

ACO



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



Wesfarmers Arts

2027



SATU VÄNSKÄ — Principal Violin

Join us for an **EPIC** season
that **HONOURS**
TRADITION while revelling in
TRANSFORMATION
that keeps **MUSIC ALIVE.**
Be **CAPTIVATED** by a program of
EXTRAORDINARY
DEPTH that reaches into
THE BEYOND to create live experiences
that are **TRANSCENDENT**
and **PROFOUND.**



TIMO-VEIKKO VALVE — Principal Cello
ANNA DA SILVA CHEN — Violin

In 2027 Richard Tognetti and the ACO revel in the infinite possibilities of what a string orchestra can be and do.

From exploring some of the most extraordinary music ever written and bringing these works to light with the fearless interpretation that has come to define the ensemble, to celebrating today's boldest musical voices, the Season embraces music of remarkable breadth and imagination.

At the ACO's core is a deep commitment to transformation: for the Orchestra itself, for our collaborators here in Australia and around the world, and above all for you, our audiences, whom we encourage to engage with our concerts in ways that move, challenge and inspire.

2027 showcases an Orchestra at the height of its creative powers. I invite you to join us for a season of concerts in which music is not simply performed, but comes alive.

See you in the concert hall.



RICHARD EVANS AM — Managing Director

THOU SHALT NOT...

Cough.

Sneeze.

Whisper.

Arrive late.

Leave early.

Unwrap a lolly.

Check thy phone.

Clap in the “wrong” place.

And thou shall smite thy neighbour for taking a photograph. (No, really. This happened to me.)

For centuries, audiences did almost everything today’s concertgoers have been taught not to do. They applauded when they were moved, chatted with friends, wandered about, ate, drank and treated concerts as lively social occasions rather than solemn rituals. We’re not turning back the clock, nor are we throwing tradition away. We’re simply recognising that the concert experience can continue to evolve.

We invite you to experience great music in atmospheres that are relaxed yet alert, welcoming and engaging. Applaud when you’re moved. Laugh when something is funny. Be curious. Be present.

The music will be extraordinary.

And so will the experience.



RICHARD TOGNETTI AO — Artistic Director & Lead Violin

**“The INTENSITY,
the FEARLESSNESS,
the CURIOSITY.
This remains RULE-BENDING at its
MOST REVELATORY.”**

— The Guardian UK, 2025.



2027



LIISA PALLANDI — Violin

NATIONAL CONCERT SEASON

The Program

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Experience infinite possibility and extraordinary kinetic energy when the world-renowned cellist directs the ACO.

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Leading interpreters of Bach unite for this singular performance of a choral masterpiece.

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Plays Tchaikovsky's
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The exhilarating virtuoso returns to direct the ACO in a program full of intensity and passion.

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Directs Mozart

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Book

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NICOLAS ALTSTAEDT

Experience infinite possibility and extraordinary kinetic energy when the world-renowned cellist directs the ACO.

In the hands of Nicolas Altstaedt music is alive and centuries of tradition collapse into a single moment of profound clarity. Altstaedt is one of the world's most exhilarating musicians, and his boldness, emotional depth and fierce musicality find a natural partner in the ACO, an ensemble that shares his curiosity and delight in the act of music-making.

This program sweeps from the Baroque to the present, yet in the hands of Altstaedt and the ACO it is one statement. At its heart is CPE Bach's Cello Concerto in A major, a virtuosic showstopper of vivid emotion, sharp contrasts and unexpected turns of rhythm. The concert culminates in a string orchestra arrangement of Beethoven's String Quartet Op.135, his final complete work and a piece of monumental foresight that holds the future of music within it.

Altstaedt and the ACO are master storytellers, unwavering in their pursuit of musical grace and adventure. They hold the future and the past in equal measure. Here they celebrate composers who pushed the limits of their time, and reached for something beyond it.



ARTISTS

Nicolas Altstaedt
Guest Director & Cello

Australian Chamber Orchestra

-

DATES

Newcastle City Hall
Thu 4 Feb 7.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre
Sat 6 Feb 7.30pm
Mon 8 Feb 7.30pm

Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne
Sun 7 Feb 2.30pm

Sydney – City Recital Hall
Tue 9 Feb 8pm
Wed 10 Feb 7pm
Sat 13 Feb 7pm

Sydney Opera House
Sun 14 Feb 2pm

Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall
Mon 15 Feb 7pm

Adelaide Town Hall
Tue 16 Feb 7.30pm

Canberra – Llewellyn Hall
Wed 17 Feb 7.30pm

PROGRAM

Felix Mendelssohn String Symphony No.4 in C minor

Giacinto Scelsi Chukrum: I.

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach Cello Concerto in A major, Wq.172

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K.546

György Kurtág (arr. strings) Ligatura – Message to Frances-Marie (The Answered Unanswered Question), Op.31b

Ludwig van Beethoven (arr. strings) String Quartet in F major, Op.135



BACH'S ST JOHN PASSION

Leading interpreters of Bach unite for this singular performance of a choral masterpiece.

Friendship. Betrayal. Grief. Hope. Death. Life. This is the greatest story ever told, set to music by the greatest composer who ever lived. Bach wrote music as an act of worship, marvelling at the complexity of life and humbling himself before God. His account of the final days of Jesus' life is the pinnacle of choral music. Dramatic, awe inspiring and utterly human, it is a feat of storytelling that captures the sublime.

For Richard Tognetti, a musician who has devoted a large part of his musical life to JS Bach, taking the *St John Passion* on a national tour is a long-held dream. To mark this special event the ACO is joined by Vox Luminis, the multi-award-winning Belgian vocal ensemble whose radiant sound has made it one of the most admired interpreters of Baroque vocal music in the world today.

Bach's *St John Passion* is an act of pure devotion that embodies the power of music and spirit of humanity. For audiences, it is a truly transcendent experience.



ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti
Director

Lionel Meunier
Christ & Vox Luminis Artistic Director

Florian Sievers
Evangelist

Vox Luminis
Vocal Ensemble

Australian Chamber Orchestra

-

DATES

Melbourne Recital Centre
Sat 13 Mar 7.30pm
Mon 15 Mar 7.30pm

Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne
Sun 14 Mar 2.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall
Tue 16 Mar 7.30pm

Newcastle City Hall
Thu 18 Mar 7.30pm

Sydney – City Recital Hall
Sat 20 Mar 7pm
Tue 23 Mar 8pm
Wed 24 Mar 7pm

Sydney Opera House
Sun 21 Mar 2pm

Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall
Mon 22 Mar 7pm

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach St John Passion, BWV245





ELIZABETH WOOLNOUGH — Viola

ALINA IBRAGIMOVA PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY'S VIOLIN CONCERTO

The exhilarating virtuoso returns to direct the ACO in a program full of intensity and passion.

Alina Ibragimova is an electrifying performer. She lives every moment of the music, inhabiting the emotion so completely you almost miss her technical mastery. A virtuoso in every sense of the word, she invites audiences into her world, offering an experience that is both authentic and thrilling.

Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D major is a concerto so demanding it was deemed unplayable by its original dedicatee. Reeling from a disastrous marriage and withdrawn from the world, Tchaikovsky sketched it in just 11 days, pouring his melancholy and restlessness into a work that audiences love and violinists savour. It encompasses romance and passion, pulsing with the dynamic rhythms of folk dance.

Bookended by Tchaikovsky, the concert opens with Anton Arensky's *Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky*: a lush string work of contrast and colour, at times playful and offbeat, at times tender and sonorous. Bacewicz's shimmering Divertimento for String Orchestra offers a moment to showcase the invigorating brilliance and virtuosity of the ACO and contrasts with a new commission from Pēteris Vasks, beloved for his languid, meditative music that speaks of longing, beauty and hope.

Consider this concert a celebration of human endeavour. This is music that demands mastery and expresses the full range of human emotion.



ARTISTS

Alina Ibragimova

Guest Director & Violin

Australian Chamber Orchestra

-

DATES

Wollongong Town Hall

Thu 6 May 7.30pm

Canberra – Llewellyn Hall

Sat 8 May 7.30pm

Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne

Sun 9 May 2.30pm

Mon 10 May 7.30pm

Sydney – City Recital Hall

Tue 11 May 8pm

Wed 12 May 7pm

Fri 14 May 7pm

Sat 15 May 7pm

Sydney Opera House

Sun 16 May 2pm

Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall

Mon 17 May 7pm

Adelaide Town Hall

Tue 18 May 7.30pm

PROGRAM

Anton Arensky Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky, Op.35a

Pēteris Vasks Pateicības Dziedājums (Chant of Gratefulness)* (Australian Premiere)

Grażyna Bacewicz Divertimento for String Orchestra

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (arr. Bernard Rofe) Violin Concerto in D major, Op.35

*Co-commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra, and Münchener Kammerorchester.



**“It’s not just the SUPERBLY
DRILLED PRECISION
and LYRIC GRACE of the orchestra
that has placed it AMONG THE TOP
handful of CHAMBER
ORCHESTRAS. It’s the way that
the players CAST A BRIGHT
NEW LIGHT on
EVERYTHING THEY
PERFORM.”**

– The Telegraph, UK. 2025.



RICHARD TOGNETTI DIRECTS MOZART

Witness alchemy at play when pianist Alexander Melnikov joins the ACO for a celebration of Classical titans.

Richard Tognetti and pianist Alexander Melnikov are two of the world's most fearless and innovative interpreters. Here they join forces to celebrate the Classical era and the composers who evolved music into a new age. The result will be revelatory.

Haydn's Sinfonia to *Armida* is dramatic and urgent – the story of his opera captured in six minutes of stormy orchestral writing. Haydn was an innovator and Mozart admired him deeply, taking his forms and refining them to create works of astonishing elegance and emotion. His 29th Symphony, written at just 18, sparkles with energy and tender lyricism. A sunny, joyful ode to life, Richard Tognetti describes it as a sparkling jewel.

Melnikov is renowned for his performances of Mozart and brings his depth of sound to Mozart's Piano Concerto No.17 in G major, a lively, irresistible and witty exchange of ideas between piano and orchestra. The concert closes with Schubert's effervescent Fifth Symphony. Here, Schubert pays homage to his hero, Mozart, while offering glimpses into the future. Already imbued with the pathos and emotion for which he became renowned; the symphony expands towards the future with the murmurings of Romanticism.

This is music you will know and love, treated with reverent inventiveness by two rule-benders who understand that music is alive, and in the interpretation lies the magic.



ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti
Director & Violin

Alexander Melnikov
Piano

Australian Chamber Orchestra

-

DATES

Canberra – Llewellyn Hall
Sat 19 Jun 7.30pm

Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne
Sun 20 Jun 2.30pm
Mon 21 Jun 7.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall
Tue 22 Jun 7.30pm

Perth – Winthrop Hall
Wed 23 Jun 7.30pm

Sydney – City Recital Hall
Sat 26 Jun 7pm
Tue 29 Jun 8pm
Wed 30 Jun 7pm

Sydney Opera House
Sun 27 Jun 2pm

Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall
Mon 28 Jun 7pm

-

National Tour Partner

PROGRAM

Joseph Haydn *Armida*: Sinfonia

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concerto No.17 in G major, K.453

Mozart Symphony No.29 in A major, K.201

Franz Schubert Symphony No.5 in B-flat major, D.485





HELENA RATHBONE — Principal Violin



THIBAUD PAVLOVIC-HOBBA — Violin



ACO IN MOTION

Experience the Orchestra in full flight in this irrepressible program featuring *Death and the Maiden* and *Different Trains*.

Music is always moving: through time, through bodies and through generations. *ACO In Motion* draws four landmark works into a single charged arc that plays to everything the ACO does best: electric performance, bold juxtaposition and the brazen energy of an orchestra at full stretch.

American composer Missy Mazzoli is one of the boldest voices writing today, and *The Shield of the Heart is the Heart* is taut with coiled energy. Bartók's Third String Quartet, arranged here for string orchestra, releases the ACO at full velocity. Written in 1927 at the height of his powers, it compresses folk memory, dissonance and rhythmic invention into 15 extraordinary minutes. A century on, its imagination still feels startlingly alive.

At the heart of the program is Steve Reich's *Different Trains*. Built from recorded voices layered against the relentless pulse of the trains themselves, it is a hypnotic work of remembrance and reinvention. It redrew the boundaries of what a string ensemble could do, and what music could carry. The program closes with Schubert's *Death and the Maiden Quartet*, arranged for strings by Richard Tognetti. Written in the shadow of his own mortality, it is Schubert at his most fearless, dark and driven, blazing with defiant life. In Tognetti's hands, Schubert's masterwork of radiant intimacy is amplified towards the sublime.



ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti
Director & Violin

Australian Chamber Orchestra

-

DATES

Wollongong Town Hall
Thu 29 Jul 7.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre
Sat 31 Jul 7.30pm
Mon 2 Aug 7.30pm

Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne
Sun 1 Aug 2.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall
Tue 3 Aug 7.30pm

Perth – Winthrop Hall
Wed 4 Aug 7.30pm

Canberra – Llewellyn Hall
Sat 7 Aug 7.30pm

Sydney – City Recital Hall
Tue 10 Aug 8pm
Wed 11 Aug 7pm
Sat 14 Aug 7pm

Sydney Opera House
Sun 15 Aug 2pm

Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall
Mon 16 Aug 7pm

-

National Tour Partner

PROGRAM

Missy Mazzoli *The Shield of the Heart is the Heart*

Béla Bartók (arr. strings) *String Quartet No.3, Sz.85*

Steve Reich (arr. strings) *Different Trains*

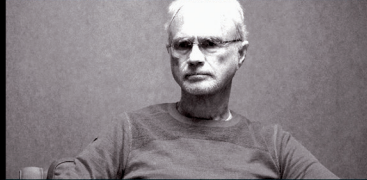
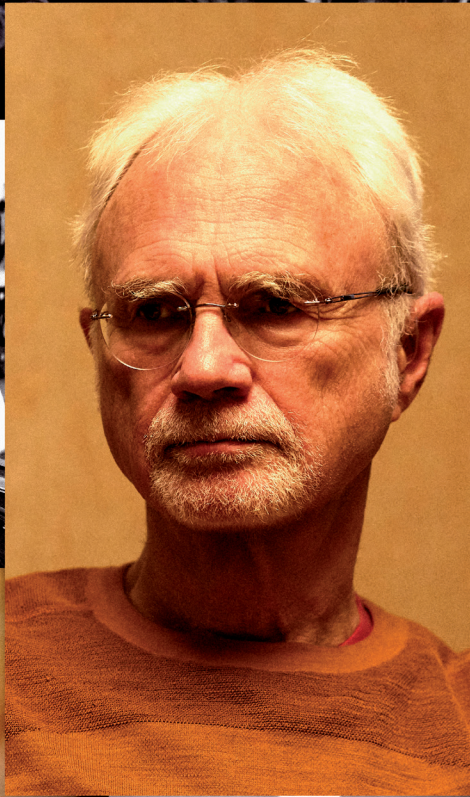
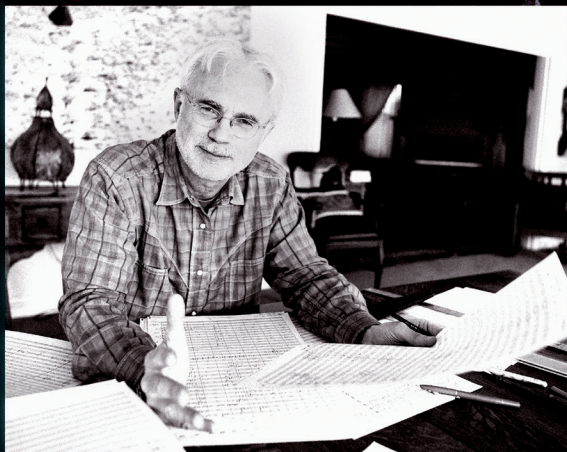
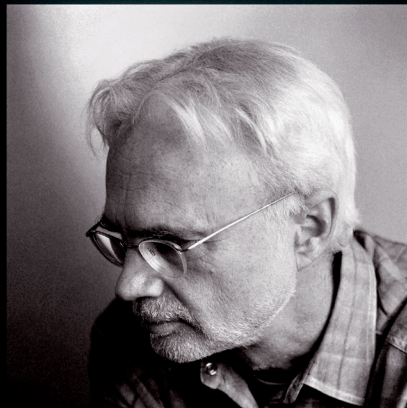
Franz Schubert (arr. Richard Tognetti) *String Quartet No.14 in D minor, D.810*
“Death and the Maiden”



Wesfarmers Arts

Opposite: **THIBAUD PAVLOVIC-HOBBA**, Violin;

MAXIME BIBEAU, Principal Bass; and **ELIZABETH WOOLNOUGH**, Viola.



THE JOHN ADAMS ALMANAC

Music is a living tradition in this specially curated celebration from one of the world's great composers.

In 1971, John Adams packed his life into a car and drove to California. The West Coast opened something in him; the light, the landscape, the sense that sound could be vast and connected to place.

In his 80th-birthday year, the ACO celebrates John Adams with a special program curated by Adams and Richard Tognetti – two artists and musical friends who share an instinct for risk and pushing music forward into the unknown.

Shaker Loops announced John Adams to the world. It reaches for something primal and urgent – oscillating strings, trembling bows, the ecstatic repetition of a religious sect who shook and danced their way to transcendence. *Shaker Loops* marked the arrival of a major voice and feels as groundbreaking today as it did 50 years ago.

The centrepiece of the program is the world premiere of *Gioia*, Adams's only new work in his anniversary year, written especially for Tognetti and ACO Principal Violin Satu Vänkä. Two solo violins set against the full ACO, in the tradition of the concerto grosso: music that circulates freely, with soloists and orchestra in charged, fluid dialogue. A gift from a composer at the height of his powers to musicians he deeply admires.

Joining the ACO is pianist and composer Timo Andres – a regular collaborator of Adams and a vital force in American music. Andres will perform a new work commissioned by the ACO alongside his arrangement of *Flow* by Ingram Marshall, a dear friend of Adams and a composer who first lit the way for Andres.

This is music as living tradition, brought to life by Richard Tognetti and the ACO.



ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti
Director & Violin

Timo Andres
Piano

Satu Vänkä
Violin

John Adams
Guest Curator

Australian Chamber Orchestra

-

DATES

Wollongong Town Hall
Thu 2 Sep 7.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre
Sat 4 Sep 7.30pm
Mon 6 Sep 7.30pm

Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne
Sun 5 Sep 2.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall
Tue 7 Sep 7.30pm

Perth – Winthrop Hall
Wed 8 Sep 7.30pm

Canberra – Llewellyn Hall
Sat 11 Sep 7.30pm

Sydney Opera House
Sun 12 Sep 2pm

Sydney – City Recital Hall
Tue 14 Sep 8pm
Wed 15 Sep 7pm
Fri 17 Sep 7pm
Sat 18 Sep 7pm

PROGRAM

Ludwig van Beethoven (arr. strings) Grosse Fuge, Op.133

Ingram Marshall (arr. Timo Andres) Flow

John Adams Gioia* (World Premiere)

Timo Andres New Work* (World Premiere)

Adams Shaker Loops

*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra through the generous support of David Thomas AM.

Opposite: **JOHN ADAMS**, Guest Curator. Photography (clockwise): Musacchio-Ianniello-Pasqualini, Deborah O'Grady, Toru Hasumi, Musacchio-Ianniello-Pasqualini, Margareta Mitchell.



ILYA ISAKOVICH — Violin



STEFANIE FARRANDS — Principal Viola



STRAUSS' FOUR LAST SONGS

Soprano Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha brings her magnificent voice to Strauss' exploration of what it means to be human.

The ACO is thrilled to present the Australian debut of Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha. Winner of the Song Prize at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition and the prestigious Salzburg Festival's Herbert von Karajan prize, Rangwanasha is one of the most exciting sopranos singing today. Combining sumptuous tone and tenderness with sheer vocal power, she will perform with an expanded ACO featuring winds, piano and percussion, directed by Richard Tognetti.

Strauss' *Four Last Songs* is a wistful farewell, an intoxicating combination of beauty and darkness that comes together in transcendent lyricism. He wrote them at 84, looking back on the life that was, and forward to eternal rest. Dedicated with love to his wife of six decades, Strauss meditates on our inevitable mortality without ever giving in to despair, a profoundly thankful last musical gift.

The concert opens with Arvo Pärt's haunting *Cantus*, written in memory of Benjamin Britten. Britten's Second String Quartet, his beautiful ode to his musical hero Henry Purcell, follows, before the premiere of a new commission from award-winning Australian composer Jack Symonds, whose captivating music marries innovation and imagination.

This final concert in our 2027 Season is a celebration of the resilience of the human spirit and the power of reinvention and renewal. This is music that reminds us of why we gather in concert halls, to bear witness and to revel in collective wonder.



ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti
Director & Violin

Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha
Soprano

Australian Chamber Orchestra

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DATES

Newcastle City Hall
Thu 11 Nov 7.30pm

Sydney – City Recital Hall
Sat 13 Nov 7pm
Tue 16 Nov 8pm
Wed 17 Nov 7pm
Fri 19 Nov 7pm

Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne
Sun 21 Nov 2.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre
Mon 22 Nov 7.30pm
Fri 26 Nov 7.30pm

Canberra – Llewellyn Hall
Wed 24 Nov 7.30pm

Sydney Opera House
Sun 28 Nov 2pm

Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall
Mon 29 Nov 7pm

PROGRAM

Arvo Pärt *Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten*

Jack Symonds *New Work** (World Premiere)

Benjamin Britten (arr. strings) *String Quartet No.2 in C major, Op.36*

Witold Lutosławski (arr. Richard Tognetti) *Partita*

Richard Strauss (arr. James Ledger) *Four Last Songs, Op. posth.*

Strauss' Four Last Songs is supported by Marion Pender in loving memory of John Gerrit Pender.

*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.



MELISSA BARNARD — Cello



JULIAN THOMPSON — Cello

SPECIAL EVENT

ARVO PÄRT MASTERWORKS

The ACO is joined by the remarkable Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir for a triptych of Pärt's most iconic works.

Following their sell-out ACO tour in 2019, the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir reunites with the ACO for this immersion into the masterworks of Arvo Pärt. The Choir shares a special connection with Pärt, having collaborated with him over many years, and is synonymous with some of the greatest performances and recordings of his work.

Arvo Pärt's music enthralls the listener. It is filled with longing, rapture and reverence. In this special, limited tour of just five performances, audiences will experience three of Pärt's most substantial works. The program opens with *Tabula Rasa*, a hypnotic search for meaning that catapulted Pärt to international renown. The *Berliner Messe* transports audiences into a cathedral, the music a serene unfolding of sacred devotion. The evening culminates with *Te Deum*, a monumental choral work of meditation, stillness and grandeur. A place where time stops and you emerge changed.

Born of the composer's profound personal faith, but speaking far beyond it, Pärt's music crosses genres and generations, influencing the likes of Björk, Nick Cave, PJ Harvey and Thom Yorke. His music is intensely spiritual but also human. He conjures our universal capacity for love through music that opens our hearts to the infinite.



ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti
Director & Violin

Satu Vänskä
Violin

Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir

Australian Chamber Orchestra

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DATES

Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne
Fri 16 Apr 7.30pm

Canberra – Llewellyn Hall
Sat 17 Apr 7.30pm

Sydney Opera House
Sun 18 Apr 2pm

Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall
Mon 19 Apr 7pm

Sydney – City Recital Hall
Tue 20 Apr 7.30pm

PROGRAM

Arvo Pärt

Tabula Rasa
Berliner Messe
Te Deum

Opposite: **LIISA PALLANDI**, Violin



SPECIAL EVENT

ACO × MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE: CONSTELLATIONS

Two of the world's most fearless ensembles bring their shared philosophy to a program of ritual, rhythm and radical connection.

Manchester Collective and the ACO share more than a stage. They hold a shared philosophy of music without borders, programming across centuries, genres and traditions as a matter of instinct, not novelty. For years, these two ensembles have been circling each other from opposite sides of the world. In 2027, they finally meet.

Rakhi Singh has been at the heart of Manchester Collective since co-founding the ensemble 10 years ago. For her ACO debut, she directs a program with the restless magic of a great mixtape. Purcell dances into Abrahamsen. English folksong meets the pulse of West Africa. At the centre of the program is Sidiki Dembélé, returning to Australia after his unforgettable performances with Abel Selaocoe and the ACO. Born of his family's Ivorian griot tradition, Sidiki's music is a living archive – storytelling passed down generations, hand to hand, drum to drum, voice to voice. He brings folksong and ceremony from Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal into direct conversation with the strings. Adding a further dimension is an Australian premiere from British composer and multidisciplinary artist Nwando Ebizie, whose Afrofuturist vision draws on ancestral heritage and rites to reimagine what comes next. Her music calls on the spirits of the past to greet the future.

PROGRAM

Sidiki Dembélé Teriya, Siniensigui, Tama (The Journey), Djikunu (Power of Water), Shaka, Hakilima

Traditional (arr. Rakhi Singh) Johnny Faa

John Playford Wallom Green

Henry Purcell The Old Bachelor, Z.607: Hornpipe; The Virtuous Wife, Z.611: Air; Timon of Athens, Z.632: Curtain Tune

Hans Abrahamsen Ten Preludes for String Quartet: Selections

Emily Hall So Far

Edmund Finnis Hymn (after Byrd)

Nwando Ebizie For You, small in the embrace of untethered unwinding possible futures

Dembélé / Rakhi Singh Simiya / Suo Gan

Constellations was produced by Manchester Collective and premiered in the United Kingdom in October 2026. Nwando Ebizie's work was commissioned by Manchester Collective with support from the Vaughan Williams Foundation.



ARTISTS

Rakhi Singh
Director, Violin and
Manchester Collective Co-Founder
and Co-Artistic Director.

Sidiki Dembélé
Percussion

Australian Chamber Orchestra

-

DATES

Sydney – ACO On The Pier
Wed 3 Nov 7pm

Melbourne Recital Centre
Thu 4 Nov 7.30pm

Opposite: **AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, SIDIKI DEMBÉLÉ,
NWANDO EBIZIE and RAKHI SINGH.**



CURRENTS

**A four-day festival of new music made for now.
Music in continuum.**

The most important music being made is made right now. Forged through Richard Tognetti's restless conviction that music is music, irrespective of genre or time, *Currents* is a new festival made for this very moment. Pulsing, alive and transmuted across generations, it starts with a spark. Each year an esteemed guest curator will bring new ideas into the ACO's orbit. Through a wilful act of disruption, or an act of graceful transcendence, *Currents* will shape a dynamic conversation with Richard Tognetti, the ACO, guest artists and our adventurous audience.

In 2027, the inaugural guest curator is Samuel Adams. Guggenheim Fellow and one of the great compositional minds of his generation, Adams's music weaves acoustic and electronic sound with a weight and purpose that is captivating and undeniably present. *The New York Times* calls him "mesmerizing" and Adams' decade-long partnership with Tognetti has

produced some of the most electric new string writing anywhere in the world. *Currents* festival 2027 will write the next chapter of this relationship with music that weaves and collides across time to reveal connections. Where the music of Bach and Mozart sounds like it was written yesterday, and the music of today feels as though it has been with us for centuries.

Joining Adams are two of the most important musical voices of his generation and longtime close collaborators. The first is world-renowned soloist, violinist Karen Gomyo. Ferocious, luminous, born in Tokyo and forged at Juilliard, Karen inhabits everything she touches. The second is pianist Conor Hanick, an undeniably vital artist of our time. NPR calls him "a true champion of contemporary music." and *The New York Times* described him as "breathtaking". A fierce and passionate collaborator, Hanick's story is intimately intertwined with the story of music for our age.

Welcome to *Currents*.

ARTISTS

Samuel Adams Guest Curator-in-residence

Karen Gomyo Violin and Director *Mozart Meets Cage* and *Karen Gomyo Plays Bach*

Conor Hanick Piano



Festival Program



01 YOUNG AMERICANS *Thu 3 Jun 7pm*

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin
Maxime Bibeau Double Bass
Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Gabriella Smith Carrot Revolution
Reena Esmail Darshan, for solo violin: I.
Missy Mazzoli Dark With Excessive
Bright, for solo double bass and
string quintet
Ted Hearne Law of Mosaics:
I. Excerpts from the middle of something
Jessie Montgomery Chemiluminescence
Samuel Adams Echo Transcriptions,
for electric violin and string orchestra
Paul Wiancko (arr. strings) Lift: Part III



02 SURFACE IMAGE *Fri 4 Jun 7pm*

ARTISTS

Conor Hanick Piano

PROGRAM

Tristan Perich Surface Image, for piano
and 40-channel 1-bit electronics



03 MOZART MEETS CAGE *Sat 5 Jun 3pm*

ARTISTS

Karen Gomyo Violin
Conor Hanick Piano

PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Violin
Sonata No.27 in G major, K.379
John Cage Eight Whiskus
Cage Nocturne for Violin and Piano
Mozart Violin Sonata No.21
in E minor, K.304
Cage In a Landscape
Cage 4'33"
Mozart Violin Sonata No.32
in B-flat major, K.454



04 NOW IS THE TIME *Sat 5 Jun 7pm*

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Violin
Helena Rathbone Violin
Ike See Violin
Elizabeth Woolnough Viola
Timo-Veikko Valve Cello
David Griffiths Clarinet
Conor Hanick Piano
Samuel Adams Sound Design

PROGRAM

Samuel Adams Devotions, for string
quartet, percussion, and electronic
sound design
Olivier Messiaen Quartet
for the End of Time



05 KAREN GOMYO PLAYS BACH *Sun 6 Jun 3pm*

ARTISTS

Karen Gomyo Guest Director & Violin
Helena Rathbone Violin
Maxime Bibeau Double Bass
Conor Hanick Piano
Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach
(arr. Stefano Scodanibbio) The Art of
Fugue, BWV1080: Contrapunctus I
Bach Brandenburg Concerto
No.3 in G major, BWV1048
Samuel Adams Violin Diptych,
for violin and piano
Adams Arches, for two violins,
piano, and strings
Caroline Shaw Punctum
John Luther Adams Three High
Places, for solo double bass
Bach Concerto for Two Violins
in D minor, BWV1043

Image credits:

01. Missy Mazzoli. Photo Marylene Mey.
02. Tristan Perich in front of Interval Studies.
03. Conor Hanick
04. Samuel Adams. Photo Lenny Gonzalez.
05. Karen Gomyo. Photo Gabrielle Revere.
Opposite: photo Ben Sullivan.



AIKO GOTO — Violin

ACO COLLECTIVE

Our critically acclaimed string ensemble brings members of our ACO Emerging Artist Program together with their mentors from the ACO. Since its inception, and under the guidance of Principal Violin Helena Rathbone, ACO Collective has championed the next generation of Australia's most talented string players and composers, performing in regional and metropolitan concert hall stages across Australia. In 2027, we are thrilled to be collaborating with Erin Helyard who will direct ACO Collective in a performance at our Sydney harbourside home, ACO On The Pier.

Touring in June, ACO Emerging Artists will perform alongside the ACO and pianist Alexander Melnikov in *Richard Tognetti Directs Mozart*.

Handel, Vivaldi and Beyond

Fri 12 Mar 7pm

Acclaimed conductor, keyboardist and Artistic Director of Pinchgut Opera, Erin Helyard, directs a program featuring the sublime and sparkling music of Handel and Vivaldi.

“ACO Collective is blazing a promising trail into the artform’s next era.”

— The Age



ARTISTS

Erin Helyard

Director and Keyboards

ACO Collective

—

DATES

Sydney – ACO On The Pier

Fri 12 Mar 7pm

—

Principal Partner: ACO Collective



JBWere

Above: **ACO COLLECTIVE**, The Neilson, ACO On The Pier. Photo: Maria Boyadgis.



TIM YU — Violin

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOURING



International

As one of the world's leading chamber orchestras, the ACO has forged an enduring and influential presence on the international stage. In 2027, 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.

TarraWarra Festival *27–28 February*

Our annual festival at the TarraWarra Museum of Art will feature performances from Richard Tognetti and the ACO alongside some of the most breathtaking views in the Yarra Valley. Book early for this intimate and exclusive cultural weekend.

Vasse Felix *10–12 December*

Close out the year on a high with Richard Tognetti and the ACO at the Sound and Sense festival at Vasse Felix in Margaret River. Places are limited for this celebration of music, wine and culinary art so sign up to our e-news to be the first to know when tickets go on sale.



OUR MUSICIANS

Richard Tognetti

DIRECTOR & 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 & Rodney Cameron.

Satu Vänскä

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 Colin Golvan AM KC & Dr Debbie Golvan and anonymous patrons.

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 Zygmuntowicz violin. His Chair is sponsored by Gus & Nanna Lehrer.

Tim Yu

VIOLIN

Tim plays an 1850 violin by John Lott, in the style of Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù, kindly on loan from an anonymous Australian private benefactor. His Chair is sponsored by Barbara & Ralph Ward-Ambler.

Stefanie Farrands

PRINCIPAL VIOLA

Stefanie plays a 1610 Maggini viola on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund. 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 Andreae cello with elements of the instrument crafted by his son, Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù, kindly donated to the ACO by the late Peter Weiss AO. His Chair is sponsored by the Stewart Family and Ms Julie Steiner AM & Prof Judyth Sachs.

Maxime Bibeau

PRINCIPAL BASS

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

SEASON OVERVIEW

Adelaide Town Hall

NICOLAS ALTSTAEDT
Tue 16 Feb 7.30pm

**BACH'S ST JOHN
PASSION**
Tue 16 Mar 7.30pm

**ALINA IBRAGIMOVA
PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY'S
VIOLIN CONCERTO**
Tue 18 May 7.30pm

**RICHARD TOGNETTI
DIRECTS MOZART**
Tue 22 Jun 7.30pm

ACO IN MOTION
Tue 3 Aug 7.30pm

**THE JOHN ADAMS
ALMANAC**
Tue 7 Sep 7.30pm

Brisbane QPAC Concert Hall

NICOLAS ALTSTAEDT
Mon 15 Feb 7pm

**BACH'S ST JOHN
PASSION**
Mon 22 Mar 7pm

**ALINA IBRAGIMOVA
PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY'S
VIOLIN CONCERTO**
Mon 17 May 7pm

**RICHARD TOGNETTI
DIRECTS MOZART**
Mon 28 Jun 7pm

ACO IN MOTION
Mon 16 Aug 7pm

**STRAUSS' FOUR LAST
SONGS**
Mon 29 Nov 7pm

**SPECIAL ADD-ON:
ARVO PÄRT
MASTERWORKS**
Mon 19 Apr 7pm

Canberra Llewellyn Hall

NICOLAS ALTSTAEDT
Wed 17 Feb 7.30pm

**ALINA IBRAGIMOVA
PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY'S
VIOLIN CONCERTO**
Sat 8 May 7.30pm

**RICHARD TOGNETTI
DIRECTS MOZART**
Sat 19 Jun 7.30pm

ACO IN MOTION
Sat 7 Aug 7.30pm

**THE JOHN ADAMS
ALMANAC**
Sat 11 Sep 7.30pm

**STRAUSS' FOUR LAST
SONGS**
Wed 24 Nov 7.30pm

**SPECIAL ADD-ON:
ARVO PÄRT
MASTERWORKS**
Sat 17 Apr 7.30pm

Melbourne Arts Centre Melbourne

NICOLAS ALTSTAEDT
Sun 7 Feb 2.30pm

**BACH'S ST JOHN
PASSION**
Sun 14 Mar 2.30pm

**ALINA IBRAGIMOVA
PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY'S
VIOLIN CONCERTO**
Sun 9 May 2.30pm
Mon 10 May 7.30pm

**RICHARD TOGNETTI
DIRECTS MOZART**
Sun 20 Jun 2.30pm
Mon 21 Jun 7.30pm

ACO IN MOTION
Sun 1 Aug 2.30pm

**THE JOHN ADAMS
ALMANAC**
Sun 5 Sep 2.30pm

**STRAUSS' FOUR LAST
SONGS**
Sun 21 Nov 2.30pm

**SPECIAL ADD-ON:
ARVO PÄRT
MASTERWORKS**
Fri 16 Apr 7.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre

NICOLAS ALTSTAEDT
Sat 6 Feb 7.30pm
Mon 8 Feb 7.30pm

**BACH'S ST JOHN
PASSION**
Sat 13 Mar 7.30pm
Mon 15 Mar 7.30pm

ACO IN MOTION
Sat 31 Jul 7.30pm
Mon 2 Aug 7.30pm

**THE JOHN ADAMS
ALMANAC**
Sat 4 Sep 7.30pm
Mon 6 Sep 7.30pm

**STRAUSS' FOUR LAST
SONGS**
Mon 22 Nov 7.30pm
Fri 26 Nov 7.30pm

Newcastle City Hall

NICOLAS ALTSTAEDT
Thu 4 Feb 7.30pm

**BACH'S ST JOHN
PASSION**
Thu 18 Mar 7.30pm

**STRAUSS' FOUR LAST
SONGS**
Thu 11 Nov 7.30pm

Perth Winthrop Hall

**RICHARD TOGNETTI
DIRECTS MOZART**
Wed 23 Jun 7.30pm

ACO IN MOTION
Wed 4 Aug 7.30pm

**THE JOHN ADAMS
ALMANAC**
Wed 8 Sep 7.30pm

Sydney City Recital Hall

NICOLAS ALTSTAEDT
Tue 9 Feb 8pm
Wed 10 Feb 7pm
Sat 13 Feb 7pm

**BACH'S ST JOHN
PASSION**
Sat 20 Mar 7pm
Tue 23 Mar 8pm
Wed 24 Mar 7pm

**ALINA IBRAGIMOVA
PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY'S
VIOLIN CONCERTO**
Tue 11 May 8pm
Wed 12 May 7pm
Fri 14 May 7pm
Sat 15 May 7pm

**RICHARD TOGNETTI
DIRECTS MOZART**
Sat 26 Jun 7pm
Tue 29 Jun 8pm
Wed 30 Jun 7pm

ACO IN MOTION
Tue 10 Aug 8pm
Wed 11 Aug 7pm
Sat 14 Aug 7pm

**THE JOHN ADAMS
ALMANAC**
Tue 14 Sep 8pm
Wed 15 Sep 7pm
Fri 17 Sep 7pm
Sat 18 Sep 7pm

**STRAUSS' FOUR LAST
SONGS**
Sat 13 Nov 7pm
Tue 16 Nov 8pm
Wed 17 Nov 7pm
Fri 19 Nov 7pm

**SPECIAL ADD-ON:
ARVO PÄRT
MASTERWORKS**
Tue 20 Apr 7.30pm

Sydney Opera House

NICOLAS ALTSTAEDT
Sun 14 Feb 2pm

**BACH'S ST JOHN
PASSION**
Sun 21 Mar 2pm

**ALINA IBRAGIMOVA
PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY'S
VIOLIN CONCERTO**
Sun 16 May 2pm

**RICHARD TOGNETTI
DIRECTS MOZART**
Sun 27 Jun 2pm

ACO IN MOTION
Sun 15 Aug 2pm

**THE JOHN ADAMS
ALMANAC**
Sun 12 Sep 2pm

**STRAUSS' FOUR LAST
SONGS**
Sun 28 Nov 2pm

**SPECIAL ADD-ON:
ARVO PÄRT
MASTERWORKS**
Sun 18 Apr 2pm

Wollongong Town Hall

**ALINA IBRAGIMOVA
PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY'S
VIOLIN CONCERTO**
Thu 6 May 7.30pm

ACO IN MOTION
Thu 29 Jul 7.30pm

**THE JOHN ADAMS
ALMANAC**
Thu 2 Sep 7.30pm

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- › Enjoy free and easy ticket exchanges throughout the year if your plans change.
- › Access exclusive subscriber offers and events.



HELENA RATHBONE — Principal Violin



TIMO-VEIKKO VALVE — Principal Cello

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 your Flexi-subscription pricing.

ADELAIDE

Adelaide Town Hall
Tue 7.30pm

SIX CONCERTS

Adult
\$618-\$894*

Concession
\$498-\$750*

Students & Under 35
\$210**

BRISBANE

QPAC Concert Hall
Mon 7pm

SIX CONCERTS

Adult
\$450-\$894*

Concession
\$348-\$750^

Students & Under 35
\$210**

PERTH

Winthrop Hall
Wed 7.30pm

THREE CONCERTS

Adult
\$258-\$447^

Concession
\$213-\$417^

Students & Under 35
\$105**

SYDNEY

City Recital Hall
Fri 7pm

THREE CONCERTS

Adult
\$258-\$477*

Concession
\$213-\$417^

Students & Under 35
\$105**

SYDNEY

Sydney Opera House
Sun 2pm

SEVEN CONCERTS

Adult
\$609-\$1,113^

Concession
\$497-\$973^

Students & Under 35
\$245**

SYDNEY

City Recital Hall
Tue 8pm, Wed 7pm
or Sat 7pm

SEVEN CONCERTS

Adult
\$609-\$1,113^

Concession
\$497-\$973^

Students & Under 35
\$245**

CANBERRA

Llewellyn Hall
Wed and Sat 7.30pm

SIX CONCERTS

Adult
\$450-\$894*

Concession
\$348-\$750^

Students & Under 35
\$210**

WOLLONGONG

Wollongong
Town Hall
Thu 7.30pm

THREE CONCERTS

Adult
\$279-\$420*

Concession
\$234-\$348*

Students & Under 35
\$105**

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle
City Hall
Thu 7.30pm

THREE CONCERTS

Adult
\$279-\$420*

Concession
\$234-\$348*

Students & Under 35
\$105**

MELBOURNE

Melbourne
Recital Centre
Sat 7.30pm

(includes one Friday
night performance)

FIVE CONCERTS

Adult
\$435-\$795^

Concession
\$355-\$695^

Students & Under 35
\$175**

MELBOURNE

Arts Centre
Melbourne
Sun 2.30pm

SEVEN CONCERTS

Adult
\$609-\$1,113^

Concession
\$497-\$973^

Students & Under 35
\$245**

MELBOURNE

Melbourne Recital
Centre and Arts
Centre Melbourne
Mon 7.30pm

SEVEN CONCERTS

Adult
\$609-\$1,113^

Concession
\$497-\$973^

Students & Under 35
\$245**

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, Pier 2/3, 13A Hickson Road, Dawes Point 2000



KEY DATES

WED 12 Aug 2026

Full-season and Flexi-subscriptions on sale.

WED 9 Sep 2026

Full-season Subscription renewal deadline.

2026 Subscribers will need to renew their subscription by this date to retain their seats for the 2027 Season.

WED 7 Oct 2026

Single ticket presale opens.

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

FRI 9 Oct 2026

Single tickets go on sale to the general public.

DIGITAL TICKETS

2027 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 2027, four days ahead of each concert.

CONCESSIONS

We offer special pricing to those who hold means-tested Pensioner, Veterans' Affairs 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.





ACO with students from St Marys North Public School, Sydney Opera House, 2025. Photo Nic Walker.

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MOFFITT.MOFFITT, Creative Direction & Design
GEORGES ANTONI, Photography



MAXIME BIBEAU — Principal Bass

ACO