

ACO & ANAM Up Close



Sunday 5 March 2023, 7pm
The Neilson, ACO Pier 2/3

Monday 6 March 2023, 7.30pm
Rosina Auditorium, Abbotsford Convent

Timo-Veikko Valve Director and ACO Principal Cello

Musicians from

Australian Chamber Orchestra and the
Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM)

Hosted by Toby Chadd

JESSIE MONTGOMERY	Starburst	4
NICO MUHLY	Diacritical Marks: Selections*	8
KAIJA SAARIAHO	Nocturne	4
ANNA THORVALDSDOTTIR	Illumine	8
JAAKKO KUUSISTO	Wiima, Op.27	11
CAROLINE SHAW	Limestone and Felt	6
ÓLAFUR ARNALDS (arr. Rowan Baker)	nyepi	4
MISSY MAZZOLI	You Know Me From Here <i>I. Lift your fists</i> <i>II. Everything that rises must converge</i> <i>III. You know me from here</i>	15

The concert will last approximately 75 minutes.

* We are very grateful to Nico Muhly, who has created an arrangement for string ensemble of *Diacritical Marks* especially for these performances.



One of my most cherished projects last year was a week spent working alongside some of Australia's brightest stars as an Artist in Residence at ANAM. I'm thrilled that I can re-live this collaboration almost exactly 12 months later. This time around, we deliver a program that explores the sights and sounds of current-day New York next to the emptiness of the arctic circle.

The program's centrepiece comes from my homeland and has significant personal resonance. Twelve months ago, I could have written that all the composers in this concert were living composers. Tragically, that has now changed. Jaakko Kuusisto's generous and humane personality lives on through his music, whether it's performed at home in Finland or here in Australia. Jaakko was both an irreplaceable part of the cultural landscape I grew up in and a part of my family.

Wiima by Jaakko Kuusisto was commissioned by a small summer festival that takes place every year in my mother's hometown of Sysmä, where I spent many holidays as a kid. I'll exercise some artistic liberty and imagine that the piece is connected to this unique and quirky town, a place I remember fondly.

All three major works in this program – Nico Muhly's *Diacritical Marks*, Missy Mazzoli's *You know me from here*, and *Wiima* – are originally string quartets, which the composers themselves re-arranged for larger string ensemble. Nico Muhly has kindly prepared his arrangement specifically with these performances in mind. So, our program of new music will also include a World Premiere of sorts. I strongly feel that our responsibility as performers is to explore and put forward music from our times; music that reflects the world as we live it, rather than only continue looking back at what has been before us.

In this side-by-side project, I'm joined by three members of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, so the ensemble we form together will be tiny, with nine players on stage. You will be able to hear each individual player shine through and make their own statement. With a nimble group of this size, we can highlight intricate details in each score whilst still presenting a robust and unified string sound. The ensemble is equally suited to the detailed textures of *Illumine* by Anna Thorvaldsdottir and, on the other hand, the sweeping harmonies of *nyepi* by Olafur Arnalds. We open with *Starburst*, a short work by Jessie Montgomery that is the perfect piece for Australia's up-and-coming stars in music.

Words by Timo-Veikko Valve