

ACO

Australian Chamber Orchestra

2026



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



Wesfarmers Arts

Monday
17:30

Melbourne
Victoria

Monday
10:23

Melbourne
Victoria

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



Monday
21:57

Melbourne
Victoria



Tuesday
11:15

Melbourne
Victoria



“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



Monday
15:37

Brisbane
Queensland

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.

P. 25 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.

P. 29 Beethoven’s Pastoral

12 – 25 NOV
A thrilling season finale featuring Beethoven’s epic and transportive Sixth Symphony.

P. 30 *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.

P. 34 *Special Event:*
Bach’s Christmas Oratorio

8 – 11 DEC
Celebrate the festive season with Bach’s revelatory choral masterpiece.

P. 11 Rachmaninoff’s Rhapsody

5 – 18 FEB
A musical revelation starring pianist Dejan Lazić, with a world premiere from John Luther Adams.

P. 13 The Devil’s Violin

12 – 28 MAR
Virtuoso Ilya Gringolts directs the ACO in a program that pushes the violin to its fiery limits.

P. 16 Schubert’s Fantasy & Octet

14 – 30 MAY
Richard Tognetti leads an ACO octet to celebrate the greatest of musical poets.

P. 18 Isles of Light

13 – 23 JUN
Voyage from the pastoral majesty of Vaughan Williams to the experimental universe of Kate Bush.

P. 23 From Winter’s Stillness

25 JUL – 9 AUG
A soul-stirring evocation of ancient landscapes and Northern light.

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Opposite: *ACO Unleashed*, hotel arrival, 2025.



RACHMANINOFF’S RHAPSODY

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.



ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti
Director & Violin

Dejan Lazić
Piano

Australian Chamber Orchestra

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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

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.



THE DEVIL’S VIOLIN

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 Vänскä – 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.



ARTISTS

Ilya Gringolts
Director & Violin

Satu Vänскä
Violin

Australian Chamber Orchestra

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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

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.



Sunday
11:09

Sydney
New South Wales

“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



Sunday
17:48

Sydney
New South Wales

SCHUBERT’S FANTASY & OCTET

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.

PROGRAM

Franz Schubert (arr. Tognetti) Fantasy in C major, D.934
Franz Schubert Octet in F major, D.803



- 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
-
- 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

Opposite: Elizabeth Woolnough, Viola.



ISLES OF LIGHT

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.

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.



ARTISTS
Lawrence Power
Director, Violin & Viola

Australian Chamber Orchestra

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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

Tuesday
07:32

Brisbane
Queensland



Opposite: Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba, Violin. Following: Liisa Pallandi, Violin.

Tuesday
16:58

Adelaide
South Australia



Sunday
14:10

Melbourne
Victoria



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

– THE GUARDIAN UK



FROM WINTER’S STILLNESS

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

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

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 bålet (The Little Child)
Arve Henriksen Plume of Ash
Hildur Guðnadóttir New Commission* (World Premiere)

*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra



PEKKA KUUSISTO: LEGENDS & LUMINARIES

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

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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

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.

Monday
15:08

Melbourne
Victoria

**"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

Tuesday
13:42

Adelaide
South Australia





BEETHOVEN’S PASTORAL

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 a remarkable musical synergy with Richard Tognetti and ACO Principal Cello 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

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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

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National Tour Partner

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

SPECIAL EVENT

MOZART’S LAST SYMPHONIES

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.

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”



ARTISTS
Richard Tognetti
Director & Violin

Australian Chamber Orchestra

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

Opposite: Maxime Bibeau, Principal Bass.



Tuesday
13:21

Adelaide
South Australia



“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

Tuesday
14:38

Adelaide
South Australia



SPECIAL EVENT

BACH’S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

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.

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach Christmas Oratorio, BWV428

Presented in collaboration with The Song Company.



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

DATES

Sydney - City Recital Hall
Tue 8 Dec 6.30pm
Wed 9 Dec 6.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre
Fri 11 Dec 6.30pm

Opposite: Tim Yu, Violin.



Sunday
13:10

Sydney
New South Wales



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.

Opposite: *ACO Unleashed* rehearsal
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne, 2025.

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 our August national tour, *From Winter’s Stillness*.

SEE PAGE 23 FOR DETAILS.

BACH, BRAHMS & PÄRT

ACO Principal Violin Satu Vänkä 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.

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DATES

Sydney – The Neilson, ACO On The Pier
Tue 19 May 7pm

Warrnambool – Lighthouse Theatre
Thu 21 May 7pm

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

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.

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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



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

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.

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.

Top: Vasse Felix, Margaret River.
Above: TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville.
Left: Berlin, 2022. Photo: Nic Walker.
Opposite: Julian Thompson, Cello.

Sunday
13:52

Sydney
New South Wales



Sunday
13:23

Sydney
New South Wales

“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 plays a 1741–44 Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù violin on loan from the ACO. His Chair is sponsored by Gaby Kennard, Peter McMullin AM & Ruth McMullin, Andrew & Andrea Roberts, and Rosy Seaton & Seumas Dawes.

Helena Rathbone

PRINCIPAL VIOLIN
Helena plays the 1732 ‘ex- Dollfus’ Stradivarius violin on loan from anonymous Australian private benefactors. Her Chair is sponsored by Margaret Gibbs & Rod Cameron.

Satu Vänskä

PRINCIPAL VIOLIN
Satu plays a 1728/29 Stradivarius violin on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund. Her Chair is sponsored by David Thomas AM.

Anna da Silva Chen

VIOLIN
Anna plays an 18th-century violin made in the style of Pietro Guarneri of Venice, on loan from Jannie Brown. Her Chair is sponsored by Alenka Tindale.

Aiko Goto

VIOLIN
Aiko plays her own 1862 French violin by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume. Her Chair is sponsored by Anthony & Sharon Lee Foundation.

Ilya Isakovich

VIOLIN
Ilya plays a 1590 Brothers Amati violin on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund. His Chair is sponsored by Meg Meldrum.

Liisa Pallandi

VIOLIN
Liisa plays a 1759 Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin on loan from the ACO. Her Chair is sponsored by the Melbourne Medical Syndicate.

Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba

VIOLIN
Thibaud plays his own 1842 Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume violin. His Chair is sponsored by The Minta Group.

Ike See

VIOLIN
Ike plays his own 2021 Samuel Zygmuntowicz violin.

Tim Yu

VIOLIN
Tim plays a violin ascribed to Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù in 1740, assembled by John Lott circa 1850, on loan from an anonymous Australian private benefactor. His Chair is sponsored by Barbara & Ralph Ward-Ambler.

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 a 1952 A.E. Smith viola on loan from the ACO. Her Chair is sponsored by Terry Campbell AO & Christine Campbell.

Timo-Veikko Valve

PRINCIPAL CELLO
Tipi plays a 1616 Brothers Amati cello on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund. His Chair is sponsored by Prof Doug Jones AO & Prof Janet Walker CM.

Melissa Barnard

CELLO
Melissa plays an 1846 cello by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume. Her Chair is sponsored by Jason 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, donated to the ACO by the late Peter Weiss AO. His Chair is sponsored by the Stewart Family, and Julie Steiner AM & Judyth Sachs.

Maxime Bibeau

PRINCIPAL BASS
Max plays a late-16th century Gasparo da Salo bass on loan from UKARIA. His Chair is sponsored by Janet Matton AM & Robin Rowe, and Ros Morauta

SEASON OVERVIEW

Adelaide Town Hall	Brisbane QPAC Concert Hall	Canberra Llewellyn Hall	Melbourne Arts Centre Melbourne	Melbourne Recital Centre
	RACHMANINOFF'S RHAPSODY Mon 16 Feb 7pm	RACHMANINOFF'S RHAPSODY Wed 18 Feb 7.30pm	RACHMANINOFF'S RHAPSODY Sun 8 Feb 2.30pm	RACHMANINOFF'S RHAPSODY Sat 7 Feb 7.30pm Mon 9 Feb 7.30pm
THE DEVIL'S VIOLIN Tue 17 Mar 7.30pm	THE DEVIL'S VIOLIN Mon 23 Mar 7pm	THE DEVIL'S VIOLIN Sat 28 Mar 7.30pm	THE DEVIL'S VIOLIN Sun 15 Mar 2.30pm	THE DEVIL'S VIOLIN Sat 14 Mar 7.30pm Mon 16 Mar 7.30pm
SCHUBERT'S FANTASY & OCTET Tue 19 May 7.30pm		SCHUBERT'S FANTASY & OCTET Sat 16 May 7.30pm	SCHUBERT'S FANTASY & OCTET Sun 24 May 2.30pm	SCHUBERT'S FANTASY & OCTET Sat 23 May 7.30pm Mon 25 May 7.30pm
ISLES OF LIGHT Tue 23 Jun 7.30pm	ISLES OF LIGHT Mon 22 Jun 7pm	ISLES OF LIGHT Sat 13 Jun 7.30pm	ISLES OF LIGHT Sun 14 Jun 2.30pm Mon 15 Jun 7.30pm	
FROM WINTER'S STILLNESS Tue 28 Jul 7.30pm	FROM WINTER'S STILLNESS Mon 3 Aug 7pm	FROM WINTER'S STILLNESS Sat 25 Jul 7.30pm	FROM WINTER'S STILLNESS Sun 26 Jul 2.30pm Mon 27 Jul 7.30pm	
PEKKA KUUSISTO: LEGENDS & LUMINARIES Tue 13 Oct 7.30pm	PEKKA KUUSISTO: LEGENDS & LUMINARIES Mon 19 Oct 7pm	PEKKA KUUSISTO: LEGENDS & LUMINARIES Sat 17 Oct 7.30pm	PEKKA KUUSISTO: LEGENDS & LUMINARIES Sun 11 Oct 2.30pm	PEKKA KUUSISTO: LEGENDS & LUMINARIES Sat 10 Oct 7.30pm Mon 12 Oct 7.30pm
BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL Tue 24 Nov 7.30pm	BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL Mon 16 Nov 7pm		BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL Sun 22 Nov 2.30pm	BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL Sat 21 Nov 7.30pm Mon 23 Nov 7.30pm
	SPECIAL ADD-ON: MOZART'S LAST SYMPHONIES Tue 22 Sep 7pm	SPECIAL ADD-ON: MOZART'S LAST SYMPHONIES Fri 25 Sep 7.30pm	SPECIAL ADD-ON: MOZART'S LAST SYMPHONIES Thu 24 Sep 7.30pm	SPECIAL ADD-ON: BACH'S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO Fri 11 Dec 6.30pm

Newcastle City Hall	Perth Winthrop Hall	Sydney City Recital Hall	Sydney Opera House	Wollongong Town Hall
RACHMANINOFF'S RHAPSODY Thu 5 Feb 7.30pm		RACHMANINOFF'S RHAPSODY Tue 10 Feb 8pm Wed 11 Feb 7pm Sat 14 Feb 7pm	RACHMANINOFF'S RHAPSODY Sun 15 Feb 2pm	RACHMANINOFF'S RHAPSODY Thu 12 Feb 7.30pm
	THE DEVIL'S VIOLIN Wed 18 Mar 7.30pm	THE DEVIL'S VIOLIN Sat 21 Mar 7pm Tue 24 Mar 8pm Wed 25 Mar 7pm	THE DEVIL'S VIOLIN Sun 22 Mar 2pm	THE DEVIL'S VIOLIN Thu 12 Mar 7.30pm
SCHUBERT'S FANTASY & OCTET Thu 14 May 7.30pm		SCHUBERT'S FANTASY & OCTET Tue 26 May 8pm Wed 27 May 7pm Fri 29 May 7pm Sat 30 May 7pm	SCHUBERT'S FANTASY & OCTET Sun 17 May 2pm	SCHUBERT'S FANTASY & OCTET Thu 21 May 7.30pm
		ISLES OF LIGHT Tue 16 Jun 8pm Wed 17 Jun 7pm Fri 19 Jun 7pm Sat 20 Jun 7pm	ISLES OF LIGHT Sun 21 Jun 2pm	
	FROM WINTER'S STILLNESS Wed 29 Jul 7.30pm	FROM WINTER'S STILLNESS Sat 1 Aug 7pm Tue 4 Aug 8pm Wed 5 Aug 7pm Fri 7 Aug 7pm	FROM WINTER'S STILLNESS Sun 9 Aug 2pm	
	PEKKA KUUSISTO: LEGENDS & LUMINARIES Wed 14 Oct 7.30pm	PEKKA KUUSISTO: LEGENDS & LUMINARIES Sat 3 Oct 7pm Tue 6 Oct 8pm Wed 7 Oct 7pm	PEKKA KUUSISTO: LEGENDS & LUMINARIES Sun 18 Oct 2pm	
BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL Thu 12 Nov 7.30pm	BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL Sat 25 Nov 7.30pm	BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL Sat 14 Nov 7pm Tue 17 Nov 8pm Wed 18 Nov 7pm	BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL Sun 15 Nov 2pm	
		SPECIAL ADD-ON: BACH'S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO Tue 8 Dec 6.30pm Wed 9 Dec 6.30pm	SPECIAL ADD-ON: MOZART'S LAST SYMPHONIES Sat 19 Sep 2pm Mon 21 Sep 7.30pm	

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

FULL-SEASON SUBSCRIPTION

A set package and a set seat in the venue of your choice.

- > Access the best seats in the house and save up to 35% off single ticket prices.
- > Sit in the same seat for all your concerts. When it comes time to renew for 2027, we'll hold your favourite seats for you.
- > Enjoy free and easy ticket exchanges throughout the year if your plans change.
- > Book now with the option of splitting your payment across four instalments.
- > Save 10% on additional tickets you purchase throughout the season.
- > Access exclusive subscriber offers and events.

FLEXI-SUBSCRIPTION

Build your own package by choosing any three or more concerts in our season.

- > Access the best seats in the house and save up to 20% off single ticket prices.
- > 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.

Sunday
13:42

Melbourne
Victoria



Opposite: Richard Tognetti, Artistic Director and Lead Violin. Photo: Julian Kingma.

SUBSCRIPTION
PACKAGES

FULL-SEASON SUBSCRIPTION

Full-season Subscription packages have a set number of concerts in each venue, on set dates. You can view our tour dates in the Season Overview on pages 46–47.

Pricing varies according to the venue, program, ticket reserve and number of concerts in your package, so please use the table below as a guide only. 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.

ADELAIDE Adelaide Town Hall <i>Tue 7.30pm</i>	BRISBANE QPAC Concert Hall <i>Mon 7pm</i>	PERTH Winthrop Hall <i>Wed 7.30pm</i>	SYDNEY City Recital Hall <i>Fri 7pm</i>	SYDNEY Sydney Opera House <i>Sun 2pm</i>	SYDNEY City Recital Hall <i>Tue 8pm, Wed 7pm or Sat 7pm</i>
SIX CONCERTS	SIX CONCERTS	FOUR CONCERTS	THREE CONCERTS	SEVEN CONCERTS	SEVEN CONCERTS
Adult \$599–\$868*	Adult \$436–\$868*	Adult \$291–\$579*	Adult \$252–\$464*	Adult \$588–\$1,082*	Adult \$588–\$1,082*
Concession \$483–\$727*	Concession \$341–\$727*	Concession \$227–\$484*	Concession \$208 –\$404*	Concession \$485–\$943*	Concession \$485–\$943*
Under 35 \$210**	Under 35 \$210**	Under 35 \$140**	Under 35 \$105**	Under 35 \$245**	Under 35 \$245**
Student \$180**	Student \$180**	Student \$120**	Student \$90**	Student \$210**	Student \$210**
CANBERRA Llewellyn Hall <i>Wed and Sat 7.30pm</i>	WOLLONGONG Wollongong Town Hall <i>Thu 7.30pm</i>	NEWCASTLE Newcastle City Hall <i>Thu 7.30pm</i>	MELBOURNE Melbourne Recital Centre <i>Sat 7.30pm</i>	MELBOURNE Arts Centre Melbourne <i>Sun 2.30pm</i>	MELBOURNE Melbourne Recital Centre and Arts Centre Melbourne <i>Mon 7.30pm</i>
SIX CONCERTS	THREE CONCERTS	THREE CONCERTS	FIVE CONCERTS	SEVEN CONCERTS	SEVEN CONCERTS
Adult \$436–\$868*	Adult \$272–\$408*	Adult \$272–\$408*	Adult \$420–\$773*	Adult \$588–\$1,082*	Adult \$588–\$1,082*
Concession \$341–\$727*	Concession \$228–\$337*	Concession \$228–\$337*	Concession \$346–\$674*	Concession \$485–\$943*	Concession \$485–\$943*
Under 35 \$210**	Under 35 \$105**	Under 35 \$105**	Under 35 \$175**	Under 35 \$245**	Under 35 \$245**
Student \$180**	Student \$90**	Student \$90**	Student \$150**	Student \$210**	Student \$210**

Transaction fee of \$8.50 applies to all bookings.

*Premium – B-reserve.

*Premium – C-reserve

**B – D-reserves only

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.



Sunday
15:37

Sydney
New South Wales



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.

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Saturday
18:42

Melbourne
Victoria South Wales

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Monday
16:54

Melbourne
Victoria



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