

THE ACO ANNOUNCES OPENING FESTIVAL AT PIER 2/3, WALSH BAY ARTS PRECINCT

29 APRIL – 1 MAY



The ACO celebrates the opening of its new home with special guests including William Barton, Jimmy Barnes, Jane Campion, Omar Musa, Genevieve Lacey, Slava Grigoryan and more.

The **Australian Chamber Orchestra** will celebrate the opening of its spectacular new home at Pier 2/3 with a full weekend of festivities including thrilling live concerts, boundary-pushing collaborations, stimulating talks, engaging family shows, digital live streams and more.

Over three days, the ACO will throw open the doors of its harbourside home at Pier 2/3 in Sydney's revitalised Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, inviting audiences to experience the full spectrum of its new programming offerings at this state-of-the-art performing arts space for the first time.

In keeping with its collaborative spirit, the ACO will be joined by iconic artists and close friends of the Orchestra including didgeridoo virtuoso, singer and composer **William Barton**, singer/songwriter **Jimmy Barnes**, filmmaker **Jane Campion**, poet, musician and artist **Omar Musa**, guitarist **Slava Grigoryan**, pianist **Tamara-Anna Cislowska** and actors from **Sydney Theatre Company**.

"This is one of the biggest moments in the ACO's 47-year history," said ACO Managing Director **Richard Evans**.

"We've been underground for 20 years, so to have an inspiring space where our musicians can not only practice and rehearse, but a public-facing home where we can welcome people to experience performances, workshops, talks, family shows, collaborations... It's completely transformative for the ACO."

"We can't wait to welcome our wonderful audiences, collaborators, friends and supporters of all ages into our new home."

Media Contact

For interview requests, images, media tickets or further information, please contact:

Caitlin Benetatos

E caitlin.benetatos@aco.com.au

P (02) 8274 3825

M 0422934693

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PIER 2/3 OPENING FESTIVAL PARTNER





Images on previous page, clockwise from left: Richard Tognetti and Satu Vänskä, Jimmy Barnes, Omar Musa and Jane Campion (© 2021 Netflix Inc).

Above, from top: William Barton, Frances Rings, Ben Quilty and ACO family activities.

Media Contact

For interview requests, images, media tickets or further information, please contact:

Caitlin Benetatos

E caitlin.benetatos@aco.com.au

P (02) 8274 3825

M 0422934693

The ACO's Opening Festival at Pier 2/3, Walsh Bay Arts Precinct will open with a **Smoking Ceremony**, led by Indigenous musician **Matthew Doyle**, before a special **Gala Concert** led by Richard Tognetti and featuring guest artists including **William Barton, Jimmy Barnes, Tamara-Anna Cislowska** and actors from **Sydney Theatre Company**. **Music In Time** will see the Orchestra explore the most sublime, influential and beloved music of the last thousand years over two concerts, while the ACO will present performances from artists including poet, artist and musician **Omar Musa** and the **Grigoryan Brothers** as well as an eye-opening talk featuring artist **Ben Quilty**, filmmaker **Jane Campion** and dancer and artistic director **Frances Rings**, presented in partnership with **The Wheeler Centre**.

The ACO's youngest audiences are invited to participate in the fun, with a special family morning filled with engaging and creative musical activities, from a rousing string quartet concert in the ACO's new Rehearsal Room to a free 'make-your-own-instrument' activity station.

The ACO has planned a program of digital activities over the weekend so that the Orchestra's national audiences can participate in the celebrations. Three of the concerts will be streamed live to audiences across Australia, for free on YouTube and Facebook, while artists will engage with audiences directly through social media takeovers, behind-the-scenes videos and more.



PIER 2/3

Perched above a breathtaking expanse of the harbour, in Sydney's revitalised Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, Pier 2/3 features custom-designed performance, events and rehearsal spaces alongside state-of-the-art recording and broadcast facilities, that will inspire boundless opportunities for creative collaboration, community engagement and outreach and artistic innovation

ACO at Pier 2/3 features three spaces: The Neilson, a custom-designed concert hall; The Belgiorno Room, a stunning event space with views of Sydney Harbour; and a Rehearsal Room for rehearsals, masterclasses, recordings and talks. The ACO's new home also features a dedicated media suite, fitted with state-of-the-art digital, recording and broadcast facilities.

The ACO acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as traditional owners of this land. It's a space on which we'll be proud to work and create.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PIER 2/3 OPENING FESTIVAL PARTNER



THE PROGRAM



FRIDAY 29 APRIL

Smoking Ceremony

6.30–6.45pm Belgiorno Room

Indigenous musician Matthew Doyle leads a Smoking Ceremony to officially open Pier 2/3.

ACO at Pier 2/3 Opening Celebration

7.30–9.30pm The Neilson

Richard Tognetti and the ACO bring together an all-star line-up to celebrate the opening of the Orchestra's spectacular new home. Featuring William Barton, Jimmy Barnes (pictured above), Tamara-Anna Cislowska and actors from Sydney Theatre Company.

Due to anticipated demand and limited ticket availability at this intimate venue, the ACO invites interested ticket-buyers for this event to register via a ballot. Successful entrants will be notified on 13 April to purchase tickets.

Media Contact

For interview requests, images, media tickets or further information, please contact:

Caitlin Benetatos

E caitlin.benetatos@aco.com.au

P (02) 8274 3825

M 0422934693



SATURDAY 30 APRIL

ACO Emerging Artist Showcase

1–2pm The Neilson

The ACO celebrates this new chapter with a dynamic orchestra made up entirely of former Emerging Artists, led by ACO musician and 2015 Emerging Artist alumna Liisa Pallandi.

In Conversation:

Music and creativity with Jane Campion, Frances Rings and Ben Quilty

2.30–3.30pm Belgiorno Room

Three of Australia's leading creatives – filmmaker Jane Campion, artist Ben Quilty and dancer/artistic director Frances Rings – unpack and explore the place of music in their life and work.

Presented in partnership between the ACO and the Wheeler Centre.

Grigoryan Brothers

4.30–5.30pm Rehearsal Room

The ACO presents virtuoso guitarists Slava and Leonard Grigoryan together, up close and in recital, in their only Sydney performance together in 2022.

Music in Time Part One: Hildegard to Tchaikovsky

6–7pm The Neilson

Join Richard Tognetti and the ACO for a two-part panoramic adventure spanning centuries of music.

Part One sees the ACO take a leap back in time to explore the most sublime, influential and beloved music from the Renaissance to the 20th century.

Omar Musa & Friends

9–10pm The Neilson

Achieving ground-breaking success as a rapper, poet, author, visual artist and more, Omar Musa joins the celebrations for an electrifying performance that combines storytelling, poetry, music and political commentary with striking visuals and special guests.



SUNDAY 1 MAY

ACO Family Day

10am–1pm Rehearsal Room & Belgiorno Room

The youngest members of the ACO family are invited to join in the Pier 2/3 festivities at this fun-filled morning of engaging musical activities.

The Song Company

1.30–2.45pm The Neilson

The ACO presents The Song Company, resident in neighbouring Wharf 4/5, who will perform a sublime program including Antoine Brumel's colossal *Earthquake Mass*.

In Conversation: Inside the Pier with architect Peter Tonkin and Margaret Throsby

3–3.45pm Belgiorno Room

National treasure Margaret Throsby sits down with Peter Tonkin, the architect behind the spectacular Pier 2/3 redevelopment, to unpack the fascinating story behind Pier 2/3 and the multi-decade journey to its renewal.

Genevieve Lacey & Katherine Tonkin: All the Hemispheres

4.30–5.30pm Rehearsal Room

Famed recorder player Genevieve Lacey joins actor Katherine Tonkin (pictured above) for a performance that weaves poetic texts and tunes into a quiet incantation.

Music in Time Part Two: Mahler to Now

6–7pm The Neilson

Join Richard Tognetti and the ACO for a two-part panoramic adventure spanning centuries of music.

Part Two sees the ACO take a deep dive into the glorious, inventive and often shocking music of the last hundred years.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PIER 2/3 OPENING FESTIVAL PARTNER