



# ACO ACADEMY

Virtual Academy

2020

PRESENTING PARTNER



**BNP PARIBAS**

The bank for a changing world

PROGRAM

# ACO Academy 2020

**Aiko Goto** Leader & Violin  
**ACO Academy Orchestra**

**MENDELSSOHN** String Symphony No.9 in C major “Swiss” **7mins**  
IV. Allegro vivace

The ACO Academy Virtual performance is available to view online [here](#)





Richard Evans  
Managing Director

For the past eight years, Australia's most talented young string players have travelled from across the country to rehearse and perform together with players from the ACO over the course of a week in either Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. When it became clear that this would not be possible in 2020 due to COVID-19, we quickly moved to develop a virtual ACO Academy program, enabling participants to take part in skill development activities with our musicians, and to collaborate and connect with their national peers.

Under the direction of ACO violinist Aiko Goto (leader of ACO Academy since it began in 2012), these young musicians spent the week in intensive virtual masterclasses, one-on-one lessons with their ACO mentors, technical tutorials, workshops and specialised discussions focusing on providing career guidance, all from their own homes.

Within this year's program you will witness 16 of Australia's most extraordinary young string players as they perform the fourth movement of Mendelssohn's String Symphony No.9.

ACO Academy forms a core part of our Learning & Engagement Program, through which we achieve our mission of supporting, inspiring and mentoring the next generation of Australian musicians. ACO Academy has thrived under Aiko's guidance with a growing number of applicants each year and six former participants earning positions in our prestigious Emerging Artist program. I congratulate Aiko on the ongoing success of the program and thank her for her enduring and passionate leadership.

WELCOME



I acknowledge the Presenting Partner of ACO Academy, BNP Paribas, whose unfailing support gives us enormous confidence in delivering programs of this quality. I also thank the Patrons of our Learning & Engagement Program, Marc and Eva Besen, and Janet Holmes à Court for their commitment to the arts and most particularly to the ACO.

Finally, I thank you, our audience, for your ongoing support of the Orchestra and our musicians of tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Evans'.

**Richard Evans**  
Managing Director

IN A CHANGING WORLD,  
**OUR PRESENCE IN AUSTRALIA  
HAS REMAINED CONSTANT.**

**SUPPORTING THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY  
FOR NEARLY 140 YEARS.**

From financing the wool trade in the early days to investing in new and innovative solutions today for a better future.



**BNP PARIBAS**

**The bank  
for a changing  
world**



BNP Paribas is delighted to present the Australian Chamber Orchestra Academy, an inspirational week of rehearsals, performances and mentoring for talented young string players.

Over the last 14 years, BNP Paribas has been a proud partner of the ACO, sharing its values of innovation, collaboration and excellence. This partnership enables us to bring our passion for the arts to centre stage.

In 2021, we will celebrate 140 years as the oldest European bank and French company supporting the local Australian economy. We continue to be committed to creating a better future for our clients, society and the environment. As such, we are honoured to grow the next generation of Australian musicians through the ACO Academy.

Being the bank for a changing world, BNP Paribas' major philanthropic initiatives focus on three core areas: culture, social inclusion and the environment. We believe culture provides a perfect platform for individual and social development and inclusion and that artistic creativity enriches and connects us as a society.

We hope you enjoy this performance by some of Australia's finest performing musicians.

**Karine Delvallée**

Chief Executive Officer

BNP Paribas, Australia & New Zealand



**BNP PARIBAS**

The bank for a changing world

## About the Program



The acclaimed **ACO Academy**, led by Aiko Goto, is our flagship education program for exceptional secondary school string players. Launched in 2012, ACO Academy runs in the July school holidays every year, offering participants an immersive and intensive week of chamber ensemble playing. In 2020, we delivered the first ever 'Virtual Academy' – providing these talented young musicians the rare opportunity to be mentored by ACO musicians in their own homes. 16 young string players, aged 14-17, were invited to participate in the Virtual Academy, taking part in online tutorials, technique classes, sectional rehearsals, masterclasses, and career discussions with ACO mentors.

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of next year's ACO Academy, visit [aco.com.au/academy](https://aco.com.au/academy) to find out more and how to apply

## What you're about to hear



### Felix Mendelssohn

(1809–1847)

#### **Sinfonia No.9 in C major “Swiss”:**

*IV. Allegro vivace*

The young Felix Mendelssohn grew up in a Berlin household that fostered an abundance of music making. It played host to regular salons and concerts during which visitors would enjoy music and dignified conversation with philosophers, artists, diplomats and businessmen. It was out of this that a 16-year-old Mendelssohn composed his Overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Octet for strings.

For many years, these wondrous musical achievements seemed too good to be true, but in 1950 a collection of manuscripts were uncovered that confirmed Mendelssohn's brilliance as a child prodigy: 12 sinfonias for strings written when Mendelssohn was between 12 and 14 years old. These youthful but



brilliant sinfonias show the influence of Mendelssohn's favourite composers: Beethoven, Haydn, and especially Bach.

The ninth of these sinfonias, nicknamed the "Swiss", was written following a family trip to Switzerland in 1822. It was on this trip that the 13-year-old Mendelssohn encountered Swiss yodelling for the first time:

*"It consists of notes which are produced from the throat and generally they are ascending sixths ... Certainly this kind of singing sounds harsh and unpleasant when it is heard nearby, or in a room. But it sounds beautiful when you hear it with mingling or answering echoes, in the valleys or on the mountain or in the woods..."*

Mendelssohn incorporated these yodelling elements into the third movement of his ninth sinfonia, forming a merry trio section that interrupts one of the earliest examples of his trademark scherzos. In the dramatic and structurally ambitious finale, however, Mendelssohn remains firmly under the influence of Bach as he explores the possibilities of fugal counterpoint.

Program note by Bernard Rofe, 2020

# Musicians

## Australian Chamber Orchestra

---

**Aiko Goto**

Leader & Violin

Chair sponsored by  
Anthony & Sharon Lee Foundation

---

**Liisa Pallandi**

Violin

Chair sponsored by  
The Melbourne Medical Syndicate

---

**Mark Ingwersen**

Violin

Chair sponsored by  
by Prof Judyth Sachs & Julie Steiner

---

**Maja Savnik**

Violin

Chair sponsored by  
by Alenka Tindale

---

**Nicole Divall**

Viola

Chair sponsored by Ian Lansdown

---

**Elizabeth Woolnough**

Viola

Chair sponsored by  
by Philip Bacon AM

---

**Melissa Barnard**

Cello

Chair sponsored by  
by Dr & Mrs J Wenderoth

---

**Maxime Bibeau**

Double Bass

Chair sponsored by  
by Darin Cooper Foundation

---

## Academy Students

---

**Violin**

Leon Fei  
Victoria Teo  
Harry Wang  
Gilda Ferrie  
Emily Thompson  
Louise Turnbull  
Rose Light  
Alana Gao

**Viola**

Felix Hughes Chivers  
Max Kim  
Hayley Lau  
Olivia Spyrou

**Cello**

Joshua Jones  
Abigail Thompson  
Rena Tang

**Double Bass**

Rio Kawaguchi

# Aiko Goto

Leader & Violin



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

Photo: Ben Sullivan

Aiko has been a member of the Australian Chamber Orchestra since 1998. The grand niece of Dr Shinichi Suzuki, she began her violin training at the age of three with the Suzuki Method and studied at the Toho Gakuen School of Music in Japan. Aiko received a scholarship to study at the Juilliard School in New York under Dorothy DeLay and Masao Kawasaki, graduating in 1994. In 1995 she made her New York debut at the Carnegie Weil Recital Hall, receiving the highest critical acclaim, and in 1997 she performed for the International Refugee Fund attended by the Japanese Royal Family. Aiko was the Coordinator of Strings at Newark School of the Arts in the USA until 1998.

She has been a member of the Saito Kinen Orchestra since 1995, directed by Seiji Ozawa (she was a Concertmistress for 'the Saito Kinen Festival gig' in 2014). Since 2000 she has held annual solo recitals in Sydney and at the Japanese Embassy in Canberra, and in 2006 gave recitals in Tokyo for the Australia-Japan Year of Exchange.

In 2011 Aiko was invited to be Guest Director and soloist with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, and performed in 'Concert for Japan', raising funds for the Tohoku Japan Earthquake and Tsunami appeal. Every two years Aiko plays at Nobuko Imai's Viola and Chamber Music Festival in Japan, and she is a member of Sydney's Sonus Piano Quartet.

Aiko enjoys teaching and sharing her love of music with young musicians. She is a mentor for the ACO Emerging Artists Program and ACO Collective, and has tutored at the Australian Youth Orchestra's National Music Camp. Aiko has directed the ACO Academy program in July annually since 2012. She also directed the ACO<sub>2</sub> tour of Tasmania in 2012. She has been a tutor of the Seiji Ozawa Music Academy in Japan since March 2018.

In August 2016, Aiko received a commendation from the Japanese Foreign Ministry on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Japan and Australia.



‘Thank you to Aiko and my tutors Maja and Liisa for the ACO Academy! It has really improved my playing, everything from Maja’s Kreutzer exercise recommendations to Liisa’s stylistic advice for my Baroque repertoire. The Mendelssohn was a fun challenge and Aiko and my tutors’ personalised advice was really helpful, especially in ‘those bits’! I am extra motivated now to work on my collé stroke, flying staccato and string crossings using all your expert advice. Thank you so much for all the effort that was put into this year’s academy - if this is how amazing it is online, I can only imagine what an incredible experience it must be live!’

– EMILY THOMPSON, AGE 15

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

# ACO Patrons

We thank our patrons for their generous support.  
Program names as at 10 August 2020.

### PATRONS – LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

Mark Besen AC & Eva Besen AO  
Janet Holmes à Court AC

### NATIONAL LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT PATRONS \$10,000+

Mr Robert Albert AO &  
Mrs Libby Albert  
Geoff Alder  
Karen Allen & Dr Rich Allen  
Australian Communities Foundation  
– Ballandry (Peter Griffin  
Family) Fund  
Steven Bardy & Andrew Patterson  
Michelle Belgiorno-Nettis  
Rod Cameron & Margaret Gibbs  
Stephen & Jenny Charles  
In memory of Wilma Collie  
Michael & Barbara Coombes  
Judy Crawford  
Eureka Benevolent Foundation –  
Belinda Hutchinson AM &  
Roger Massy-Greene AM  
The Finkel Foundation  
Dr Ian Frazer AC &  
Mrs Caroline Frazer  
Daniel & Helen Gauchat  
The Charles & Cornelia Goode  
Foundation  
John Griffiths & Beth Jackson  
Professor Doug Jones AO  
& Professor Janet Walker  
Liz Harbison  
Irina Kuzminsky & Mark Delaney  
Kerry Landman  
Anthony & Sharon Lee  
Foundation  
Liz & Walter Lewin  
Andrew Low

Patricia Mason & Paul Walker  
Alisdair & Prudence MacLeod  
Janet Matton AM & Robin Rowe  
Peter & Ruth McMullin  
Jim & Averill Minto  
Louise & Martyn Myer Foundation  
Sandra Plowman  
Patricia H Reid Endowment Pty Ltd  
Susan & Garry Rothwell  
Margie Seale & David Hardy  
Servcorp  
Tony Shepherd AO  
Peter & Victoria Shorthouse  
Jon & Caro Stewart  
Turnbull Foundation  
Lang Walker AO & Sue Walker  
Shemara Wikramanayake  
& Ed Gilmartin  
Cameron Williams  
E Xipell  
Peter Yates AM & Susan Yates  
Peter Young AM & Susan Young  
Anonymous (3)

### \$5,000–\$9,999

Antoinette Albert  
Warwick Anderson  
Joanna Baeviski  
Lyn Baker & John Bevan  
Chris & Katrina Barter  
Helen Breekveldt  
Cass George  
Doug Hooley  
Rachel & Ray Itaoui  
Mark Johnson

John & Lisa Kench  
Macquarie Group Foundation  
Professor Duncan Maskell &  
Doctor Sarah Maskell  
The Myer Family Foundation  
Bruce & Joy Reid Trust  
Ken Smith & Cathi Taylor  
Petrina Slaytor  
Jeanne-Claude Strong  
Simon & Amanda Whiston  
Anonymous (1)

### \$2,500–\$4,999

Peter & Cathy Aird  
Marshall & Michelle Baillieu  
The Beeren Foundation  
Fiona Beevor  
Tim & Stacey Bishop  
Beverley & John Burke  
Penelope & Susan Field  
Dr Joanna Flynn AM  
Anne & Justin Gardener  
Alexa & David Haslingden  
Peter & Helen Hearl  
Sarah & Baillieu Myer  
Sandra & Michael Paul  
Endowment  
Professor David Penington AC  
Ralph & Ruth Renard  
Fe Ross  
Peter & Elizabeth St George  
Ralph Ward-Ambler AM  
& Barbara Ward Ambler  
Harley Wright & Alida Stanley  
Peter & Electra Wiggs  
Rebecca Zoppetti Laubi

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

# Thank you

We thank our government and corporate partners, the trusts and foundations and the many generous patrons of our National Education Program who have made this performance possible.

---

### PATRONS – NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Janet Holmes à Court AC

Marc Besen AC & Eva Besen AO

---

### ACO ACADEMY PRESENTING PARTNER



**BNP PARIBAS**

The bank for a changing world

---

### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



The ACO is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



The ACO is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

---

### TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

PACKER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



Holmes à Court Family Foundation

The Ross Trust



[aco.com.au](http://aco.com.au)

POST

PO Box R21  
Royal Exchange  
NSW 1225, Australia

VISIT

Opera Quays  
2 East Circular Quay  
Sydney NSW 2000

BOX OFFICE

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

EMAIL

[aco@aco.com.au](mailto:aco@aco.com.au)



[AustralianChamberOrchestra](https://www.instagram.com/AustralianChamberOrchestra)



[@A\\_C\\_O](https://twitter.com/A_C_O)

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PTY LTD  
A not-for-profit company registered in NSW  
ABN 45 001 335 182