

ACO BNP PARIBAS PATHWAY SCHOLARSHIP: RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED



ACO BNP Paribas Pathway Scholarship recipient Ethan Schempp (right) participating in ACO Foundations in 2019.

The Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) and BNP Paribas are delighted to announce the two recipients of the inaugural ACO BNP Paribas Pathway Scholarship: 12-year-old **Ethan Schempp** and 16-year-old **Aurora Beale**.

The Pathway Scholarship was created by the ACO with the support of BNP Paribas to make music and artistic development opportunities more accessible for school-aged musicians from diverse backgrounds, in particular First Nations young people.

The Pathway Scholarship is tailored to each recipient and includes support to cover activities such as private music lessons, participation in a local youth orchestra program, musical instrument assistance and access to coaching from ACO musicians.

Ethan is currently studying at Nepean CAPA High School and began learning violin in Year 4 through the ACO Foundations Program at St Marys North Primary School in Sydney.

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"I am really happy to be chosen for the Pathway Scholarship," said Ethan. "Music is a way to express myself and my feelings as well as a way I unwind. This scholarship will help me to learn more about the violin and viola."

Aurora is currently studying at Bellingen High School in regional NSW and is a member of the Bellingen Youth Orchestra. She began playing the violin in primary school before switching to the viola in Year 7.

"I am very excited about this scholarship," said Aurora. "Receiving this scholarship has made me think that perhaps I could pursue a career in music with all the support around me."

Providing artistic development opportunities for young musicians from diverse range of backgrounds is an important priority for both the ACO and BNP Paribas.

*"BNP Paribas is thrilled to welcome Ethan and Aurora as the first recipients of the ACO BNP Paribas Pathway Scholarship," said **BNP Paribas CEO Karine Delvallée**. "We believe that artistic creation is vital to our society – it nurtures us to better understand the world around us, provides shared experiences, all while challenging our beliefs, opening our minds and developing our creativity. This scholarship provides an accessible pathway to specialist string training and development and is aligned to our values of diversity and access for all."*

"BNP Paribas is proud to be supporting and growing the next generation of Australian musicians, and look forward to continuing our support for Ethan and Aurora – we cannot wait to hear them perform."



ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

‘The Australian Chamber Orchestra is uniformly high-octane, arresting and never ordinary.’

– THE AUSTRALIAN

The Australian Chamber Orchestra lives and breathes music, making waves around the world for its explosive performances and brave interpretations. Steeped in history but always looking to the future, ACO programs embrace celebrated classics alongside new commissions, and adventurous cross artform collaborations.

Led by Artistic Director Richard Tognetti since 1990, the ACO performs more than 100 concerts each year and is unwavering in its commitment to creating transformative musical experiences.





The Orchestra regularly collaborates with artists and musicians who share their ideology: from Emmanuel Pahud, Steven Isserlis, Dawn Upshaw, Olli Mustonen, Brett Dean and Ivry Gitlis, to Neil Finn, Jonny Greenwood, Barry Humphries and Meow Meow; to visual artists and filmmakers such as Michael Leunig, Bill Henson, Shaun Tan, Jon Frank, and Jennifer Peedom, who have co-created unique, hybrid productions for which the ACO has become renowned.

Testament to its international reputation, the ACO were invited to commence a three-year residency as International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court in partnership with London’s Barbican Centre from the 2018/19 season. This residency at one of Europe’s most prestigious concert venues follows on from the success of ACO Artistic Director Richard Tognetti’s time as the Barbican’s first ever Artist-in-Residence at Milton Court Concert Hall.

In addition to its national and international touring schedule, the Orchestra has an active recording program across CD, vinyl and digital formats. Its recordings of Bach’s violin works won three consecutive ARIA Awards. Recent releases include *Water | Night Music*, the first Australian-produced classical vinyl for two decades, *Beethoven*, a collection of the ACO’s legendary Beethoven recordings, and the soundtrack to the acclaimed cinematic collaboration, *Mountain*.

In 2020 the ACO launched ACO StudioCasts, a season of cinematic and immersive concert films produced with leading filmmakers and released on the ACO’s new streaming platform. These films enhance the ACO’s live season by transcending the concert hall and taking audiences around the world into the very heart of an ACO performance experience.

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