Barati, Andreas Brantelid and Li Wei Qin. He has made regular appearances at the Adelaide Festival, International Piano Series in Adelaide, the Melbourne Recital Centre and Ukaria Cultural Centre. Further afield, Konstantin has enjoyed critical acclaim at the Klavier-Festival Ruhr, the Bochum Festival in Germany, the Mariinsky International Piano Festival and the White Nights Festival in St Petersburg.

KUMI TAGUCHI (SYDNEY)

Kumi Taguchi is the host of Australia's leading forum show, *Insight* on SBS. She has 25 years' experience in the media industry in Australia and Hong Kong.

Kumi trained as a classical violinist but shifted to journalism after university. Her first job included picking up dry cleaning and answering phones for the ABC's *7.30 Report*. Since then, Kumi has worked across radio, television, current affairs, long-form documentaries, more recently as the host of ABC's *Compass* and as a presenter for the ABC News Channel. Kumi is also known for hosting major live broadcast events, including the Invictus Games Sydney with a global audience of 60 million, *Stargazing Live* with Professor Brian Cox, the *Australian of the Year Awards*, and Sydney's *Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo*.

A keen adventurer, Kumi has run two half marathons, a marathon in the centre of Australia and sailed the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

ZAN ROWE (MELBOURNE)

Zan Rowe is the ABC's National Music Correspondent and host of Double J Mornings. For more than 15 years, Zan has been a daily presence on ABC radio, TV and online.

Music is at the centre of every conversation and has brought Zan to the homes of millions via the annual ABC TV New Years Eve broadcast alongside Charlie Pickering, and into the podcast feeds of many with her award winning *Take 5* podcast.

When not tapping her foot or swooning to a song, Zan talks pop culture with Myf Warhurst on the popular *Bang On* podcast. She has hosted large scale events for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Art Gallery of NSW, Tropfest and Sydney Festival. Zan's passion for sharing stories, conversations, and creativity drives her every day.