

Australian Chamber Orchestra

RICHARD TOGNETTI – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ACO UP CLOSE

MAXIME BIBEAU

SUNDAY 13 MARCH, 2.30PM

THE NEILSON, PIER 2/3



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ACO UP CLOSE: MAXIME BIBEAU

The opportunity to open our new concert hall, The Neilson, with this recital is incredibly special. I believe that concert halls mature and evolve over time as they react, vibrate and resonate with the music – much like the string instruments that we play. So it feels fitting that we have the oldest and deepest instrument of the ACO, the 16th-century Gasparo da Salò bass, awakening and warming up this brand new venue.

From the deepest notes to the fragile top range of the instrument, I've selected music that will allow audiences to hear the hall truly resonate for the first time, while enjoying all the natural light that we have longed for, for so many years, in this new space. The recital will build from the ground up with a wide range of pieces that have been meaningful to me over time, from a lone ancient work by William Corkine, written during the era when my instrument was made, to the expression and depth of Vasks, the long lines of Rachmaninoff and the virtuosity of Glière. We'll also delve into the mad, extreme sound world of Berio and, finally, the influence of Jazz.

Maxime Bibeau

PROGRAM

Maxime Bibeau Double Bass

Simon Tedeschi Piano

Kumi Taguchi Host

WILLIAM CORKINE

Come Live with Me and Be My Love

PĒTERIS VASKS

Bass Trip

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF

Vocalise, Op.34, No.14

REINHOLD GLIÈRE

Intermezzo and Tarantella, Op.9

LUCIANO BERIO (arr. Scodanibbio)

Sequenza XIVb

JOE CHINDAMO

Five Revelations: IV. Adagio

FRANK PROTO

Sonata "1963"

MAXIME BIBEAU

Maxime Bibeau never intended to play classical music. As a teenager in Québec, he was interested in a career in science, until he started listening to jazz and became intrigued by the sound of the bass guitar and the experimentation that jazz musicians were doing with the instrument at the time. However when he picked up the double bass at the age of 17, Maxime realised that he had to learn classical bass first, and found himself so captivated that he never moved on to jazz.

Maxime went on to study at the Conservatoire de Musique du Québec in Montréal, and obtained a Masters of Music from Rice University in Houston where he was awarded a full university scholarship, as well as grants from the Canada Arts Council and the Canadian Research Assistance Fund.

It was while he was living in the USA that he first heard the ACO play in New York, the night before his audition. The performance was, he says, “a revelation”, and he moved to Australia to join the ACO as Principal Double Bass in 1998. In addition to playing with the ACO, Maxime has performed with orchestras in Australia and abroad including the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, WDR Orchestra and Swedish Radio Orchestra.

Maxime is interested in pushing the boundaries of what the double bass can be and do, and in exploring its important and active role; he considers this a means of keeping the instrument “alive”. He has featured as a soloist with the ACO in the world premieres of Missy Mazzoli’s *Dark with Excessive Bright* Double Bass Concerto, James Ledger’s *Folk Song*, Matthew Hindson’s *Crime and Punishment*, Elena Kats-Chernin’s *Singing Trees* and Joe Chindamo’s *Five Revelations for Double Bass and Strings*.

Maxime’s instrument is the oldest of the ACO’s collection, dating from 1585 and on loan from a private Australian benefactor. It was made by Gasparo da Salò in Brescia, Northern Italy and is believed to have resided for several centuries in a single abbey, the Neustift Monastery, where it survived bombing in World War II.

Maxime also helps the ACO produce many of its commercial recordings and loves the hands-on nature of the company. He plans to finally learn how to play jazz after he retires.

When he isn’t collecting frequent flyer points, Maxime enjoys his downtime swimming in the ocean with his young twin boys, Luc and Rémy.

Maxime’s Chair is sponsored by Darin Cooper Foundation.

SIMON TEDESCHI

Simon Tedeschi is one of Australia's most renowned classical pianists. Recipient of the ABC Young Performer of the Year Award, the Creativity Foundation's Legacy Award (USA), the New York Young Jewish Pianist Award and a Centenary of Federation Medal, he has performed for audiences, royalty and world leaders worldwide, from the Sydney Opera House to Carnegie Hall via Abu Dhabi and Shanghai.

Acclaimed by respected critics and peers as "true greatness" (*Sydney Morning Herald*), Simon performed his first Mozart piano concerto in the Sydney Opera House at age nine, later studying in the USA and performing with the Colorado, Fort Worth and Illinois Symphony Orchestras. Since returning to Australia in 2009, he regularly performs as soloist with the major Australian symphony orchestras, in chamber recitals, music-based shows for children, and for grown-ups, with two new shows touring in 2022 alongside John Bell.

Uncommonly for a classical pianist, Simon also dabbles in jazz, since becoming enamoured with it while meant to be practising classical works as a kid – and tries to fit some in wherever he can, along with good coffee, reading and running.

With numerous acclaimed recordings of Gershwin, Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky and Grieg, Simon also makes his literary debut in May 2022 with the release of *Fugitive*, for Upswell Publishing.

KUMI TAGUCHI

Kumi is the host of Australia's leading forum show, *Insight* on SBS. She has 25 years' experience in the media industry in Australia and Hong Kong.

Kumi trained as a classical violinist but shifted to journalism after university. Her first job included picking up dry cleaning and answering phones for the ABC's *7.30 Report*. Since then, Kumi has worked across radio, television, current affairs, long-form documentaries, more recently as the host of ABC's *Compass* and as a presenter for the ABC News Channel.

Kumi is also known for hosting major live broadcast events, including The Sydney Invictus Games with a global audience of 60 million, *Stargazing Live* with Professor Brian Cox, the *Australian of the Year Awards*, and Sydney's *Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo*.

A keen adventurer, Kumi has run two half marathons, a marathon in the centre of Australia and sailed the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.