**ACO 2026  
  
FROM THE EVERYDAY TO THE EXHILARATING.**

The life of a touring musician is not for the faint-hearted. In amongst the excitement and thrill of a concert, is the everyday. Hours lost in transit, quiet, solitary moments in hotels, a coffee on the way to rehearsal, all leading up to the buzz and adrenaline of those final moments backstage. We invite you to share some of these moments with us as you explore our 2026 Season. The ACO in time and place. A rhythm that mirrors the Orchestra itself – uncompromising, adventurous, and always in motion.

In 2026, the ACO brings you a Season that spans a millennium of music, from the ancient hymns of the frozen North to the majestic symphonies of the 18th and 19th century masters, right through to trailblazing new works. This traversing of music across cultures and centuries is a calling card for Richard and the ACO and,

accompanied by their exceptional standard of playing, has come to define the group and the unique place it holds as one of the world’s great chamber orchestras.

Life within the ACO isn’t for the faint of heart. As Australia’s most travelled orchestra, both nationally and internationally, the hours are long. Life is often lived out of a suitcase and the standard of performance is ever higher, year on year. But, for the musicians, their role within the Orchestra is not just a job; it’s a vocation, a calling that can only be met with full-throttle enthusiasm and indefatigable commitment – to their craft, to one another and, most importantly, to you, our audience.

Accordingly, I urge you to browse through these pages and consider making a commitment of your own to what will be an extraordinary season of music, brought to you by Richard and his truly one-of-a-kind ensemble.

**RICHARD EVANS AM**

**Managing Director**

There comes a point – somewhere past the age of 23 – when you stop trying to outrun time. Instead, you start listening to it, noticing how it bends and blurs in memory, how it sharpens in stillness. Music has always been a way to hold onto time, or at least to touch it differently. This season, we travel through music that doesn’t simply mark time, it questions it. Pieces that remind us of what music has always done best: to hold a moment just long enough to feel outside of time.

From the fierce, spiritual urgency of Sofia Gubaidulina, to the elemental vastness of John Luther Adams, to Bach’s Christmas *Oratorio* where time feels both eternal and newly born, these works are invitations to step outside the ticking of the clock, to feel how music can stretch a moment, suspend it, let it linger long enough to

alter memory. Because sometimes, a phrase, a silence, a single note, can make time feel like it’s listening back.

So welcome to a season where time bends, breath holds, and music remembers what the clock forgets.

We’ll meet you in the hall.

**RICHARD TOGNETTI AO**

**Artistic Director**

“Melbourne is the place where my first musical memories were formed. As a child, I used to watch my dad perform at Hamer Hall. I remember him once glancing up and winking at me. Nobody’s heart was bursting more than mine that day. Each time we step onto the stage, I’m conscious that this moment is entirely its own — fleeting, unrepeatable, and an honour to share with our audience. It’s a privilege to travel the world and dedicate my life to sharing this music with you.”

**– STEFANIE FARRANDS, PRINCIPAL VIOLA**

**ACO 2026**

A season that pays tribute to some of the most monumental and influential music ever written while celebrating today’s most captivating musical voices.

**Rachmaninoff’s Rhapsody**

5 – 18 FEB

A musical revelation starring pianist Dejan Lazić, with a world premiere from John Luther Adams.

**The Devil’s Violin**

12 – 28 MAR

Virtuoso Ilya Gringolts directs the ACO in a program that pushes the violin to its fiery limits.

**Schubert’s Fantasy & Octet**

14 – 30 MAY

Richard Tognetti leads an ACO octet to celebrate the greatest of musical poets.

**Isles of Light**

13 – 23 JUN

Voyage from the pastoral majesty of Vaughan Williams to the experimental universe of Kate Bush.

**From Winter’s Stillness**

25 JUL – 9 AUG

A soul-stirring evocation of ancient landscapes and Northern light.

**Pekka Kuusisto: Legends & Luminaries**

3 – 19 OCT

Singular artist Pekka Kuusisto makes his long-awaited return to direct the ACO in music that transcends age and time.

**Beethoven’s Pastoral**

12 – 25 NOV

A thrilling season finale featuring Beethoven’s epic and transportive Sixth Symphony.

**Special Event:**

**Mozart’s Last Symphonies**

19 – 25 SEP

Experience one of the greatest chamber orchestras in the world at its joyous and inspirational best.

**Special Event:**

**Bach’s Christmas Oratorio**

8 – 11 DEC

Celebrate the festive season with Bach’s revelatory choral masterpiece.

**RACHMANINOFF’S RHAPSODY**

**5 – 18 FEB**

**A musical revelation starring pianist Dejan Lazić, with a world premiere from John Luther Adams.**   
  
When Rachmaninoff first performed his *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, it had the audience in raptures. The extraordinary pianist had written a showstopper, and audiences have loved its lush, romantic melodies for nearly 100 years. Now, the ever- adventurous pianist Dejan Lazić returns to the ACO to play it, in a new arrangement for piano and strings.

In this joyful season opener directed by Richard Tognetti and featuring the singular talents of Lazić as soloist, the ACO explores the power of music to take us to the edge of what is known… and beyond. Come with us to explore where the lines between earth, sea and sky merge. There, possibility is infinite.

John Luther Adams is a Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer whose music is a profound response to the natural world. In the world premiere of his expansive *Horizon*, you’ll explore the extremes of the Australian landscape. Born of a residency in Australia, Adams plays with space, sound and texture to immerse you in this special place.

Raminta Šerkšnytė’s euphoric *De Profundis* plays with high and low extremes, in a piece full of energy and drama. Stravinsky’s balletic Concerto in D is sometimes ominous, sometimes graceful, and always impressive.

Lazić describes playing with the ACO as “coming home”. This latest collaboration between virtuosos – and old friends – is not to be missed.

**PROGRAM**

**John Luther Adams** Horizon\* (World Premiere)

**Igor Stravinsky** Concerto in D “Basle”

**Raminta Šerkšnytė** De Profundis (Australian Premiere)

**Sergei Rachmaninoff** (arr. piano, percussion and strings) Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op.43

\*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra

**ARTISTS**

**Richard Tognetti** Director & Violin

**Dejan Lazić** Piano

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**DATES**

**Newcastle City Hall**

Thu 5 Feb 7.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 7 Feb 7.30pm

Mon 9 Feb 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 8 Feb 2.30pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Tue 10 Feb 8pm

Wed 11 Feb 7pm

Sat 14 Feb 7pm

**Wollongong Town Hall**

Thu 12 Feb 7.30pm

Sydney Opera House

Sun 15 Feb 2pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 16 Feb 7pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Wed 18 Feb 7.30pm

**THE DEVIL’S VIOLIN**

**12 – 28 MAR**

**Virtuoso Ilya Gringolts directs the ACO in a program that pushes the violin to its fiery limits.**  
The devil played the violin for Tartini in a dream. The music was charismatic, electrifying, fiendishly difficult and utterly transfixing. Tartini awoke and transcribed the melody, penning the *Devil’s Trill* sonata. It can only be played by someone astounding.   
  
Ilya Gringolts is that player, returning with his dazzling virtuosity and commanding stage presence for his third tour with the ACO. In the rehearsal room, Gringolts brings an intellectual curiosity and joy in experimentation, whether he’s playing Vivaldi or breathing life into new music. On stage, the result is an assured mastery, where the most difficult music appears effortless. The ACO is one of his favourite ensembles, collaborators capable of answering his nuance and creativity with their own curiosity and skill.   
  
Gringolts and the ACO explore their shared passion for authentic interpretations of Italian Baroque music in a sparkling program featuring Geminiani, Tartini and Vivaldi – where Gringolts will be joined by ACO Principal Violin Satu Vänskä – performed in contrast with contemporary works. Enigmatic Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina’s String Quartet No.2 looks to the harmonies of heaven from an unsettled, earthbound soul. Renowned Australian composer Paul Stanhope’s Giving Ground is a dramatic answer to Geminiani’s famous Concerto Grosso.

Experience the violin pushed to its very limits with Ilya Gringolts and the ACO, in this fiery display from two of the world’s greats.

**PROGRAM**

**Johann Paul von Westhoff** Violin Sonata No.3 in D minor: III. Imitation of the Bells

**Antonio Vivaldi** Violin Concerto in D minor, RV237

**Sofia Gubaidulina** (arr. strings) String Quartet No.2

**Giuseppe Tartini** (arr. strings) Violin Sonata in G minor “Devil’s Trill”

**Mieczysław Weinberg** Aria, Op.9

**Antonio Vivaldi** Concerto for Two Violins in C major, RV507

**Paul Stanhope** Giving Ground\*

**Francesco Geminiani** Concerto Grosso No.12 in D minor “La Follia”

\*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

**ARTISTS**  
**Ilya Gringolts** Director & Violin

**Satu Vänskä**Violin

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**DATES**

**Wollongong Town Hall**

Thu 12 Mar 7.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 14 Mar 7.30pm

Mon 16 Mar 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 15 Mar 2.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 17 Mar 7.30pm

**Perth - Winthrop Hall**

Wed 18 Mar 7.30pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Sat 21 Mar 7pm

Tue 24 Mar 8pm

Wed 25 Mar 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 22 Mar 2pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 23 Mar 7pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 28 Mar 7.30pm

“Being part of a touring orchestra is a constant juggling act, balancing both our playing lives and our home and family lives. It can be tough, but I feel incredibly privileged. The moment I landed in Sydney for the first time, I fell in love with the sparkling beauty of the harbour, the light and the endless sky. For a girl from North London, it still has that intoxicating allure. Whenever we hit the tarmac in Sydney, I know I am home.”

**– HELENA RATHBONE, PRINCIPAL VIOLIN**

**SCHUBERT’S FANTASY & OCTET**

**14 – 30 MAY**

**Richard Tognetti leads an ACO octet to celebrate the greatest of musical poets.**  
  
Schubert composed like an oil painter, drawing from a rich palette of melodic and harmonic colours. With a divine lyricism at its heart, his music is imbued with an intimacy and intensity that taps into the full range of human emotion.   
  
Richard Tognetti’s affinity for Schubert is evident in every note he plays. Here, he directs an ACO ensemble featuring a handpicked selection of Australia’s top wind players in two exquisite works that showcase Schubert as a master of chamber music.   
  
Schubert wrote his Octet to emulate his hero Beethoven’s groundbreaking septet – adding an extra violin and revelling in the textural possibilities of the winds and strings together. The result offers the drama of a big orchestra with the agility of a small ensemble. The Octet is six movements of unbridled joy, studded with moments of darkness and poignancy that make its resolution even more satisfying. Schubert’s beloved Fantasy in C major for violin and piano was inspired by Paganini’s brilliance and is arranged by Tognetti for the magic of the ACO octet. It is a shimmering and compelling counterpart that completes this heart-warming, life-affirming concert experience.

**ARTISTS**   
**Richard Tognetti** Director & Violin   
**Helena Rathbone** Violin   
**Stefanie Farrands** Viola   
**Johannes Rostamo** Cello

**Maxime Bibeau** Double Bass.   
**David Griffiths** Clarinet

**Todd Gibson-Cornish** Bassoon

**Carla Blackwood** Horn

**PROGRAM**

**Franz Schubert** (arr. Tognetti) Fantasy in C major, D.934

**Franz Schubert** Octet in F major, D.803

**DATES**

**Newcastle City Hall**

Thu 14 May 7.30pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 16 May 7.30pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 17 May 2pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 19 May 7.30pm

**Wollongong Town Hall**

Thu 21 May 7.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 23 May 7.30pm

Mon 25 May 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 24 May 2.30pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Tue 26 May 8pm

Wed 27 May 7pm

Fri 29 May 7pm

Sat 30 May 7pm

**ISLES OF LIGHT**

**13 – 23 JUN**

**A genre-defying voyage from the pastoral majesty of Vaughan Williams to the experimental universe of Kate Bush, directed by British virtuoso Lawrence Power.**   
  
The British Isles boast a magnificent anthology of music grounded in lush, poetic landscapes and thriving cities. This concert will transport you there. British violin and viola virtuoso Lawrence Power makes his ACO debut directing music from Thomas Tallis’ evocative theme - made famous by Vaughan Williams - to the genre-defying exuberance of Kate Bush.

Vaughan Williams’ sublime *Fantasia* is a pinnacle of the English music tradition that has inspired countless musicians. Herbert Howells heard its premiere and left the cathedral to wander awestruck through the streets of Gloucester, staying up all night with excitement before writing his *Elegy*, an answer to Vaughan Williams, and a prayer of thanksgiving for musical imagination.

Power is a brilliant violist who is equally at home on the violin. Effortlessly switching between the two instruments in the one performance, he is a thrilling and imaginative artist. Power will perform the world premiere of a new viola concerto written for him by his friend Garth Knox, inspired by Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and English folk music. Opening with a mixtape of English music beginning with Baroque master Henry Purcell, the concert culminates in Elizabeth Maconchy’s Symphony for Double String Orchestra. A lifelong friend of Vaughan Williams, she is considered one of the great 20th-century British composers. Brought to life by an expanded ACO, the symphony will bring this odyssey to a thrilling close.

**ARTISTS**

**Lawrence Power** Director, Violin & Viola

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**PROGRAM**

**Various** An English Mixtape, from Henry Purcell to Kate Bush

**Garth Knox** Viola Concerto\* (World Premiere)

**Vaughan Williams** Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis

**Herbert Howells** Elegy, Op.15

**Elizabeth Maconchy** Symphony for Double String Orchestra

\* Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Camerata Bern supported by Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation.

**DATES**

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 13 Jun 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 14 Jun 2.30pm

Mon 15 Jun 7.30pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Tue 16 Jun 8pm

Wed 17 Jun 7pm

Fri 19 Jun 7pm

Sat 20 Jun 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 21 Jun 2pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 22 Jun 7pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 23 Jun 7.30pm

“The ACO is a remarkable band, quite unlike any other”

**– THE GUARDIAN UK**

**FROM WINTER’S STILLNESS**

**25 JUL – 9 AUG**

**Trio Mediæval and Arve Henriksen join Richard Tognetti and the ACO for a soul-stirring evocation of ancient landscapes and Northern light.**   
  
From the cold, clear quiet of a wintery morning, comes the music of an ancient landscape: the snow-strewn mountains and shores along the Baltic and Nordic seas.  
  
Richard Tognetti directs this extraordinary collaboration between the international vocal phenomenon Trio Mediæval, jazz trumpeter Arve Henriksen and the ACO. Playing with a larger ensemble boosted by our 2026 Emerging Artists, the Orchestra invites you into an evocative sound world. Ancient hymns from Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Estonia capture the majesty of the frozen North, together with the quiet joy of Sigur Rós and the haunting beauty of Hildur Guðnadóttir. Guðnadóttir has quickly become one of the most sought-after composers in Hollywood. Her score for the HBO series, *Chernobyl*, won her an Emmy and GRAMMY Award while her soundtrack to Todd Phillips’ *Joker* won the Golden Globe and Academy Award for Best Original Score.  
  
Interspersed with the fevered energy of Schnittke’s Concerto Grosso and Riley’s electric *Half Wolf Dances Mad in the Moonlight*, the program will draw you in to a world of wonder. Trio Mediæval’s ethereal harmonies and unexpected collaborations, and Henriksen’s rare softness and spirituality have captivated audiences around the world. Making their debut with Tognetti and the ACO, this is a soul-stirring concert that will stay with you long after you leave the concert hall.

**ARTISTS**

**Richard Tognetti** Director & Violin

**Satu Vänskä** Violin

***Trio Mediæval***: **Anna Maria Friman, Ditte Marie Bræin, Jorunn Lovise Husan** Vocals

**Arve Henriksen** Trumpet

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**PROGRAM**

**Terry Riley** Half Wolf Dances Mad in the Moonlight

**Sigur Rós** (arr. trumpet and strings) Fljótavík

**Tõnu Kõrvits** Kellemäng (Bells)

**Alfred Schnittke** Concerto Grosso No.1   
*Interleaved with medieval hymns to St Birgitta, St Sunniva and St Magnus*

**Traditional** Det lisle bånet (The Little Child)

**Arve Henriksen** Plume of Ash

**Hildur Guðnadóttir** New Commission\* (World Premiere)

\*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra

**DATES**

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 25 Jul 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 26 Jul 2.30pm

Mon 27 Jul 7.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 28 Jul 7.30pm

**Perth - Winthrop Hall**

Wed 29 Jul 7.30pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Sat 1 Aug 7pm

Tue 4 Aug 8pm

Wed 5 Aug 7pm

Fri 7 Aug 7pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 3 Aug 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 9 Aug 2pm

**PEKKA KUUSISTO: LEGENDS & LUMINARIES**

**3 – 19 OCT**

**Singular artist Pekka Kuusisto makes his long-awaited return to direct the ACO in music that transcends age and time.**   
  
Pekka Kuusisto returns to the ACO after nearly a decade to direct music from four prodigious talents. Kuusisto is an artist unbound by convention, who embodies an artistic freedom that is unexpected and thrilling. As a renowned virtuoso and boundary- crossing composer, he pushes the limits of performance into exciting new realms, championing contemporary music with an openness and warmth that captivates audiences.

Mozart is the original prodigy. His effervescent opera *The Magic Flute* is filled with sparkling lyricism and the ACO will play some of its most loved tunes. Nico Muhly’s *Shrink*, written especially for Kuusisto’s extraordinary talents, is a big, glittering violin concerto that plays with smaller and smaller intervals as it bristles with intensity. Kuusisto is a great admirer and frequent collaborator with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Ellen Reid. Hear the Australian premiere of her *West Coast Sky Eternal*, a work that wrestles with the disconnect between the business of living and the majesty of sky, land and sea.   
  
Felix Mendelssohn’s precocious talents were evident as a child and began to outstrip even Mozart as a teen. His Quintet in B-flat major harnesses a fierce energy and lively power – a perfect match for the effusive style of the ACO and Kuusisto.

**ARTISTS**

**Pekka Kuusisto** Director & Violin

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**PROGRAM**

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (arr. Kuusisto) The Magic Flute, K.620: Selections

**Nico Muhly** Shrink: Concerto for Violin and Strings\*

**Ellen Reid** West Coast Sky Eternal (Australian Premiere)

**Felix Mendelssohn** (arr. strings) String Quintet No.2 in B-flat major, Op.87

\*Co-commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Melbourne Recital Centre, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra with the kind support of the MCO Foundation, and Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

**DATES**

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**Sat 3 Oct 7pm

Tue 6 Oct 8pm

Wed 7 Oct 7pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 10 Oct 7.30pm

Mon 12 Oct 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 11 Oct 2.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 13 Oct 7.30pm

**Perth - Winthrop Hall**

Wed 14 Oct 7.30pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 17 Oct 7.30pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 18 Oct 2pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 19 Oct 7pm

“I always look forward to returning to Melbourne. I happily allow myself to be a foodie and enjoy the amazing variety of restaurants, markets and coffee places in this great city!”

**– ILYA ISAKOVICH, VIOLIN**

**BEETHOVEN’S PASTORAL**

**12 – 25 NOV**

**Richard Tognetti directs the ACO in a thrilling season finale featuring Beethoven’s epic and transportive Sixth Symphony.**   
  
To see Richard Tognetti and the ACO perform Beethoven is to experience a ‘magnificent unanimity’\* of vision, drama and expressive force. In this majestic and uplifting finale to our 2026 National Concert Season, Richard and an expanded ACO perform an all-Beethoven program that takes audiences on a journey through creation and wonder, beginning with the dramatic *Coriolan Overture* before culminating in the master craftsman’s *Pastoral Symphony.*   
  
Beethoven’s *Pastoral Symphony* is a love letter to the countryside. But it’s more than a musical picture of languid hills and changing seasons. Beethoven set out to capture how being immersed in nature feels. The awe of a sudden storm, and the inner peace that descends when it passes. The sense of wonder in a calling bird. Beethoven wanted you to *feel* his *Pastoral Symphony*, not just hear it.

Russian Australian pianist Konstantin Shamray shares Piano a remarkable musical synergy with Richard Tognetti and ACO Timo-Veikko Valve. It is fitting that this trio come together for Beethoven’s lyrical *Triple Concerto*, a work that basks in the joy of collaboration.

**ARTISTS**

**Richard Tognetti** Director & Violin

**Timo-Veikko Valve** Cello

**Konstantin Shamray** Piano

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**PROGRAM**  
**Ludwig van Beethoven** Coriolan Overture, Op.62   
**Ludwig van Beethoven** Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano in C major, Op.56   
**Ludwig van Beethoven** Symphony No.6 in F major, Op.68 “Pastoral”  
\*Sydney Morning Herald

**DATES**

**Newcastle City Hall**

Thu 12 Nov 7.30pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Sat 14 Nov 7pm

Tue 17 Nov 8pm

Wed 18 Nov 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 15 Nov 2pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 16 Nov 7pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 21 Nov 7.30pm

Mon 23 Nov 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 22 Nov 2.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 24 Nov 7.30pm

**Perth - Winthrop Hall**

Sat 25 Nov 7.30pm

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**MOZART’S LAST SYMPHONIES**  
**19 – 25 SEP**

**Experience one of the greatest chamber orchestras in the world at its joyous and inspirational best.**The late symphonies of Mozart are a touchstone for extraordinary musicians and experiencing the ACO perform them is an unforgettable experience. Richard Tognetti played the last three symphonies in his first year as Artistic Director of the ACO, and he returns to them often because they are works that only grow with each interpretation.   
  
For six weeks in the summer of 1788, Mozart wrote in a fit of obsessive inspiration. With no commission or concert in mind, he composed without fear or favour, driven only by a personal fire to create. The result was a jubilant family of three symphonies that pull together all of Mozart’s powers of invention, complexity and refined melodic writing. Three years later, he was gone, and the symphonies have taken on a mythic quality. We’ll never know if Mozart perceived his early death and set out to create a startling legacy. We don’t know if he ever heard them performed.   
  
No.39 is a stately, gentle masterpiece. No.40 is a profound, almost Romantic symphony that looks ahead to a new era. No.41, the *Jupiter Symphony*, is a heroic and surprising full stop on a career that changed the face of music forever. Its finale is one of the pinnacles of human creation.   
  
Under Tognetti’s direction, the ACO, joined by wind and brass players on instruments from the time of Mozart, will perform the last three symphonies. This promises to be a highlight of the year.

**ARTISTS**

**Richard Tognetti** Director & Violin

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**PROGRAM**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Symphony No.39 in E-flat major, K.543

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Symphony No.40 in G minor, K.550

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Symphony No.41 in C major, K.551 “Jupiter”

**DATES**

**Sydney Opera House**

Sat 19 Sep 2pm

Mon 21 Sep 7.30pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Tue 22 Sep 7pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Thu 24 Sep 7.30pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Fri 25 Sep 7.30pm

“Playing and touring with the orchestra is an intense experience. At the risk of sounding clichéd, it really is like a second family (the good, the bad and the ugly!). We share many wonderful moments, on and off the stage, but solitude is also important. Quiet practice time or a soak in the bath goes a long way… preferably not simultaneously!”

**– IKE SEE, VIOLIN**

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**BACH’S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO**  
**8 – 11 DEC**

**Celebrate the festive season with Bach’s revelatory choral masterpiece.**   
  
A performance of Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* is a transformative experience. Sublime choral and orchestral magic culminate in a feast for the senses. Bach wrote his Christmas cantatas to be performed on six different days. Here, you will immerse yourself in his masterpiece over one night.   
  
In partnership with The Song Company, the ACO presents a blockbuster performance of Bach’s glorious oratorio, featuring exultant choral passages, a tenor soloist/narrator and magnificent orchestral forces. Bach canvases the joy and wonder of the nativity story as Mary contemplates motherhood, the angels appear in triumphant glory before the shepherds and wise men bow before a tiny babe.   
  
Tognetti’s affinity for Bach is famous and the ACO’s last presentation of this work, nearly a decade ago, blew critics and audiences away. With only three performances, book early to secure your seat to the ultimate event of the festive season.

**ARTISTS**

**Richard Tognetti** Director & Violin

**Amy Moore** Soprano & Co-Artistic Director,The Song Company

**Jessica O’Donoghue** Mezzo Soprano & Co-Artistic Director,The Song Company

**Australian Chamber Orchestra  
  
PROGRAM**

**Johann Sebastian Bach** Christmas Oratorio, BWV428

Presented in collaboration with The Song Company.

**DATES**

**Sydney - City Recital Hall**

Tue 8 Dec 6.30pm

Wed 9 Dec 6.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Fri 11 Dec 6.30pm

**ACO ON DEMAND**

**Stream The Four Seasons**

Experience Vivaldi’s masterpiece like never before in this intimate and immersive film directed by Matisse Ruby. Richard Tognetti, Joseph Tawadros, James Tawadros and the ACO give an electrifying performance accompanied by interviews that shed fascinating insights into this unique and groundbreaking musical collaboration.

**If you missed it in cinemas, you can stream it now for $14.99.**

Enjoy unlimited access via Apple TV, Android phone apps or online.

**Register and stream at ACOONDEMAND.COM**

**ACO COLLECTIVE**

Our acclaimed ensemble made up of ACO Emerging Artists and their ACO mentors, has been bringing the Orchestra’s signature sound to regional and metropolitan concert halls across Australia for almost two decades. In 2026 you’ll see ACO Collective at the ACO’s home in Walsh Bay, Sydney, and at regional venues in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia.

Audiences can also see our 2026 Emerging Artists performing alongside the ACO in August national tour, *From Winter’s Stillness.*

**BACH, BRAHMS & PÄRT**

**19 – 29 MAY**

ACO Principal Violin Satu Vänskä directs ACO Collective in a program of music close to the Orchestra’s heart, including Arvo Pärt’s captivating Fratres and Brahms’ epic Sextet in G major arranged for string orchestra.

**DATES**

**Sydney – The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Sydney**

Tue 19 May 7pm Wed 9 Dec 7pm

**Warrnambool – Lighthouse Theatre**

Thu 21 May 7pm 11–13 Dec

**Cowes – Berninneit**

Sat 23 May 7.30pm

**Shepparton – Riverlinks**

Mon 25 May 7pm

**Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre**

Wed 27 May 7pm

**Orange Civic Centre**

Fri 29 May 7.30pm

**SOUND & SENSE FESTIVAL**

**9 – 13 DEC**

Internationally-acclaimed British violinist Anthony Marwood directs ACO Collective across three chamber music-filled concerts at Vasse Felix winery in Margaret River as part of their annual cultural weekend festival.

**DATES**

**Sydney – The Neilson, ACO On The Pier**

Wed 9 Dec 7pm

**Margaret River – Vasse Felix**

11–13 Dec

**STAY UP TO DATE**

Sign up to our e-news to be notified of full program details and when tickets go on sale.

**FESTIVALS & INTERNATIONAL TOURING**In 2026 we return to two of Australia’s most stunning wine regions for exclusive weekend festivals, and embark on a tour to North America.

**VASSE FELIX**

Charismatic violinist, Anthony Marwood, directs ACO Collective across three concerts at the Sound & Sense Festival at Vasse Felix in Margaret River. Described as “Britain’s most adventurous violinist”, this promises to be an unforgettable experience and will feature musicians from the ACO’s acclaimed Emerging Artist Program. Places are limited so sign up to our e-news to be the first to know when tickets go on sale.

**11 – 13 DEC**

VASSE FELIX – WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
  
**TARRAWARRA FESTIVAL**

Our annual festival at the TarraWarra Museum of Art will feature performances from Richard Tognetti and the ACO in the Eva and Marc Besen Centre. Book early for this intimate and exclusive cultural weekend.

**28 FEB – 1 MAR**

TARRAWARRA MUSEUM OF ART – VICTORIA

**INTERNATIONAL**

Across five decades the ACO has maintained a thriving international presence. In 2026 we’re thrilled to return to some of our favourite cities and concert hall stages in North America. Look out for further announcements over the coming months as we unveil our full international itinerary.

“Touring life has its own set rhythm – you enter a sort of bubble, flying from place to place and hall to hall. Performing concerts becomes the ritual, your meditation, and the lively connection with your fellow musicians and the audience. I think I’d find it harder to live without this extra, freeing dimension of the performance space.”

**– MELISSA BARNARD, CELLO**

**OUR MUSICIANS**

**Richard Tognetti** – Artistic Director and Lead Violin Richard

**Helena Rathbone** – Principal Violin

**Satu Vänskä** – Principal Violin

**Anna Da Silva Chen** - Violin

**Aiko Goto** – Violin

**Ilya Isakovich** – Violin  
**Liisa Pallandi** – Violin  
**Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba** – Violin  
**Ike See** – Violin

**Tim Yu** – Violin

**Stephanie Farrands** – Principal Viola

**Elizabeth Woolnough** – Viola

**Timo-Veikko Valve** – Principal Cello

**Melissa Barnard** – Cello

**Julian Thompson** – Cello

**Maxime Bibeau** – Principal Bass

**WHY SUBSCRIBE?**

#1 Access the best seats

#2 Be the first to book special events

#3 Enjoy the biggest savings

#4 Free and easy ticket exchanges

#5 Exclusive access to subscriber events and offers

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**FLEXI-SUBSCRIPTION**Build your own package by choosing any three or more concerts in our season.

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Choose the venues and performance dates that suit you.

Enjoy free and easy ticket exchanges throughout the year if your plans change.

Access exclusive subscriber offers and events.

**SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES**

**FULL-SEASON SUBSCRIPTION**

Full-season Subscription packages have a set number of concerts in each venue, on set dates.

Pricing varies according to the venue, program, ticket reserve and number

of concerts in your package. For detailed pricing visit aco.com.au or call our Box Office on 1800 444 444 (Mon-Fri 9am–5pm AEST).

**FLEXI-SUBSCRIPTION**

Build your own season by choosing three or more concerts at any venue, on any performance date.

Visit aco.com.au or call the ACO Box Office for Flexi-subscription pricing.

**HOW TO SUBSCRIBE**

**Online** at aco.com.au

**Phone** 1800 444 444 (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm AEST)

**Mail to** PO Box R21 Royal Exchange NSW 1225

**In Person** ACO On The Pier, Suite 3, 13A Hickson Road, Dawes Point 2000

**KEY DATES**

**WED 20 Aug 2025**

Full-season and Flexi-subscriptions on sale.

**WED 17 Sep 2025**

Full-season Subscription renewal deadline.

2025 Subscribers will need to renew their subscription by this date to retain their seats for the 2026 Season.

**WED 15 Oct 2025**

Single ticket presale opens.

Sign up to the ACO e-news to access tickets.

**FRI 17 Oct 2025**

Single tickets go on sale to the general public.

**DIGITAL TICKETS**

All 2026 tickets (including subscriptions) will be sent out as digital tickets to the email address registered to your account. Tickets will be emailed one concert at a time throughout 2026, four days ahead of each concert.

**CONCESSIONS**

We offer special pricing to those who hold means-tested Pensioner, Veterans’ Affair and Health Care cards, full-time students and those under the age of 35. Please have your proof of concession with you at the venue so staff may sight it upon entry.

**Support the ACO**

Since its first performance in 1975, the ACO’s unwavering quest for artistic excellence has infused each and every note that the Orchestra has played. Help us blaze a trail into our next 50 years by joining ACO GOLD – our special golden anniversary circle – to celebrate this key moment in our story.

Find out more at aco.com.au/gold or call Celeste Moore, Head of Philanthropy,

on 02 8274 3803.

Visit: aco.com.au/gold

Call: Celeste Moore on +612 8274 3803 55