

ACO Up Close:

Timo-Veikko Valve & AYO Momentum Ensemble

Friday 28 November 2025, 7pm

ACO on the Pier - Sydney / Gadigal

ayo Australian
Youth
Orchestra

ACO Australian
Chamber
Orchestra

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Welcome

Welcome to today's concert *Between Worlds* presented by ACO Up Close, featuring the musicians of the AYO Momentum Ensemble and directed by ACO Principal cellist Timo-Veikko 'Tipi' Valve.

AYO Momentum Ensemble brings together outstanding orchestral musicians on the cusp of their professional careers. Born from a vision to support emerging artists beyond traditional training pathways, the innovative program acts as a springboard, empowering participants to grow as performers, educators, and creative leaders.

The 16 young Momentum Ensemble artists performing today hail from around Australia and represent the finest emerging talent in the country. Over the course of a week-long residency, these musicians have worked intensively with Tipi, gaining experience in collaboration, teaching and artistic direction. The result is a dynamic ensemble of versatile 21st-century artists, ready to shape the future of music.

As an ensemble, AYO Momentum Ensemble also aims to bring new interpretations and unconventional works to audiences, and perform in innovative and intimate venues.

The works chosen for this program reflect AYO's commitment to inspire young artists to explore new musical possibilities and craft performances that are truly original.

Program

Olivia Bettina DAVIES *Crystalline*

SCHUBERT (arr. Valve) Arpeggione Sonata, D.821

– Interval –

Jaakko KUUSISTO *Wiima*, Op. 27

SIBELIUS (arr. Valve) *Voces intimae*, Op.56

interspersed with selections from:

SCULTHORPE String Quartet No. 8

Internationally acclaimed cellist Timo-Veikko ‘Tipi’ Valve leads AYO Momentum Ensemble in a lush program for cello and string orchestra, masterfully intertwining his Finnish heritage with his Australian experiences.

Inspired by the fractal patterns of crystal formations, Olivia Bettina Davies’ *Crystalline* unfolds with iridescent textures and a fluid, evolving soundscape, capturing the organic beauty of crystals through subtle harmonic shifts and delicate timbral variations.

Tipi’s own arrangement of Schubert’s *Arpeggione Sonata* allows the cello to sing with evocative beauty, bringing out melodies that echo the sensitivity and lyricism of Schubert’s lieder.

Jaakko Kuusisto’s *Wiima*, with its sweeping gestures and tender moments, evokes the nostalgic charm of Sysmä, a town that holds a special place in Tipi’s childhood memories.

The concert culminates in the deeply introspective strains of Sibelius’ *Voces intimae*, renowned for its striking contrasts – from the soulful Adagio to the fleetly ricocheting scherzos. The title “Intimate Voices” beautifully captures both the conversational nature of the chamber music and the profound inwardness of Sibelius’s reflections. This is interspersed with select movements from Sculthorpe’s String Quartet No. 8, which introduces a static, ritualistic quality. Together, these works create a captivating tapestry of Finnish and Australian musical traditions.

Reverence and the sublime resonate in a program that sweeps from romantic passion to modern musical magic, an expansive ode to the breathtaking wonder of human expression. Get ready to lose yourself in a concert of unforgettable musical beauty.

AYO Momentum Ensemble

A background photograph of the AYO Momentum Ensemble members. On the left, a woman in a black dress is partially visible. In the center, a man in a suit is playing a violin. To his right, a woman in a yellow and black patterned dress is also playing a violin. Further right, another man in a patterned vest is visible. The image is slightly faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

Director/Cello

Timo-Veikko Valve

Violin 1

Leanne McGowan

Emily Su

Beverly Kwan

Lily Song

Elliott Plumpton

Violin 2

Julia Hill

Adrian Biemmi

Sola Hughes

Nicholas Miceli

Jessica Li

Viola

May Bardsley

Benjamin Tao

Sterling Rieck

Cello

Daniel Chiou

Francesca Masel

Double Bass

Vanessa Li

Director

Timo-Veikko Valve



Timo-Veikko Valve, affectionately known by audiences far and wide as “Tipi”, grew up in Finland, surrounded by a family who are “musically orientated normal people”. Music lessons were a natural part of his upbringing, and at six years old, Tipi was encouraged to pick up the cello after a teacher at the local music school declared with considerable conviction that “he looks just like a cellist!”. To this day, Tipi remains somewhat puzzled about what that statement actually meant. Whatever the subtext, the teacher seems to have been correct.

Valve was appointed Principal Cello of the Australian Chamber Orchestra in 2006, and his leadership soon became an integral part of the ACO. Recognised for his natural, creative, and generous musicianship, Tipi seeks to define the modern-day musician. Prior to his Australian adventure, Tipi studied at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki before continuing to the Edsberg Music Institute in Stockholm.

Tipi effortlessly transitions between modern and period instruments, and describes the cello as a flexible and adaptive partner, both in its role in an ensemble and as a soloist, across all forms of music. He reflects this versatility and enjoys a diverse career as a musician, curator and director, directing from the cello as he plays and appearing as a soloist with many of the major orchestras across his two home countries, Finland, and Australia. Tipi is also a sought-after collaborator and frequently appears as a chamber musician. His active commitment to the music of our times through curating and commissioning has seen him delivering world-premiere performances of multiple concertos and other significant works written especially for him.

Currently, Tipi plays on a Brothers Amati cello from 1616, kindly on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund.

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Sound & Fury

Saturday 10 January 4pm

Beethoven · Anna Clyne · Thomas Green
Fanny Mendelssohn · Bartók



Ancient Airs & Hi-Vis

Saturday 10 January 7:30pm

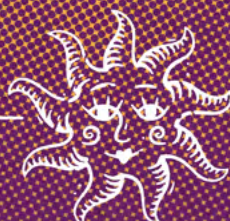
Beethoven · Respighi · Thomas Ades
Holly Harrison · Borodin



Brass & Percussion

Thursday 15 January 7:30pm

Turn up the volume as AYO beats and brass battle it out in an explosive evening of rhythm versus resonance.



Composition Showcase

Friday 16 January 5:30pm

Experience the freshest sounds in orchestral music in this exclusive showcase of brand new music by AYO composers.



Chamber Music Concert

Friday 16 January 7:30pm

Small but mighty! Discover the power of intimate performance as AYO's Chamber Ensembles bring centuries of music to life.



Rhythm & Hues

Saturday 17 January 4pm

Schubert · Jessie Montgomery
Beethoven · Stravinsky



Choral Splendour

Saturday 17 January 7:30pm

Rossini · Vaughan Williams · Stravinsky
Naomi Dodd · Ravel

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The Australian Youth Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the support of all who enable us to discover, train and inspire the next generation of Australian musicians. In addition to those listed below, we also thank those generous individuals who choose to remain anonymous, and those whose donations are below \$250.

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