

THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA REUNITES WITH DIRECTOR JENNIFER PEEDOM FOR *RIVER*

A CINEMATIC AND MUSICAL ODYSSEY

“We must ask ourselves, are we being good ancestors?”

RIVER

29 July – 10 August 2021

Newcastle, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra

Media Contact

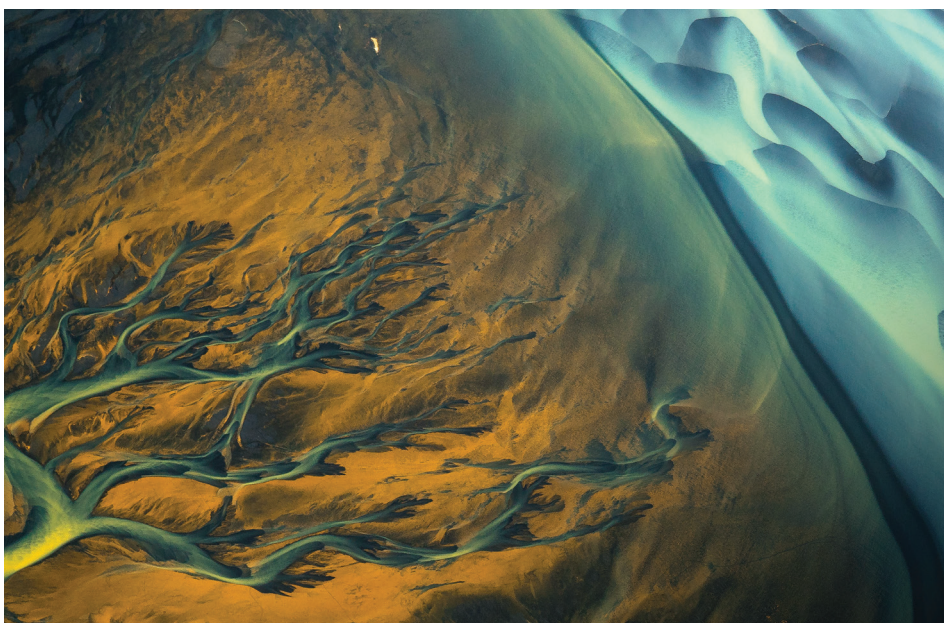
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The **Australian Chamber Orchestra** and Stranger Than Fiction's **Jennifer Peedom** have reunited to create *River*, a profound cinematic and musical reflection on how rivers have shaped both the planet's elaborate landscapes and human existence. The film is a sequel to their record-breaking collaboration *Mountain*, which became the highest-grossing homegrown documentary in Australian cinemas ever following its 2017 release.

Director Jennifer Peedom describes *River* as an ode to these 'arteries of the planet'.

ACO GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

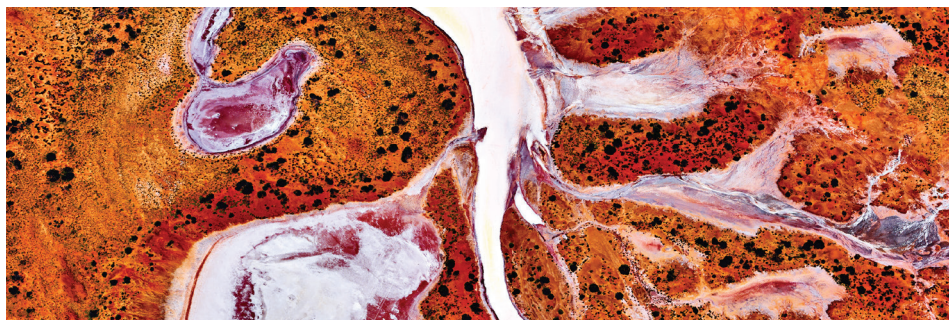


RIVER GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



FILM PARTNERS





"Humans love rivers," said Peedom. "The number of films, books, and poems with "river" in their titles are impossible to count. And yet, the state of rivers around the world indicates that we seem to have lost sight of their importance to our existence.

"River takes a birds'-eye view of humanity's relationship with our most precious resource through time. It is a story about the limits of human control, and how our short-sighted attempts to control nature have backfired. It's about the fragmentation of rivers and the long-term impact this is having on the living world."

River is extraordinary in that it has been created to be presented live in concert. The ACO perform live onstage during the screening of the film, directed from the violin by ACO Artistic Director **Richard Tognetti**, who also curated the score for the production.

"River has been conceived as both a live performance experience and a theatrical film, which is a rare, if not unique, occurrence in the world of film and concert making," said Tognetti. "Creating the score for a film that will be performed live presents its own challenges, but when you've just got strings and electronics to work with, instead of say a full orchestra, you're forced to be original. The challenge makes you think differently.

"The score includes Jonny Greenwood's Water, an exquisite, intricate piece, based on a poem, that presented an ideal match to footage of the funeral pyres on the edge of the Ganges in India. I'm also delighted that we were able to include JS Bach's Chaconne, in a new arrangement for string orchestra. Based on a four-bar motif, it starts small and then grows into something that is overwhelmingly epic in form and texture, much like a river. That's the genius of Bach."

Tognetti worked in close partnership with Peedom to create a score which spans existing music by composers including **JS Bach, Vivaldi, Mahler** and Radiohead's **Jonny Greenwood** to new music by Australian composer and musician **William Barton, Piers Burbrook de Vere** and **Tognetti** himself.

The film includes footage from over 39 countries, including Australia, with the script written by UK writer and environmentalist **Robert Macfarlane** who also collaborated with Peedom and Tognetti on *Mountain*.

River will be presented live in concert with the ACO 29 July–10 August, followed by a cinema release later in 2021 through Madman Entertainment.

RIVER

29 JULY – 10 AUGUST 2021

CREDITS

Screen Australia
and the
Australian Chamber Orchestra
in association with the
Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the BBC
present
A Stranger Than Fiction Production
in association with
Arrow Pictures

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY	Jennifer Peedom
WRITTEN BY	Robert Macfarlane
PRODUCED BY	Jo-anne McGowan, Jennifer Peedom and John Smithson
CO-WRITTEN AND CO-DIRECTED BY	Joseph Nizeti
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND COMPOSER	Richard Tognetti
ADDITIONAL COMPOSITION BY	William Barton and Piers Burbrook de Vere
FILM EDITOR	Simon Njoo ASE
SOUND DESIGN	Robert Mackenzie and Tara Webb
PRINCIPAL CINEMATOGRAPHY	Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Ben Knight, Sherpas Cinema, Renan Ozturk and Pete McBride

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTOR	Madman Entertainment
REST OF WORLD SALES	Dogwoof

PERFORMANCE DATES

NEWCASTLE
Newcastle City Hall
Thu 29 Jul, 7.30pm

SYDNEY
City Recital Hall
Sat 31 Jul, 7pm
Sun 1 Aug, 2pm
Tue 3 Aug, 8pm
Wed 4 Aug, 7pm
Fri 6 Aug, 1.30pm

BRISBANE
QPAC Concert Hall
Mon 2 Aug, 7pm

MELBOURNE
Melbourne Recital
Centre
Sat 7 Aug, 7.30pm
Mon 9 Aug, 7.30pm

Arts Centre Melbourne
Sun 8 Aug, 2.30pm

CANBERRA
Llewellyn Hall
Tue 10 Aug, 8pm



ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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.

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

– THE AUSTRALIAN

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