ACO Australian Chamber Orchestra

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



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01

MISSION STATEMENT



ACO PURPOSE

To present distinctive music experiences that inspire, challenge and transform our audiences.

ACO VALUES

United Individuals 01

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02
     Mastery
     we break them.
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- 03 Adventure
- 04 Community

Above. Richard Tognetti, Artistic Director & Lead Violin. Photo by Stephen Blake

We are diverse and inclusive. Everyone brings something unique to our team. It's our collective experience, skill and spirit that connects us as one.

We perform at an elite level and are committed to excellence. Our skills are fuelled by unwavering dedication and passion. We've taken the time to learn the rules so we can choose how

We are intrepid, curious and courageous. Our imagination is boundless and we never stop looking for new and unexpected ways of challenging ourselves and our audience. While our music is steeped in history, we are not afraid to explore revolutionary ideas.

Music brings people together. Whether it's providing life-changing music education to children or opening our home and our programs to communities with limited access, we strive to ensure that everyone has access to quality music experiences. As a nimble organisation, we connect with music lovers locally and globally through our network of venues and partners and via our expansive digital program.

02

2024 OVERVIEW

Presented

240 CONCERTS FOR OVER 125,600 TICKETHOLDERS,

the ACO's largest annual audience to date.



The Sun Herald, Front Page, 17 March 2024

Welcomed **Wesfarmers Arts** as Principal Partner of the ACO.

HOSTED **284** EVENTS AT **ACO ON THE PIER**

in the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct.

Announced the extension of partnership with the **University of Melbourne** for another **seven** years.

"

The ACO encapsulates that rare, sought-after combination: innovation and stability."

Reached

AN AVERAGE OF **1.8 MILLION** PEOPLE EVERY MONTH

through digital and social media content.



The Sydney Morning Herald, Page 3, 21 August 2024

Presented concerts across **32** metropolitan and regional locations, from New York and Hong Kong to Warrnambool and Nowra.



The Weekend Australian Magazine, 7 December 2024

Performed **four** world premieres and **seven** Australian premieres.

OVER **15,000** HOURS

of music education and mentoring activities were delivered to over **450** young people and emerging musicians.

Presented

100 SHOWS FOR OVER **20,000** YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Released **two** new recordings and received the **2024 AIR Award for Best Independent Classical Album** for *Beethoven 1, 2, 3 Eroica*.

Announced the newest instrument in the Orchestra's collection of Golden Age string instruments, the **1741–44 Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù violin**, played by ACO Artistic Director Richard Tognetti.



03 **ACO PLAYERS**





Satu Vänskä

Richard Tognetti Helena Rathbone Principal Violin

Richard plays a 1741-44 Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù violin on Ioan from the ACO. His Chair is sponsored by Gaby Kennard. Peter McMullin AM & Ruth McMullin, Andrew & Andrea Roberts, and Rosy Seaton & Seumas Dawes.

Director & Violin

Helena plays the 1732 'ex-Dollfus' Stradivarius violin on loan from anonymous Australian private benefactors. Her Chair is sponsored by Margaret Gibbs & Rodney Cameron.

Principal Violin Satu plays the 1728/29 Stradivarius violin on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund. Her Chair is sponsored by David Thomas AM.



Liisa Pallandi Violin

Liisa plays a 1759 Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin on loan from the ACO. Her Chair is sponsored by the Melbourne Medical Syndicate.



Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba

Thibaud plays a 1756 Giovanni Battista Gabrielli violin on loan from Helena Rathbone. His Chair is sponsored by The Minta Group.

Violin



Violin

Maja plays the 1714 'ex-Isolde Menges' Giuseppe Guarneri filius Andreæ violin on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund. Her Chair is sponsored by Alenka Tindale.



Elizabeth Woolnough Viola

Elizabeth plays her own 1968 Parisian viola by Brothers Amati cello on loan from the ACO Pierre M. Audinot. Her Instrument Fund. His Chair is sponsored by Terry Campbell AO & Chair is sponsored by Prof Doug Jones AO & Christine Campbell. Prof Janet Walker CM.



Timo-Veikko Valve Principal Cello Tipi plays a 1616

Melissa plays an 1846 cello by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume. Her Chair is sponsored by Jason & Alexandra Wenderoth.

Cello

Melissa Barnard





Anna da Silva Chen Violin

Anna plays an 18thcentury violin made in the style of Pietro Guarneri of Venice, kindly on loan from Jannie Brown. Her Chair is sponsored by Alenka Tindale.



Aiko Goto Violin

Aiko plays the 1714 'ex-Isolde Menges' Giuseppe Guarneri filius Andrea violin on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund. Her Chair is sponsored by Anthony & Sharon Lee Foundation.



Ilya Isakovich Violin

Ilya plays a 1590 Brothers Amati violin on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund, His Chair is sponsored by Meg Meldrum.



Ike See Violin

lke plays his own 2021 Zygmuntowicz violin. His Chair is sponsored by lan Lansdown & Tricia Bell.



Tim Yu Violin

Tim plays a violin ascribed to Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù in 1740, assembled by John Lott circa 1850, on loan from an anonymous Australian private benefactor. His Chair is sponsored by Barbara & Ralph Ward-Ambler.



Stefanie Farrands Principal Viola

Stefanie plays her own 2016 viola made by Ragnar Hayn in Berlin. Her Chair is sponsored by peckvonhartel architects.



Julian Thompson Cello

Julian plays a 1729 Giuseppe Guarneri filius Andrea cello with elements of the instrument crafted by his son, Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù, donated to the ACO by the late Peter Weiss AO. His Chair is sponsored by the Grist & Stewart Families.



Maxime Bibeau **Principal Bass**

Max plays a late-16thcentury Gasparo da Salò bass on loan from UKARIA. His Chair is sponsored by the Darin Cooper Foundation.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR REPORT

In 2024 we welcomed three new core members to the ACO: violinists Anna da Silva Chen, Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba and Tim Yu. Following an extensive international search, we were delighted that these three young players were already part of the ACO family, having all taken part in our ACO Emerging Artist Program.

We began our Emerging Artist Program in 2005, recognising that it was our civic duty to provide on-the-job mentoring and training opportunities for talented young Australian musicians in the early stages of their careers. Now, nearly twenty years later, I am extraordinarily proud that of the 17 musicians in the ACO, six are Emerging Artist alumni – over a third of the ensemble – which serves as testament to both the program, and the calibre of young Australian string players.

While we were thrilled to welcome Anna, Thibaud and Tim to join the ranks of the ACO in 2024, we also farewelled a much-loved member of the Orchestra, violinist Maja Savnik. I first met Maja in her home country of Slovenia during my time as Artistic Director of the Maribor Festival, and was immediately struck by her curiosity and passion. After nearly ten years with the ACO, Maja made the decision to return home with her young family, but her distinctive flair, musicality and vim will forever be a part of the ACO's DNA.

We are privileged in the ACO to perform on one of the finest collections of Golden Age string instruments of any orchestra in the world. In 2024 I was honoured to become custodian of the newest addition to this collection – an extraordinary violin crafted in 1741 by the great Italian luthier Bartolomeo Giuseppe del Gesù Guarneri. It has all the hallmarks of a beautiful del Gesù, with a richly hewed, dark timbre that is particularly striking. It is a pleasure and honour to play this violin, and I am extremely grateful to the donors who made the ACO's acquisition of this instrument possible.

Collaboration has always been at the heart of the ACO, and in 2024 we were delighted to work and perform with incredible artists and musicians from across Australia and around the world. In August the ACO reunited with the outstanding Sydney Dance Company and Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela for the first time in nearly ten years for a brand-new project, *Silence & Rapture*, that celebrated the spiritual, otherworldly music of JS Bach and Arvo Pärt. Over ten concerts in five Australian capital cities, the ACO took to the stage with dancers Liam Green and Emily Seymour as well as British countertenor lestyn Davies to perform this life-affirming music for sold-out audiences.

After years of pandemic interruptions, we were finally able to bring *River*—our cinematic collaboration with director Jennifer Peedom—into concert halls across the country. The ACO was also delighted to reunite with musicians including pianist Kristian Bezuidenhout, tenor Stuart



Skelton, didgeridoo player William Barton, classical accordionist James Crabb and oud player Joseph Tawadros, while musicians including mezzo-soprano Catherine Carby, cellist Nicolas Altstaedt and guitarist Sean Shibe performed with the ACO for the first time in 2024.

It wasn't just musicians who made their ACO debuts in 2024. Over three concerts in April the ACO was honoured, and slightly frightened, to be joined onstage by two of Australia's most esteemed journalists – Annabel Crabb and Leigh Sales. Between them, they've interviewed everyone from world leaders to Beatles, so we jumped at the opportunity to have them join us onstage to interrogate us in the brilliant, and often hilarious, way that only they can.

2024 was an extraordinary year. I thank my colleagues in the ACO for all their work throughout the Season, along with our Managing Director Richard Evans AM, Chairman Martyn Myer AO, the Board and the wider administrative team.

I also thank our audiences around the country. It is your curiosity, passion and love for our artform that continues to drive us each year.

Richard Lognett

Richard Tognetti AO Artistic Director



For the Love of Music concert at the Sydney Opera House. Photo by Stephen Blake







05

CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT



In 2024, the Australian Chamber Orchestra performed for more than 125,600 ticketholders—our largest audience in the Orchestra's 49-year history. From ACO Family shows for our youngest concertgoers to performances on the world stage in cities including New York and Hong Kong, the 2024 Season reflected the breadth, ambition, and boundless curiosity for which the ACO has become globally renowned.

The ACO is Australia's most travelled orchestra and 2024 was no exception, with the ensemble embarking on three international tours in addition to its busy national concert season and extensive regional touring activities. Following the success of the ACO's 2023 Café Carlyle debut, the iconic New York venue invited an ACO string quartet to return for a week-long residency in April. Led by Richard Tognetti, the quartet performed an intriguingly eclectic program—from Bach and Paganini to Nick Drake and Cy Coleman—to ecstatic audiences across five concerts.

This was followed by a tour of the ACO's acclaimed *Four Seasons* collaboration with oud virtuoso Joseph Tawadros and riq master James Tawadros across North America in cities including New York and Boston, with *The Boston Globe* declaring the rendition "a gift, as if hearing [*The Four Seasons*] for the first time". The Orchestra closed out the year on a high with four sold-out performances at the Prison Yard Festival in Hong Kong's historic cultural centre of Tai Kwun.

Closer to home, 2024 marked the ACO's third year at our magnificent award-winning home, ACO On The Pier, located on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We are proud to share that ACO On The Pier was visited by more than 30,000 people across 284 events in 2024, including over 90 ACO-presented performances. These ranged from the return of *ACO Total Immersion*, our ACO Up Close recital series and ACO Relaxed concerts designed for audiences with disability and access needs, to three seasons of ACO Families concerts – including a sell-out run of *The Nutcracker* – and concerts featuring ACO Collective, our ensemble that connects the country's most talented emerging musicians with the core players of the ACO.

ACO On The Pier has grown to become not just a destination to experience the ACO, but a place in which audiences can enjoy a diverse array of Australia's most vibrant arts organisations. In 2024 the ACO welcomed 27 arts organisations – including Sydney Festival, the Australian World Orchestra, Ensemble Offspring and Sydney Chamber Choir – to present performances at the venue. In addition, ACO On The Pier was delighted to host events for 50 hirers from sectors spanning publishing, sports, government and beyond.

Above. Martyn Myer Ao, Chairman.

Richard Evans AM, Managing Director.



The ACO's Learning & Engagement program continued to grow from strength to strength, offering a broad spectrum of fun, clever and inclusive programs for young people. This included three seasons of ACO Families shows, which were performed to over 20,000 children and their families in metropolitan and regional centres across the country, as well as three sold-out ACO Family Days held at ACO On The Pier. The ACO also continued its work in mentoring the next generation of string musicians, welcoming six outstanding young musicians in the early stages of their careers to take part in our acclaimed Emerging Artist program, and 31 high-school aged musicians to take part in the week-long ACO Academy program.

The ACO presented four world premieres and seven Australian premieres in 2024. This included commissioning and premiering music by Australian composers Anne Cawrse, Jakub Jankowski, Chad Kelly and Harry Sdraulig, and co-commissioning a thrilling new guitar concerto, *Chanter*, by acclaimed Canadian composer Cassandra Miller, which received its Australian premiere in our collaboration with guitarist Sean Shibe, *Scotland Unbound*. The ACO also performed new music by beloved Australian composer Elena Kats-Chernin for the soundtrack of director Adam Elliot's *Memoir of a Snail*, which was nominated for Best Animated Feature at the 2025 Academy Awards.

The ACO has one of the finest Golden Age string instrument collections of any orchestra in the world and in 2024 we were honoured to welcome a remarkable new addition: a 1741–44 Guarneri del Gesù violin, played by Richard Tognetti. The acquisition of this magnificent instrument was only made possible through donations from some of the ACO's philanthropic patrons, and we remain indebted to these individuals for their generosity and vision.

In 2024 the ACO announced Wesfarmers Arts as Principal Partner of the organisation. Following a rich history of collaboration between the two companies that began nearly three decades ago, Wesfarmers Arts perform a critical role in supporting the ACO as a truly international ensemble, allowing more audiences across Australia and around the globe to experience the world-class performances of this extraordinary Orchestra.

The ACO was also thrilled to announce the extension of its exclusive partnership with the University of Melbourne for another seven years. This renewal builds upon the existing five-year collaboration between the University of Melbourne and the ACO, which combines the worldclass musical expertise of the ACO with the University's educational excellence and wide-reaching influence.

The underlying result from general operations in 2024 was a trading deficit of \$445,391 (2023: \$506,899), before the 2024 non-recurring and capital-in-nature impacts totaling \$5,872,211 (2023: \$2,603,476). The 2024 non-recurring and capital-in-nature items were caused by a variety of factors, including favourable impacts from investment income, non-cash musical instrument revaluations, and one-off donations for a new musical instrument, offset by the new premises project net expenditure. Once these non-recurring and capital-in-nature items are included, the overall total comprehensive income for the year was a surplus of \$5,426,820 (2023: \$2,097,577).

Additional technical, facility, marketing and support costs incurred in the operations of ACO On The Pier will take several years to stabilise as the new commercial model and market is established. Furthermore, unpredictable market conditions and inflationary wage and cost pressures are impacting the company and the wider sector.

Consistent with our not-for-profit status, any surpluses are reinvested in the mission of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and the parent company has cash and other reserves to meet its obligations and continue as a going concern.

The ACO was delighted to continue to receive generous support from patrons and philanthropists towards the Capital Campaign, which supports the establishment of the ACO's new premises, in 2024. \$468,943 in cash donations was received in 2024 [life-to-date as at 31 December 2024: \$16,352,701 (\$15,883,758 life-to-date as at 31 December 2023)].

We are grateful to the ACO's philanthropic donors, valued corporate partners and Creative Australia and Create NSW, whose support is vital in making all of the performances, tours and outreach and engagement activities of the past year possible.

Finally, we thank Richard Tognetti and the musicians of the ACO including new members Anna da Silva Chen, Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba, and Tim Yu. Your passion, vision, and artistry is what continues to inspire us, and audiences around the world, now and long into the future.

Martyn Myer Ao Chairman Richard Evans AM Managing Director



Above. *The Nutcracker* at ACO On The Pier. Photo by Anna Kucera

Left. Richard Tognetti, Artistic Director & Lead Violin. Photo by Daniel Boud

NATIONAL CONCERT SEASON

06

78 CONCERTS 88,994 TOTAL ATTENDANCE







River 1-16 FEBRUARY

11 CONCERTS | 14,136 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Artistic Director Richard Tognetti and film director Jennifer Peedom followed their acclaimed *Mountain* collaboration with this cinematic exploration of the waterways that have shaped our world. The result was an awe-inspiring combination of timeless music, captivating cinematography, and distinctive narration from Academy Award[™] nominee Willem Dafoe.

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ "This richly conceived and persuasively presented plea for the life of the planet demands serious attention." THE AGE, 5 FEBRUARY 2024

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Musical Director, Composer & Violin William Barton Composer, Vocals & Didgeridoo Satu Vänskä Vocals & Violin Australian Chamber Orchestra

Jennifer Peedom Writer & Director Robert Macfarlane Writer Jo-anne McGowan. Jennifer Peedom. John Smithson Producers Joseph Nizeti Co-Writer & Co-Director Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Ben Knight, Sherpas Cinema, Renan Ozturk and Pete McBride Principal Cinematography Willem Dafoe Narrator Nigel Jamieson Staging Director Damien Cooper Lighting Design

PROGRAM

River film live in concert featured music by Bach, Vivaldi, Mahler, Sibelius, Ravel, Thomas Adès, Pēteris Vasks, Richard Tognetti, Radiohead, Jonny Greenwood, William Barton and Piers Burbrook de Vere.

VENUES Newcastle City Hall Thu 1 Feb 7.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre Sat 3 Feb 7.30pm Mon 5 Feb 7.30pm

Melbourne • Arts Centre Melbourne Sun 4 Feb 2.30pm

Canberra Theatre Centre Wed 7 Feb 8pm

Sydney · City Recital Hall Sat 10 Feb 7pm Tue 13 Feb 8pm Wed 14 Feb 7pm

Sydney Opera House Sun 11 Feb 2pm

Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall Mon 12 Feb 7pm

Perth Concert Hall Fri 16 Feb 7.30pm



Beethoven's Emperor

9-24 MARCH

11 CONCERTS | 12,124 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Pianist Kristian Bezuidenhout returned to the ACO to direct this celebratory concert from the fortepiano, with Beethoven's beloved Emperor Concerto at its heart.

 $\star \star \star \star$ "A superbly curated program culminating in one of the most sublime achievements of the human imagination - Beethoven's fifth and final piano concerto - brought the composer's sound world to glorious life."

THE AGE, 19 MARCH 2024

 $\star \star \star \star$ "Helena Rathbone led the ACO with discipline and discernment... creating a sound of velvety warmth against which Bezuidenhout articulated phrases of poetic lyricism. In the finale. Bezuidenhout and the ACO maintained excitement through their focus, rhythmic tautness and musical intensity."

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 21 MARCH 2024

"Crisp playing in all parts complemented the lucid quality of the solo, and when bravura was called for the whole ensemble rose to it."

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, 26 MARCH 2024

NATIONAL TOUR PARTNER



Above. Photo by Nic Walker

ARTISTS

Kristian Bezuidenhout Director & Fortepiano Helena Rathbone Lead Violin Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Ferdinand Ries Symphony No.2 in C minor, Op.80: I. Allegro ma non troppo Franz Schubert Rosamunde, D.797: Entr'acte after Act III. interspersed with variations from Impromptu No.3 in B-flat major, D.935 Britta Byström A Walk to Beethoven's First Symphony (Australian Premiere) Ludwig van Beethoven (arr. Franz Liszt) Symphony No.1 in C major, Op.21: II. Andante cantabile con moto (excerpt) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Cadenza by Beethoven) Piano Concerto No.20 in D minor, K.466: III. Allegro assai Beethoven Piano Concerto No.5 in E-flat major, Op.73 "Emperor"

VENUES Wollongong Town Hall Sat 9 Mar 7.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall Tue 12 Mar 7.30pm

Perth Concert Hall Wed 13 Mar 7.30pm

Melbourne Recital Hall Sat 16 Mar 7.30pm Mon 18 Mar 7.30pm

Melbourne • Arts Centre Melbourne Sun 17 Mar 2.30pm

Sydney • City Recital Hall

Tue 19 Mar 8pm Wed 20 Mar 7pm Fri 22 Mar 7pm Sat 23 Mar 7pm

Sydney Opera House

Sun 24 Mar 2pm

Above. Photo by Charlie Kinross



Mahler's Song of the Earth

12-26 MAY

9 CONCERTS | 9,453 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Stuart Skelton and Catherine Carby starred in this extraordinary encounter with Mahler's monumental song cycle, directed by Richard Tognetti.

"It's one not to be missed." LIMELIGHT, 14 MAY 2024

★★★★ "There was a kind of perfection in this performance that one doesn't come across very often." SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 15 MAY 2024

"Catherine Carby was outstanding... Skelton's ringing topregister power, piercing clarity and impressive agility conveyed the songs' wildly contrasting emotions with compelling expressive intensity."

THE AUSTRALIAN, 20 MAY 2024

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Catherine Carby Mezzo-Soprano Stuart Skelton Tenor Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Richard Wagner Siegfried Idyll, WWV103 Alma Mahler-Werfel (arr. David Matthews) Drei Lieder (Three Songs) Gustav Mahler (arr. Arnold Schoenberg & Rainer Riehn) Das Lied von der Erde (The Song of the Earth)

VENUES Sydney Opera House Sun 12 May 2pm

Melbourne Recital Centre Mon 13 May 7.30pm Wed 22 May 7.30pm

Sydney • City Recital Hall Wed 15 May 7pm Fri 17 May 8pm Sat 18 May 7pm

Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall Mon 20 May 7pm

Canberra • Llewellyn Hall Fri 24 May 8pm

Melbourne • Arts Centre Melbourne Sun 26 May 2.30pm



Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky

14-30 JUNE

11 CONCERTS | 12,805 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

World-renowned cellist and master storyteller Nicolas Altstaedt made his ACO debut as soloist and guest director, performing music including Haydn's Cello Concerto in C major and Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*.

******* "Cellist Nicolas Altstaedt tossed out the themes from the first movement of Haydn's Cello Concerto in C major with light buoyancy, exchanging graciously turned sequences with ACO leader Helena Rathbone with sublime elegance." SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 19 JUNE 2024

"The performance brought the house down." LIMELIGHT, 20 JUNE 2024

★★★★ "Full of congeniality and collegiality, this concert was collaborative music-making at its best, backed up by seasoned professional experience and innovative programming." THE AGE, 24 JUNE 2024

Above. Photo by Nic Walker

ARTISTS Nicolas Altstaedt Director & Cello Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Joseph Haydn The Seven Last Words of Christ: I. Introduzione György Kurtág Officium breve, in memoriam Andræ Szervánszky, Op.28: Selections Haydn The Seven Last Words of Christ: IX. Il terremoto Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (arr. Bernard Rofe) Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op.33 Sándor Veress Four Transylvanian Dances Iannis Xenakis Aroura Haydn Cello Concerto in C major

VENUES Canberra • Llewellyn Hall Sat 16 Jun 8pm

Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall Mon 17 Jun 7pm

Sydney • City Recital Hall Tue 18 Jun 8pm Thu 20 Jun 7pm Sat 29 Jun 7pm

Newcastle City Hall Fri 21 Jun 7.30pm

Melbourne • Arts Centre Melbourne Sun 23 Jun 2.30pm Mon 24 Jun 7.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall Tue 25 Jun 7.30pm

Perth Concert Hall Wed 26 Jun 7.30pm

Sydney Opera House Sun 30 Jun 2pm

Above. Photo by Nic Walker





Silence & Rapture

2-19 AUGUST

12 CONCERTS | 16,056 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Richard Tognetti directed this mesmerising collaboration between the ACO and Sydney Dance Company, featuring countertenor lestyn Davies in his Australian debut, that brought together music, movement, song and evocative lighting to create a truly extraordinary experience.

 $\star \star \star \star$ "The ACO, Davies and SDC have put a lot of love into this gorgeous curation."

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 5 AUGUST 2024

"When it finished, the Adelaide audience reacted with thunderous applause and wolf whistles as if they were at a rock concert."

ARTSHUB, 15 AUGUST 2024

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Artistic Director & Violin Rafael Bonachela Choreographer & Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Iestyn Davies Countertenor Stefanie Farrands Viola Timo-Veikko Valve Cello Chad Kelly Organ & Harpsichord Australian Chamber Orchestra Featuring artists from Sydney Dance Company Liam Green Dancer Emily Seymour Dancer

PROGRAM

Prelude Johann Sebastian Bach Kanon zu acht Stimmen, BWV1072 Arvo Pärt Collage on B-A-C-H: I. Toccata Hope and temptation: Garden of Eden Bach Cantata "Widerstehe doch der Sünde", BWV54: III. Aria "Wer Sunde tut, der ist vom Teufel" Bach Sonata for Violin and Keyboard No.2 in A major, BWV1015: I. Dolce Bach Cantata "Ich bin ein guter Hirt", BWV85: II. Aria "Jesus ist ein guter Hirt" Pärt Fratres, for violin, strings and percussion Tragedy and passion: Garden of Gethsemane Bach Sonata for Solo Violin No.2 in A minor, BWV1003: III. Andante Bach St Matthew Passion, BWV244: Aria "Erbarme dicht" Pärt Für Lennart in memoriam Pärt My Heart's in the Highlands Redemption: Garden of Heaven Bach Cantata "Der Herr denket an uns", BWV196: Sinfonia Pärt Vater Unser Bach Suite for Solo Cello No.3 in C major, BWV1009: I. Prelude Bach Magnificat, BWV243: II. "Et exsultavit" Into silence Pärt Pari intervallo (excerpt) Bach The Art of Fugue, BWV1080: Fuga a 3 Sogetti (unfinished) Paul Hindemith Trauermusik: IV. Sehr langsam

VENUES Sydney • City Recital Hall Fri 2 Aug 7pm, Sat 3 Aug 7pm, Tue 6 Aug 8pm, Wed 7 Aug 7pm

Melbourne Recital Centre Sat 10 Aug 7.30pm Mon 12 Aug 7.30pm

Melbourne • Arts Centre Melbourne Sun 11 Aug 2.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall Tue 13 Aug 7.30pm

Perth Concert Hall Wed 14 Aug 7.30pm

Canberra • Llewellyn Hall Sat 17 Aug 8pm

Sydney Opera House Sun 18 Aug 2pm

Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall Mon 19 Aug 7pm

Above. Photo by Daniel Boud



Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.

5-23 SEPTEMBER

13 CONCERTS | 12,208 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Sparks flew and melodies soared when Richard Tognetti directed music close to the ACO's heart, including Mendelssohn's Octet.

★★★ "A rapturous and refined account of Mendelssohn's Octet revealed the ACO's true musical mettle, every player revelling in the music's constant challenges." SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

"It is also a celebration of collaborative musicmaking and the two quartets, under Tognetti and ACO Principal Violin Helena Rathbone, gave an outstanding performance which was equal parts invigorating, uplifting and life-affirming." LIMELIGHT, 20 SEPTEMBER 2024

NATIONAL TOUR PARTNER

MUTUAL TRUST

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Einojuhani Rautavaara Pelimannit – Fiddlers, Op.1

Jakub Jankowski Ritornello (World Premiere)* Johann Sebastian Bach Violin Concerto in A minor, BWV1041 Anna Thorvaldsdottir Illumine Felix Mendelssohn Octet for strings in E-flat major, Op.20

VENUES Newcastle City Hall Thu 5 Sep 7.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre Sat 7 Sep 7.30pm Mon 9 Sep 7.30pm

Melbourne • Arts Centre Melbourne Sun 8 Sep 2.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall Tue 10 Sep 7.30pm

Canberra • Llewellyn Hall Sat 14 Sep 8pm

Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall Mon 16 Sep 7pm

Sydney • City Recital Hall Tue 17 Sep 8pm Wed 18 Sep 7pm Fri 20 Sep 7pm Sat 21 Sep 7pm

Sydney Opera House Sun 22 Sep 2pm

Wollongong Town Hall Mon 23 Sep 7.30pm



Scotland Unbound

11 CONCERTS | 12,212 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Guitarist Sean Shibe made his Australian debut in an inspired and thrilling season closer that celebrated his Scottish homeland.

"Releasing both Tognetti and Shibe's inner rock stars, selections from Martyn Bennett's *Bothy Culture*, a high-energy amalgam of Celtic folk and electronic styles, brought this curious catch-all program to a rollicking end." THE AGE, 19 NOVEMBER 2024

*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra, generously supported by Julia Pincus and Ian Learmonth.

Above. Photo by Nic Walker

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Sean Shibe Classical & Electric Guitars Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Traditional (arr. Sean Shibe) A Scots Tune James Macmillan (arr. George Duthie) From Galloway Friedemann Stickle (arr. James Crabb) Da Trowie Burn James Scott Skinner (arr. James Crabb) Ossian Niel Gow (arr. James Crabb) Niel Gow's Lament for the Death of his Second Wife Traditional (arr. James Crabb) Struan Robertson's Rant (Cuckold Come Out of the Amrey) Cassandra Miller Chanter (Australian Premiere)* Julia Wolfe (arr. James Crabb) Lad (Australian Premiere) David Fennessy Hirta Rounds (Australian Premiere) Martyn Bennett (arr. James Crabb) Bothy Culture: Ud the Doudouk, Aye?, Shputnik in Glenshiel

VENUES

Wollongong Town Hall Thu 7 Nov 7.30pm

Sydney • City Recital Hall Sat 9 Nov 7pm Tue 12 Nov 8pm Wed 13 Nov 7pm

Sydney Opera House Sun 10 Nov 2pm

Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall Mon 11 Nov 7pm

Canberra • Llewellyn Hall Sat 16 Nov 8pm

Melbourne • Arts Centre Melbourne Sun 17 Nov 2.30pm Sun 18 Nov 7.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall Tue 19 Nov 7.30pm

Perth Concert Hall Wed 20 Nov 7.30pm

*Co-commissioned by Dunedin Consort (supported by John Ellerman Foundation), Barbican Centre, Saffron Hall, Australian Chamber Orchestra, and Cheltenham Festival.

Above. Photo by Nic Walker

ACO ON THE PIER

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

The ACO hosted 284 events at its home at ACO On The Pier in the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct in 2024. These events were comprised of concerts and events presented by the ACO, and concerts and events presented by other organisations who hired the spaces within ACO On The Pier: The Neilson, The Studio and the Belgiorno Room.

ACO Concerts and Events

The ACO presented over 90 performances at ACO On The Pier in 2024. These included concerts presented in its ACO Up Close series, ACO Relaxed series, ACO Families seasons (detailed from page 42), ACO Collective concerts (detailed from page 40) and special events including ACO Total Immersion (detailed on page 34).

ACO UP CLOSE

15 CONCERTS | 2,659 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Inspired by Bach

Presented in partnership with Sydney Festival **25 JANUARY**

2 CONCERTS | 393 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS

Ike See Violin Aiko Goto Violin Elizabeth Woolnough Viola Melissa Barnard Cello Ariadne Sgouros Actor

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (arr. Bernard Labadie) Goldberg Variations, BWV988: Aria; Variations 1, 13, 14 Caroline Shaw Punctum Bach Two-Part Invention No.8 in F major, BWV779 Elena Kats-Chernin Re-Invention No.1 Sofia Gubaidulina Reflections on the Theme of B-A-C-H Bach (arr. Calvin Bowman) "O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde groß", BWV622 Bach (arr. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart) The Well-Tempered Clavier Book 2: Fugue in E-flat major, BWV876 Felix Mendelssohn String Quartet in E-flat major '1823': IV. Fuga Bach (arr. Bernard Labadie) Goldberg Variations, BWV988: Aria da capo

VENUE

Sydney • The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Thu 25 Jan 6.30pm & 8.30pm

Kristian Bezuidenhout 15 MARCH

1 CONCERT | 143 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS

Kristian Bezuidenhout Harpsichord & Fortepiano Toby Chadd Host

PROGRAM

Johann Jakob Froberger Suite in C major, FbWV612a Ludwig van Beethoven Rondo in C major, Op.51, No.1 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Rondo in A minor, K.511 Mozart Sonata in B-flat major, K.570

VENUE

Sydney · The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Fri 15 Mar 7pm

Beethoven Arranged

20 & 22 APRIL

3 CONCERTS 371 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS

Helena Rathbone Violin Liisa Pallandi Violin Stefanie Farrands Viola Timo-Veikko Valve Cello Melissa Barnard Cello Aura Go Piano Ce Benedict Host

PROGRAM

Ludwig van Beethoven (arr. Ferdinand Ries) Cello Sonata in F major. Op.5, No.1, arranged for string quintet Beethoven (arr. Beethoven) Symphony No.2 in D major, Op.36, arranged for piano trio

VENUES

Sydney · The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Sat 20 Apr 7pm

Melbourne • Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre Mon 22 Apr 4pm & 7pm

Satu In The Beyond

1 JUNE

1 CONCERT | 246 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS

Satu Vänska Violin & Vocals Richard Tognetti Violins Charlie Westhoff Violin & Vocals Paul Beard Keyboards & Vocals Kiah Gossner Bass Declan Kelly Drums

PROGRAM

Aulis Sallinen Cadenza for solo violin DJ O'zopïum DJ Set Sufjan Stevens (arr. Michael Atkinson) Run Rabbit Run: Year of the Boar Nick Drake (arr. Richard Tognetti) Way to Blue Johann Sebastian Bach (arr. Tognetti) Fugue from Sonata for Solo Violin No.1 in G minor, BWV1001 Nirvana (arr. Tognetti) Something in the Way Stevens (arr. Atkinson) Run Rabbit Run: Year of Our Lord Richard Tognetti Metho Drinker Ruth Crawford Seeger String Quartet: IV. Allegro possibile Tognetti Hippy van Shady Tognetti Heston Tognetti Transfiguration Radiohead Harry Patch (In Memory Of) Tognetti Wollongong 1974

VENUE

Sydney • The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Sat 1 Jun 7pm

Nicolas Altstaedt

28 JUNE 1 CONCERT | 274 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS Nicolas Altstaedt Cello Ce Benedict Host

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach Suite for Solo Cello No.1 in G major, BWV1007 Henri Dutilleux Trois Strophes sur le nom de Sacher Bach Suite for Solo Cello No.5 in C minor, BWV1011

VENUE Sydney • The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Fri 28 Jun 7pm

Omar Musa & Mariel Roberts

2 AUGUST

1 CONCERT | 158 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS Omar Musa Vocals, Words & Visuals Mariel Roberts Cello

PROGRAM

All works by Omar Musa Prelude: The Offering Water Spirit on the Plastic Sea Orangutan / Jungle Fire on the Hills Interlude: Water Spirit Finds Scrap of Fabric Flags of Borneo Cello Interlude Interlude: Plastic Sea Turtle Eggs Ceiling Fan Interlude: Plastic Sea To Burning Volcano Postlude: Aku Tanah Air

VENILIE Sydney • The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Fri 2 Aug 7pm

Intimate Bach & Pärt 24 & 26 AUGUST

3 CONCERTS | 502 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Violin Timo-Veikko Valve Cello Chad Kelly Harpsichord & Piano Ce Benedict Host

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach Suite for Solo Cello No.1 in G major, BWV1007: I. Prelude Kate Moore Lidy's Piece Arvo Pärt Fratres, for violin and piano Bach Sonata for Violin and Keyboard No.2 in A major. BWV1015 Pärt Spiegel im Spiegel, for cello and piano Bach Two-Part Invention No.11 in G minor, BWV782 Bach Two-Part Invention No.11 in G minor, BWV781 Pärt Fur Alina Bach English Suite No.3 in G minor, BWV808: I. Prelude Bach Sonata for Viola da Gamba and Keyboard No.3 in G minor, BWV1029: II. Andante, III. Allegro

VENUES

Sydney • The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Sat 24 Aug 7pm

Melbourne · Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre Mon 26 Aug 4pm & 7pm

Baroque Unveiled

7 SEPTEMBER

1 CONCERT | 208 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS Chad Kelly Guest Director & Harpsichord ACO Collective Ce Benedict Host

PROGRAM

John Blow Venus and Adonis: Overture and Suite Johann Sebastian Bach The Musical Offering, BWV1079: Ricercar a 6 Chad Kelly (after Orlando Gibbons) In Nomine (World Premiere)* Pietro Locatelli Concerto Grosso in E-flat major, Op.7, No.6 "Il pianto d'Arianna" Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber Battalia à 10

VENUE Sydney • The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Sat 7 Sep 7pm

*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra

Phil Slater Quartet

18 OCTOBER

1 CONCERT | 200 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS

Phil Slater Trumpet Matt McMahon Piano Brett Hirst Bass Simon Barker Drumset

PROGRAM Phil Slater The Dark Pattern: Selections Slater Immersion Lure: Selections

VENUE Sydney · The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Fri 18 Oct 7pm

Sean Shibe 15 NOVEMBER

1 CONCERT | 164 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS Sean Shibe Classical Guitar Ce Benedict Host

PROGRAM

Traditional (compiled by Lady Margaret Wemyss) Scottish Lute Manuscripts Frank Martin Quatre pièces brèves Thomas Adès Forgotten Dances (Australian Premiere)

VENUE

Sydney • The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Fri 15 Nov 7pm

ACO RELAXED

The Lark Ascending

17 MAY

1 CONCERT | 95 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS Helena Rathbone Director & Violin ACO Collective

PROGRAM Hugo Wolf Italian Serenade Anne Cawrse Falling Upward* Ralph Vaughan Williams (arr. Adam Johnson) The Lark Ascending Wojciech Kilar Orawa

VENUE

Svdnev · The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Fri 17 May 11am

*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra

Mendelssohn. Bach.

13 SEPTEMBER 1 CONCERT | 195 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ARTISTS Helena Rathbone Director & Violin Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Einojuhani Rautavaara Pelimannit - The Fiddlers, Op.1 Johann Sebastian Bach Violin Concerto in A minor, BWV1041 Felix Mendelssohn Octet for Strings in E-flat major, Op.20: Allegro moderato ma con fuoco

VENUE

Sydney · The Neilson, ACO On The Pier Fri 13 Sep 11am

ACO On The Pier Presenters

2024 was a strong period of growth and exposure, not only for the ACO's home, ACO On The Pier, but the entire Walsh Bay Arts Precinct.

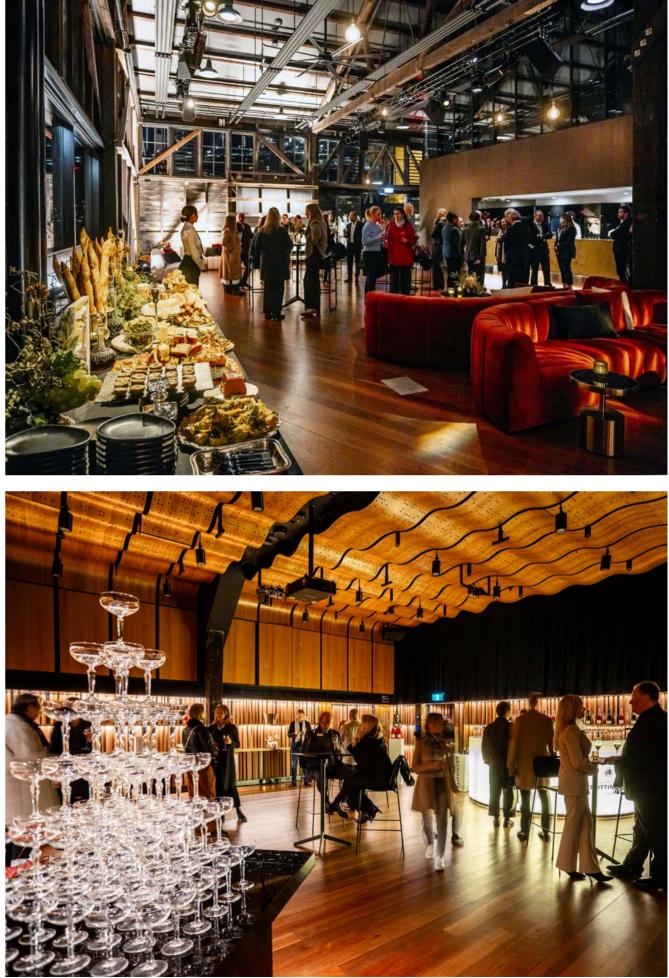
The ACO hosted 284 public events at ACO On The Pier in 2024, welcoming approximately 30,000 guests to the venue. In total, 27 arts organisations presented events at ACO On The Pier in 2024, which included Sydney Festival, Australian World Orchestra, the Australian Youth Orchestra, Ensemble Offspring, Luminescence Chamber Singers, the Goldner String Quartet, the Omega Ensemble, Melba Opera Trust, Sydney Chamber Choir, Percussion Australia – Synergy Percussion and Sydney Writers Festival.

ACO On The Pier also hosted events for 50 hirers from a broad range of industries, including publishing, sports, government, finance, IT, and property.

Below. *Lilja* performance at Sydney Festival. Photo by Victor Frankowski







INTERNATIONAL TOURING

 $\mathbf{08}$

16 CONCERTS 4,151 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Performance at New York's Café Carlyle.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER ACO COLLECTIVE

 \mathbf{X} Wesfarmers Arts

The Australian Chamber Orchestra embarked on three international tours in the 2024 Season. This included a string guartet residency at New York's iconic Café Carlyle, a tour of the ACO's acclaimed Four Seasons collaboration with Joseph and James Tawadros across North America and a residency at the Prison Yard Festival in Hong Kong's historic cultural centre of Tai Kwun.

United States

16-20 APRIL

5 CONCERTS | 301 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Café Carlyle

16-20 APRIL

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Satu Vänskä Violin Elizabeth Woolnough Viola Eliza Sdraulig Cello

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, Mehmed Vi Vahideddin Nihavend Taqsīm Antonio Vivaldi Violin Concerto in D major, RV208 "Grosso Mogul": BWV1043: Movements 1 & 2 [excerpt] Edvard Grieg String Quartet No.1 in G minor, Op.27: I. Un poco II. Grave Andante - Allegro molto ed agitato Joseph Tawadros Kindred Spirits Nick Drake (arr. Richard Tognetti) Way to Blue Vivaldi The Four Seasons: Spring, Op.8, No.1 Bach (arr. Tognetti) Fugue from Sonata for Solo Violin No.1 in G minor, Tawadros Permission to Evaporate BWV1001 Vivaldi The Four Seasons: Summer, Op.8, No.2 Bach (arr. Tognetti) Goldberg Variations, BWV988: Aria, Var. 1, 3, 5 Tawadros Eye of the Beholder Drake (arr. Tognetti) River Man Tawadros Give or Take Bach (arr. Tognetti) Goldberg Variations, BWV988: Var. 18, 22, 29, Aria Tanburi Angeli Makām-i-Rehavi Çember-i-Koca (Ottoman March) Erwin Schulhoff Five Pieces for String Quartet: III. Alla Czeca Vivaldi The Four Seasons: Autumn, Op.8, No.3 Kurt Weill Youkali Tawadros Point of Departure Friedrich Hollaender Wenn ich mir was wünschen dürfte Vivaldi The Four Seasons: Winter, Op.8, No.4 Anton Webern Five Movements for String Quartet, Op.5: III. Sehr lebhaf Tawadros Existence Weill Alabama Son Tawadros Constantinople Niccolo Paganini (arr. Tognetti) Caprice No.5 in A minor VENUE Astor Piazzolla Oblivion Rohnert Park, CA · Green Music Center, Weill Hall Antonio Vivaldi Summer (from The Four Seasons), Fri 11 Oct 7.30pm Op.8 No.2: III. Presto Encore Carmel, IN • The Palladium at the Center for Performing Arts Cy Coleman I Walk a Little Faster Sun 13 Oct 7pm

VENUE

New York · Café Carlyle Tue 16 Apr 8.45pm Wed 17 Apr 8.45pm Thu 18 Apr 8.45pm Fri 19 Apr 8.45pm Sat 20 Apr 8.45pm

United States

11-22 OCTOBER

7 CONCERTS | OVER 2,915 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

The Ottoman Four Seasons 11-22 OCTOBER

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Joseph Tawadros Oud James Tawadros Rig' & Bendir Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Stowe, VT · Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center Wed 16 Oct 7pm

Boston, MA · Jordan Hall

Fri 18 Oct 8pm

New York, NY • 92NY, Kaufmann Concert Hall Sun 20 Oct 2pm

Troy, NY • Troy Savings Bank Music Hall Tue 22 Oct 7.30pm

Mozart, Vivaldi and the Ottomans 17 OCTOBER

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Joseph Tawadros Oud James Tawadros Riq' & Bendir Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Mehmed Vi Vahideddin Nihavend Taqsīm Antonio Vivaldi Violin Concerto in D major, RV208 "Grosso Mogul": II. Grave Joseph Tawadros Kindred Spirits Mozart Violin Concerto No.5 in A major, K.219 "Turkish": I. Allegro aperto Tawadros Permission to Evaporate Vivaldi The Four Seasons: Summer, Op.8, No.2 Tawadros Eye of the Beholder Tawadros Give or Take Tanburi Angeli Makām-i-Rehavi Çember-i-Koca (Ottoman March) Mozart Violin Concerto No.5 in A major, K.219 "Turkish": III. Rondo. Tempo di menuetto Tawadros Point of Departure Vivaldi The Four Seasons: Winter, Op.8, No.4 Tawadros Existence Tawadros Constantinople

VENUE

Storrs, CT • Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts Thu 17 Oct 7.30pm

Hong Kong

5-8 DECEMBER

4 CONCERTS | 935 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

The Ottoman Four Seasons

5 & 8 DECEMBER

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Joseph Tawadros Oud James Tawadros Riq' & Bendir Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Mehmed Vi Vahideddin Nihavend Taqsīm Antonio Vivaldi Violin Concerto in D major, RV208 "Grosso Mogul": II. Grave Joseph Tawadros Kindred Spirits Vivaldi The Four Seasons: Spring, Op.8, No.1 Tawadros Permission to Evaporate Vivaldi The Four Seasons: Summer, Op.8, No.2 Tawadros Eye of the Beholder

Tawadros Give or Take Tanburi Angeli Makām-i-Rehavi Çember-i-Koca (Ottoman March)

Vivaldi The Four Seasons: Autumn, Op.8, No.3 Tawadros Point of Departure Vivaldi The Four Seasons: Winter, Op.8, No.4 Tawadros Existence Tawadros Constantinople

VENUE

Hong Kong • Tai Kwun Prison Yard Thu 5 Dec 7pm Sun 8 Dec 6pm

Tchaikovsky's Serenade 6 DECEMBER

ARTISTS Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Woiciech Kilar Orawa Pavel Haas (arr. Richard Tognetti) String Quartet No.2, Op.7 "From the Monkey Mountains" Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings in C major, Op.48

VENUE

Hong Kong • Tai Kwun Prison Yard Sat 6 Dec 6pm

Cong Quartet & Timo-Veikko Valve 8 DECEMBER

ARTISTS Cong Quartet Timo-Veikko Valve Cello

PROGRAM Adrian Wong Childhood Sweet Franz Schubert String Quintet in C major, D.956

VENUE Hong Kong • Tai Kwun Prison Yard Sun 8 Dec 2pm



ACO director and violinist **Richard Tognetti is fully aware** how overplayed Vivaldi's The Four Seasons is, so he gave Boston audiences the gift of hearing it as if for the first time, with help from **Egyptian-Australian musician** brothers Joseph (oud) and James (riq) Tawadros... Long story short: If your Four Seasons doesn't have an oud, it'll take some convincing to get me out of the house."

BOSTON GLOBE, BEST PERFORMANCES OF 2024

FESTIVALS & SPECIAL EVENTS

17 CONCERTS 6,494 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

For the Love of Music 8-12 APRIL

3 CONCERTS | 5,102 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Chart-topping podcasters and beloved ABC journalists Annabel Crabb and Leigh Sales of *Chat 10 Looks 3* joined Richard Tognetti and the ACO for three nights of irreverence, fun and aweinspiring music.

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Annabel Crabb Host Leigh Sales Host James Crabb Classical Accordion Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Sufjan Stevens (arr. Michael Atkinson) Suite from Run Rabbit Run: IV. Year of the Boar Johannes Brahms (arr. Richard Tognetti) Violin Concerto in D major, Op.77: III. Allegro giocoso Pēteris Vasks Concerto for Viola and String Orchestra: I. Andante Astor Piazzolla Oblivion Piazzolla (arr. James Crabb) Libertango Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Andante Cantabile, for cello and strings Wojciech Kilar Orawa

VENUES Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall Mon 8 Apr 7pm

Sydney • Sydney Opera House Tue 9 Apr 7.30pm

Melbourne • Arts Centre Melbourne Fri 12 Apr 7.30pm



TarraWarra Festival 4-5 MAY

4 CONCERTS | 723 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

The ACO returned to the spectacular setting of the TarraWarra Museum of Art to perform three concerts and a workshop.

Music and Memory

4 MAY

ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Stefanie Farrands Viola Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach Kanon zu acht Stimmen, BWV1072 Bach The Art of Fugue, BWV1080: Fuga a 3 Soggetti (unfinished) Paul Hindemith Trauermusik Krzysztof Penderecki Leaves of an Unwritten Diary, for string quintet Sufjan Stevens (arr. Michael Atkinson) Suite from Run Rabbit Run

VENUE

Healesville • TarraWarra Museum of Art Sat 4 May 12.30pm

Brahms's Violin Concerto

4 MAY

ARTISTS Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Timo-Veikko Valve Cello Maxime Bibeau Double Bass Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Tom Coult Prelude (after Monsieur de Sainte-Colombe) (Australian Premiere) Ida Moberg Stillness Franz Schubert (arr. Dobrinka Tabakova) Arpeggione Sonata in A minor, D.821 John Luther Adams Three Nocturnes for Solo Double Bass: Nos. 1 & 2 (Australian Premiere) Johannes Brahms (arr. Richard Tognetti) Violin Concerto in D major, Op.77

VENUE

Healesville • TarraWarra Museum of Art Sat 4 May 6pm

Left. *For the Love of Music* performance. Photo by Stephen Blake

Workshop

5 MAY

ARTISTS Helena Rathbone Lead Violin Aiko Goto Violin Elizabeth Woolnough Viola Julian Thompson Cello ACO Collective

PROGRAM Hugo Wolf (arr. strings) Italian Serenade Henry Purcell Fantasia upon One Note, Z.745

VENUE Healesville • TarraWarra Museum of Art Sun 5 May 11am

In Time and Place

5 MAY

ARTISTS Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Australian Chamber Orchestra ACO Collective

ACO Collective, directed by Helena Rathbone.

PROGRAM Hugo Wolf (arr. strings) Italian Serenade Henry Purcell Fantasia upon One Note, Z.745

ACO, directed by Richard Tognetti.

PROGRAM

Erwin Schulhoff (arr. strings) Five Pieces for String Quartet: Selections Edward Elgar Sospiri, Op.70 Joseph Haydn String Quartet in D major, Op.20, No.4: Selections Edvard Grieg Holberg Suite, Op.40

VENUE Healesville • TarraWarra Museum of Art Sun 5 May 2.30pm

ACO Total Immersion

7 & 8 JUNE

10 CONCERTS | 669 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ACO Total Immersion brings audiences up close with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, as they sit, stand and walk among the musicians to hear and feel the music.

Introduction

ARTIST Louis Hurley Tenor

PROGRAM Hildegard von Bingen O frondens virga Bingen O viridissima virga

ACO Total Immersion Quartet

ARTISTS Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba Violin Tim Yu Violin Stefanie Farrands Viola Timo-Veikko Valve Cello

PROGRAM Bryce Dessner Tenebre, for string quartet and tape

Australian Chamber Orchestra

ARTISTS

Helena Rathbone Director & Violin Liisa Pallandi Violin (Bach, Friday evening) Aiko Goto Violin (Bach, Saturday afternoon) Anna da Silva Chen Violin (Bach, Saturday evening) Australian Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

Wojciech Kilar Orawa Johann Sebastian Bach Sonata for Solo Violin No.1 in G minor, BWV1001: I. Adagio Samuel Barber Adagio for Strings Olivia Bettina Davies Crystalline

VENUE

Sydney • ACO On The Pier Fri 7 Jun 6.30pm, 7.15pm, 8.15pm & 9pm Sat 8 Jun 2.45pm, 3.45pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 7.15pm & 8.15pm





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ACO COLLECTIVE

11 CONCERTS 2,482 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ACO Collective performance in The Neilson. Photo by Maria Boyadgis

ACO Collective is the ACO's critically acclaimed string ensemble that brings together the core musicians of the ACO with Australia's most talented young professional string players to create a high-energy string orchestra.

The Lark Ascending

7-18 MAY

ON TOUR: MELBOURNE, BENDIGO, HEALESVILLE, COWES (VIC), NOWRA, SUTHERLAND (NSW) 6 PERFORMANCES | 1,581 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

THE NEILSON, ACO ON THE PIER 1 CONCERT | 273 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

TARRAWARRA FESTIVAL Concert and attendance figures recorded on page 35.

ACO Collective took to regional Victoria and New South Wales to perform Vaughan Williams' eternal favourite, *The Lark Ascending*, as the centrepiece of this uplifting program directed by ACO Principal Violin Helena Rathbone.

ARTISTS

Helena Rathbone Director & Violin ACO Collective

PROGRAM

Hugo Wolf (arr. strings) Italian Serenade Max Richter On the Nature of Daylight Henry Purcell Fantazia upon One Note, Z.745 Anne Cawrse Falling Upward (World Premiere)* Ralph Vaughan Williams (arr. Adam Johnson) The Lark Ascending Josef Suk Serenade for Strings in E-flat major, Op.6 Wojciech Kilar Orawa

*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra

Baroque Unveiled 7 SEPTEMBER

THE NEILSON, ACO ON THE PIER 1 CONCERT | 208 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Ebullient harpsichordist Chad Kelly directed ACO Collective in this engaging program of Baroque masterpieces.

ARTISTS

Chad Kelly Director & Harpsichord ACO Collective

PROGRAM

John Blow Venus and Adonis: Overture and Suite Johann Sebastian Bach The Musical Offering, BWV1079: Ricercar a 6 Chad Kelly (after Orlando Gibbons) In Nomine (World Premiere)* Pietro Locatelli Concerto Grosso in E-flat major, Op.7, No.6 "Il pianto d'Arianna" Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber Battalia à 10

Annual Report 2024

Vasse Felix Festival

6-8 DECEMBER

VASSE FELIX WINERY 3 CONCERTS | 420 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

ACO Collective gave a series of performances at the Vasse Felix Festival in Western Australia, including an extremely well-received new commission by Harry Sdraulig.

ARTISTS

Helena Rathbone Director & Violin ACO Collective

IN WILD COUNTRY

Dmitri Shostakovich Prelude and Scherzo, Op.11 Harry Sdraulig In Wild Country (World Premiere)* Ludwig van Beethoven String Quartet in C minor, Op.18, No.4 Josef Suk Serenade for Strings in E-flat major, Op.6

THE LARK ASCENDING

Anna Thorvaldsdottir Illumine Felix Mendelssohn String Quintet in A major, Op.18: I. Allegro Con Moto Ralph Vaughan Williams (arr. Adam Johnson) The Lark Ascending Claude Debussy (arr. Richard Tognetti) String Quartet in G minor, Op.10 Traditional (arr. Danish String Quartet) Wood Works: Selections

A STRINGS CELEBRATION

Gioachino Rossini Sonata a Quattro No.3 in C major **Bohuslav Martinů** Three Madrigals for Violin and Viola Duo, H.313: I. Poco Allegro

 ${\bf Hugo}\, {\bf Wolf}\, {\rm Italian}\, {\rm Serenade}$

Sergei Prokofiev Sonata for Two Violins, Op.56: I. Andante cantabile, II. Allegro

Jean-Baptiste Barriére Sonata No.10 for Two Cellos No.10 in G major Astor Piazzolla Tangos for Violin & Cello: Selections Edvard Grieg Holberg Suite, Op.40

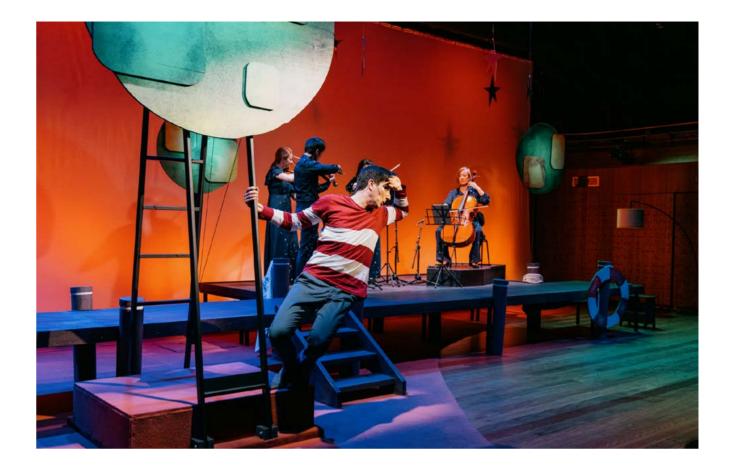
*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra

ACO FAMILIES

100 CONCERTS 20,240 TOTAL ATTENDANCE



12 2 10 2 10



How to Catch a Star

18 MAY - 11 JULY

ON TOUR: RENMARK, MT GAMBIER (SA); WARRNAM-BOOL, NARRE WARREN, GEELONG, WANGARATTA, TRARALGON (VIC); GOLD COAST (QLD); SUTHERLAND, PARRAMATTA, GOULBURN, WYONG (NSW) 34 PERFORMANCES | 7,033 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

THE NEILSON, ACO ON THE PIER 19 PERFORMANCES | 3,620 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Based on the book by international best-selling author Oliver Jeffers, this magical story of a boy reaching for his dreams was brought to life on stage through exquisite new music by Elena Kats-Chernin, performed by an ACO string quartet.

This stunning ACO Families production, originally premiered in 2022, returned to the stage in 2024, touring through 12 venues in South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales, before returning to ACO On The Pier for 14 school holiday performances and five schools shows.

CREATIVES

Sandra Eldridge Writer & Director Elena Kats-Chernin Composer Melanie Liertz Production Designer Matt Cox Lighting Designer Elle Evangelista Movement Director

PERFORMERS (ACO On The Pier)

William Bartolo Actor Ike See Violin Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba Violin Meagan Turner Viola Heather Lindsay Cello

PERFORMERS (On Tour)

William Bartolo Actor Janet Anderson Violin Madeleine Jevons Violin Rollin Zhao Violin Jacqueline Cronin Viola Meagan Turner Viola Hamish Jamieson Cello Eve Silver Cello

Above. Photo by Maria Boyadgis



There's a Sea in My Bedroom

28 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

THE NEILSON, ACO ON THE PIER 14 PERFORMANCES | 2,748 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

Weaving together captivating storytelling with an exquisite score by Paul Stanhope, *There's a Sea in My Bedroom* is an immersive introduction to live classical music, capturing the magic of a child's fantasy world.

In 2024, this original ACO Families production (first performed in 2019 and again in 2022) returned to ACO On The Pier with a reimagined design and an immersive multimedia element.

CREATIVES

Tim McGarry Writer & Director Paul Stanhope Composer Kelsey Lee Original Production Designer Morgan Moroney Lighting Designer Laura Turner Vision Designer

PERFORMERS

Jack Richardson Actor Mark Ingwersen Violin Caroline Hopson Violin Beth Condon Viola Heather Lindsay Cello



The Nutcracker

15-23 DECEMBER

THE NEILSON, ACO ON THE PIER 24 PERFORMANCES | 5,131 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

This imaginative adaptation of Tchaikovsky's muchloved ballet brought together music, dance, and theatre in an experience perfect for young audiences.

Performed by an actor, two dancers, and a quintet of ACO musicians this stunning production told the story of Clara's magical Christmas gift, her triumph over the Rat King, and her journey through Australian landscapes with her Nutcracker friend, delighting audiences young and old.

Above. Photo by Anna Kucera

CREATIVES

David McAllister Artistic Advisor Elsie Edgerton-Till Director Ella Havelka Choreographer George Kemp Script Writer Bernard Rofe Music Arranger Isabella Andronos Production Designer Morgan Moroney Lighting Designer

PERFORMERS

Charles Wu Actor Sama Rowe Dancer Sarah Rose Dancer (Understudy) Strahan Cormican-Jones Dancer Jacob Harrap Dancer (Understudy) Mark Ingwersen Violin Beatrice Colombis Violin Caroline Hopson Violin Beth Condon Viola Meagan Turner Viola Heather Lindsay Cello Jack Ward Cello Catherine Davis Celesta

Above. Photo by Anna Kucera

ACO Family Days 17 MARCH, 2 JUNE & 8 SEPTEMBER

ACO ON THE PIER 9 PERFORMANCES | 1,708 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

The ACO presented three ACO Family Days at ACO On The Pier in 2024. These experiences introduce children to the orchestra with short family concerts and creative play activities, at an accessible price.



PREMIERES & COMMISSIONS

Timo-Veikko Valve, Principal Cello. Photo by Nic Walker

World Premieres

The ACO presented four world premieres in its 2024 season.

Anne Cawrse

Falling Upward

World premiere in *ACO Collective: The Lark Ascending*, in May 2024.

Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Jakub Jankowski

Ritornello

World premiere in *Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.*, in September 2024.

Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra, generously supported by Julia Pincus and Ian Learmonth.

Chad Kelly

In Nomine (after Orlando Gibbons)

World premiere in *ACO Up Close: Baroque Unveiled*, in September 2024.

Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Harry Sdraulig

In Wild Country

World premiere in Vasse Felix Festival, in December 2024.

Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Australian Premieres

The ACO presented seven Australian premieres in its 2024 season.

Britta Byström

A Walk to Beethoven's First Symphony

Australian premiere in *Beethoven's Emperor*, in March 2024.

Tom Coult

Prelude (after Monsieur de Sainte-Colombe)

Australian premiere in TarraWarra Festival, in May 2024.

John Luther Adams

Three Nocturnes for Solo Double Bass

Australian premiere in TarraWarra Festival, in May 2024.

Cassandra Miller

Chanter

Australian premiere in *Scotland Unbound*, in November 2024.

Co-commissioned by Dunedin Consort (supported by John Ellerman Foundation), Barbican Centre, Saffron Hall, Australian Chamber Orchestra, and Cheltenham Festival.

Julia Wolfe

Lad

Australian premiere in *Scotland Unbound*, in November 2024.

David Fennessy

Hirta Rounds

Australian premiere in *Scotland Unbound*, in November 2024.

Thomas Adès

Forgotten Dances

Australian premiere in *ACO Up Close: Sean Shibe*, in November 2024.

13 ACO INSTRUMENTS



and a 1590 Amati violin.

The annual valuation of the Fund's assets by the Trustee was held on 17 June 2024. Based on the reports by three different instrument experts, the relevant exchange rate, and adjustments for deferred tax and provision for liquidity, the Trustee ascertained the value of the Fund's instruments at USD 7,620,667. Taking this valuation into account, the Trustee resolved to maintain the Fund's unit price at \$1.50.

During the year, the Fund welcomed additional new investments to a total of 133,333 units (\$199,999.50 at \$1.50 unit price). The ACO thanks the investors of the ACOIF, whose commitment allows the Fund to meet its twin objectives of long term capital gain and to enrich the sound of the ACO.

The ACO thanks the Trustee Board of the ACOIF, Edward Gilmartin. JoAnna Fisher, Erin Flaherty, Julie Steiner AM and John Taberner, including recently retired members Jessica Block and John Leece AM. Additionally the ACO would like to acknowledge ACOIF's Australian Financial Services Licence holder, JBWere Ltd.

Above. Satu Vänskä, Principal Violin. Photo by Daniel Boud

In 2024, the ACO Instrument Fund (ACOIF) preserved its asset bank of four rare instruments, comprising a 1728/29 Stradivarius violin, a 1714 Guarneri violin, a 1616 Amati cello

ACO Instrument Collection

The ACO has one of the finest instrument collections of any orchestra in the world, with nine precious Golden Age string instruments played by its internationally renowned virtuoso musicians.

In 2024 the ACO was delighted to announce a new violin joined its collection of Golden Age string instruments. The 1741-44 Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù was acquired by the ACO with the assistance of generous donations from ACO supporters, to be played exclusively by Artistic Director Richard Tognetti.

Richard Tognetti said: "This violin that I now play is an extraordinary instrument. It is what's known as a composite violin, with its back, scroll and ribs crafted by the great Golden Age Italian luthier, Bartolomeo Giuseppe del Gesù Guarneri, in 1741, while the top table of the instrument was made by Italian luthier Carol Bergonzi. It has all the hallmarks of a beautiful del Gesù, with a richly hewed, dark timbre that is particularly striking. It is a pleasure and an honour to play."

1741–44 Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù violin

Played by Artistic Director Richard Tognetti Kindly on loan from the ACO

1732 'ex-Dollfus' Stradivarius violin Played by Principal Violin Helena Rathbone Kindly on loan from anonymous Australian private benefactors

1728/29 Stradivarius violin Played by Principal Violin Satu Vänskä Kindly on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund

1590 Brothers Amati violin Played by violinist Ilya Isakovich Kindly on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund

1759 Giovanna Battista Guadagnini violin

Played by violinist Liisa Pallandi Kindly on loan from the ACO

1714 'ex-Isolde Menges' Giuseppe Guarneri filius Andreæ violin Played by violinist Aiko Goto

Kindly on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund

1616 Brothers Amati cello

Played by Principal Cello Timo-Veikko Valve Kindly on loan from the ACO Instrument Fund

1729 Giuseppe Guarneri filius Andreæ cello

Played by cellist Julian Thompson Kindly donated to the ACO by the late Peter Weiss AO

A late 16th century Gasparo da Salò bass

Played by Principal Bass Maxime Bibeau Kindly on loan from UKARIA



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ACO RECORDINGS, DIGITAL RELEASES AND AWARDS

ACO Recordings & Digital Releases



Memoir of a Snail (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack) Elena Kats-Chernin

ELENA KATS-CHERNIN Memoir of a Snail

Helena Rathbone Director & Violin James Crabb Classical Accordion Elena Kats-Chernin Piano & Organ Jane Sheldon Voice Australian Chamber Orchestra Cantillation

Released 11 October 2023 on ABC Classic.



Kilar: Orawa | Rautavaara: The Fiddlers Wojciech Kilar, Einojuhani Rautavaara

WOJCIECH KILAR Orawa EINOJUHANI RAUTAVAARA The Fiddlers

Richard Tognetti Director Australian Chamber Orchestra

Released 15 November 2023 on ABC Classic.

Awards

In 2024 the ACO was awarded the Air Award for Best Independent Classical Album.



2024 Air Award for Best Classical Album *Beethoven 1, 2, 3 Eroica*

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin Australian Chamber Orchestra



Digital Overview

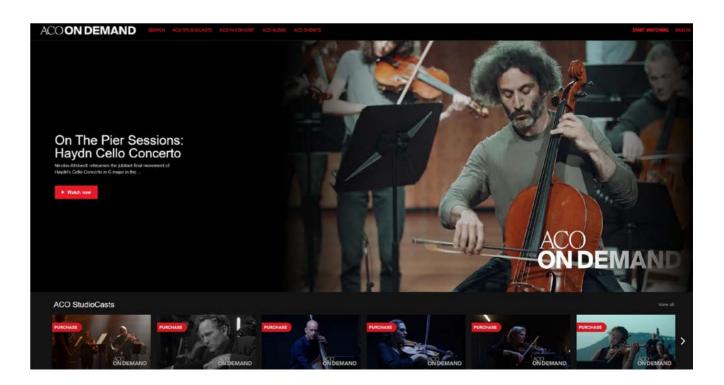
Digital Reach & Growth

In 2024, the ACO's digital and social media content reached an average of **1.8 million people** every month. This level of engagement meant that total following across all digital platforms grew by 14% in 2024. The most engaged platform, Instagram, grew by 24%, while the largest platform, Facebook, grew by 11%, and the newest platform, TikTok, grew by 43%.

Page Views at aco.com.au continue to increase yearon-year, with a 6.5% increase seen in 2024, to an average of 264K Monthly Page Views.

Content Highlights

The ACO's highest-performing video of 2024 featured ACO Principal Violin **Helena Rathbone demonstrating the 'Guiro Bow'** on Instagram. It was viewed over 222K times, reaching 161K people. The biggest video on Facebook was the ACO's **On The Pier Session featuring cellist Nicolas Altstaedt** playing Haydn's Cello Concerto in C, which reached 379K People and achieved 183K Video Views.



The ACO's most-viewed video on YouTube in 2024 was the **On The Pier Session featuring Nicolas Altstaedt** (11.2K Video Views), with a 27-second 'Short' featuring an excerpt **from Richard Tognetti and Joseph Tawadros's Summe**r coming in a close second (11K Video Views).

ACO On Demand

In 2024, the ACO celebrated a year of ACO On Demand by taking all full ACO In Concert broadcasts out from behind the paywall and making them free to watch for all registered users.

As a result of this, and other 'always on' marketing activity in the form of organic social media posts, a dedicated ACO On Demand eNews sent in June 2024, and other email inclusions, the ACO acquired 955 new registrations in 2024, taking total registered ACO On Demand users to 3,655.

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

Talent Development

> The ACO is committed to supporting and providing opportunities for talented young and developing Australian string players. Our Talent Development programs:

- foster emerging talent by providing the highest quality training and mentoring;
- provide critical pathways into the ACO and other professional music careers; and
- are highly impactful, potentially changing the trajectory of these young musicians' lives.

Emerging Artist Program

The ACO Emerging Artist Program connects the next generation of talented Australian string players with the professional members of the ACO, offering unparalleled mentoring, training and performance opportunities.

The 2024 ACO Emerging Artists were:

Violins	James Armstrong
	Beatrice Colombis
	Liam Freisberg
	Natalie Mavridis
Viola	Andrew Crothers
Cello	Ariel Volovelsky
Double Bass	Caroline Renn

Each Emerging Artist is paired with an ACO core musician for mentorship, private lessons, and audition preparation, and participates in rehearsals, workshops, performances, and tours as part of ACO Collective, working under the direction of ACO musicians and guest artists.



PRESENTING PARTNER



The bank for a changing world

The acclaimed ACO Academy is the ACO's flagship program for talented secondary school string players, selected by audition from across Australia. Launched in 2012, ACO Academy runs in the July school holidays every year in either Sydney or Melbourne, offering participants an immersive and intensive week of ensemble playing.

Led by ACO violinist Aiko Goto, in 2024 35 students participated in a week of intensive learning including rehearsals, chamber music and ensemble performances alongside ACO musicians. Held at the Ian Potter Southbank Centre courtesy of ACO tertiary partner the University of Melbourne, the program took place in July 2024, culminating in a vibrant public concert in Hansen Dyer Hall.

PYO Academy

In March 2024, 35 young musicians from Western Sydney took part in the Penrith Youth Orchestra Academy. Under the direction of ACO violinist Ilya Isakovich, students participated in intensive rehearsals, sectionals, and workshops over the course of a weekend, culminating in a public performance at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre in Penrith.

Melbourne Conservatorium of Music Intensive

As part of the ACO's partnership with the University of Melbourne, ACO musicians delivered a weekend intensive learning program for Melbourne Conservatorium of Music string students in April 2024, including orchestral workshops with Richard Tognetti and ACO principal musicians, chamber music coaching, and career talks.

Early Experiences

Early experiences have a critical impact on a person's life, with research proving that participating in music learning from a young age can improve a child's physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development. The ACO's flagship early years programs:

- ignite a love of music from an early age;
- make arts and cultural experiences accessible for children and families; and
- open doors and increase aspirations for the future.

ACO Foundations

ACO Foundations improves children's academic and developmental outcomes through an intensive instrumental music program. The pedagogical model, informed by scientific and social research. integrates string playing into the daily curriculum in a co-teaching design between classroom teachers and ACO Foundations instrumental educators.

Students participate in ACO Foundations from the beginning of Year One through to the end of Year Three, with all activities occurring as part of the core classroom curriculum. Students receive weekly tuition from ACO Foundations instrumental educators, and, critically, practice their instruments every school day for 15 minutes, supported by weekly practice videos and resources developed by the ACO.

In 2024, this innovative program marked its seventh year, involving over 150 students in Years One, Two, and Three at St Marys North Public School. Students continue to show significant improvements in focus, motivation, physical, and cognitive development.

Early Years Music Classes

2024 saw the continuation and growth of ACO Music & Movement classes – high-quality music learning experiences for 2.5 – 5-year-olds, based on best-practice music education principles. Children are introduced to musical concepts through singing, playing, and moving, and develop their creativity and expression through improvisation and dramatisation activities. Led by highly experienced early years music educator, Simona Green, classes are tailored specifically for the age and developmental stage of the children and run on Mondays at ACO On the Pier.

ACO Families Program

In 2024 the ACO presented three return seasons of ACO Families productions for children aged 3-8 and their families: How to Catch a Star, There's a Sea in My Bedroom, and the ACO's original adaptation of *The Nutcracker*.

In addition, the ACO presented three ACO **Family Days** at ACO On The Pier – introductory experiences for families at an accessible price, featuring short concerts and creative play activities.



17 ATTENDANCE FIGURES



National Concert Season

	TOUR	DATA	ADELAIDE	BRISBANE	CANBERRA	MELBOURNE	NEWCASTLE	PERTH	SYDNEY	MODILONGONG	TOTAL
		Concerts		1	1	3	1	1	4		11
1	River	Attendance	-	1,507	1,171	3,511	668	1,689	5,590	-	14,136
		Concerts	1	_	_	3	_	1	5	1	11
2	Beethoven's Emperor	Attendance	903	-	-	3,316	-	1,167	6,182	556	12,124
		Concerts		1	1	3	-	_	4	_	9
3	Mahler's Song of the Earth	Attendance		977	1,089	3,018	-	-	4,369	-	9,453
	Altstaedt Plays Haydn	Concerts	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	_	11
4	& Tchaikovsky	Attendance	860	1,227	1078	2,687	621	1,142	5,190	-	12,805
		Concerts	1	1	1	3	_	1	5	_	12
5	Silence & Rapture	Attendance	914	1,551	1,318	3,813	-	1609	6,851	-	16,056
	Tognetti. Mendelssohn.	Concerts	1	1	1	3	1		5	1	13
6	Bach.	Attendance	769	1,156	1,119	2,895	616		5,097	556	12,208
		Concerts	1	1	1	2	_	1	4	1	11
7	Scotland Unbound	Attendance	848	1,129	1,145	2,795		1,117	4,678	500	12,212
	TOTAL CONCERTS		5	6	6	19	3	5	31	-	78
	TOTAL ATTENDANCE										88,994

All Other Events

ACO UP CLOSE	CONCERTS	ATTENDANCE
Inspired by Bach*	2	393
Kristian Bezuidenhout	1	143
Beethoven Arranged	3	371
Satu in the Beyond	1	246
Nicolas Altstaedt	1	274
Omar Musa & Mariel Roberts	1	158
Intimate Bäch & Part	3	502
Baroque Unveiled	1	208
Phil Slater Quartet	1	200
Sean Shibe	1	164
TOTAL	15	2,659

ACO RELAXED	CONCERTS	ATTENDANCE
The Lark Ascending	1	95
Mendelssohn & Bach	1	195
TOTAL	2	290

INTERNATIONAL TOURING	CONCERTS	ATTENDANCE
Café Carlyle, New York	5	301
Green Center, University of Sonoma, Ronhert Park	1	442
The Palladium at the Center for Performing Arts, Carmel	1	696
Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe	1	62
Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, Storrs	1	319
Jordan Hall, Boston	1	995
92nd St Y, Kaufmann Concert Hall, New York	1	Not Disclosed
Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Troy	1	401
Tai Kwun Prison Yard, Hong Kong	4	935
TOTAL	16	4,151

FESTIVALS & SPECIAL EVENTS

For the Love of Music	
TarraWarra Festival	
ACO Total Immersion	
TOTAL	

ACO COLLECTIVE

The Lark Ascending	
Baroque Unveiled	
Vasse Felix Festival	
TarraWarra Festival	
TOTAL	

ACO FAMILIES	
How to Catch a Star	
There's a Sea in My Bedroom	
The Nutcracker	
ACO Family Days	
TOTAL	

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ACO Academy Showcase	
Music & Movement classes	
TOTAL	

 $\ensuremath{^*\!\text{Presented}}$ in partnership with Sydney Festival

CONCERTS	ATTENDANCE
3	5,102
4	723
10	669
17	6,494

CONCERTS	ATTENDANCE
7	1,854
1	208
3	420
*	*
12	2,482

CONCERTS	ATTENDANCE
53	10,653
14	2,748
24	5,131
9	1,708
100	20,240

CONCERTS	ATTENDANCE
1	163
_	171
1	334

18 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The ACO's strategic objectives during 2024, as reflected in our 2023-2024 Strategic Plan, were:

1 ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE AND EXTENSION

Continue to create, commission and present new programs that are artistically excellent, innovative, vibrant and imbued with our distinctive character.

2 AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT AND REACH

Continue to ensure that a broad range of Australians are able to access the ACO and engage with our artform and diverse programs.

3 NURTURE OUR SECTOR

Maintain our commitment to supporting the development and growth of the next generation of Australian artists and our sector more broadly.

4 ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH

Maintain best practice in governance, financial and people management.

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

27 MARCH 2025

Liisa Pallandi, Violin. Photo by Charlie Kinross

Introduction

This statement outlines the Australian Chamber Orchestra's (ACO) corporate governance practices and addresses the *Essential Governance Practices for Arts Organisations* published in January 2021 and monitored by Creative Australia.

The implementation of the governance practices embodied in the ACO's Governance Manual continues to ensure that the ACO achieves compliance with the Creative Australia's *Essential Governance Practices for Arts Organisations* January 2021, the Australian Institute of Company Directors *Not-for-Profit Governance Principles*, Third Edition, April 2024 and the ACNC Governance Standards.

The Board is committed to ongoing strengthening its governance practices. Its compliance with each of Creative Australia's *Principles of Good Arts Governance* with reference to the relevant sections of the ACO's Governance Manual, is outlined as follows.

PRINCIPLE1 Purpose & Values

As per the Board Charter of the ACO Governance Manual, a central element of the Board's purpose is to establish the Company's purpose, values and ethical standards and delegate an appropriate level of authority to management.

ACO PURPOSE

We exist to create extraordinary music experiences that inspire, empower and transform all people

ACO VALUES

- United Individuals: We are a diverse and inclusive family. Everyone brings something unique to our team. It's our collective experience, skill and spirit that connects us all as one.
- Mastery: We are committed to excellence. We perform at an elite level. Our skills are fuelled by unwavering dedication and passion. We've taken the time to learn the rules so we can choose how we break them.
- The Adventure: We are intrepid and inspiring. With boundless imagination and bravery, we transport our audiences to new worlds where they can experience the unlimited power of human emotion.
- Inclusivity: We bring people together. Whether it's providing life-changing music education or opening our home to the community, we strive to ensure that everyone has access to quality music experiences no matter who they are or where they live.
- Curiosity: We are always evolving. While our music is steeped in history we are not afraid to experiment or explore new ideas. We never stop searching for original and unexpected ways of challenging ourselves and our audience.

PRINCIPLE 2 Performance

The ACO Board Charter notes the Board's role of bringing an independent and objective view to the Company's decisions and overseeing the performance and activities of management. including through contributing to the development and overseeing implementation of corporate strategy. and approving the business plan, budget and corporate policies.

The ACO is committed to having a Board of effective composition, size and commitment to adequately discharge its responsibilities and duties. The ACO's Governance Manual incorporates Board and Committee Charters, a Board Code of Conduct and Director selection and induction processes. The Manual also sets out the duties and responsibilities of the Board with regard to the Company's overall operations, performance and compliance and defines the role of the Chair, the processes for selection, appointment and renewal of directors and the Board performance review process.

The Board includes Directors with a diverse set of skills and experience. This experience is set out in their biographies published in the ACO's Annual Financial Report. All Directors are independent. The Board is supported by its Nominations and Remuneration Committee in the recruitment of new Directors and the process for evaluating Board performance.

The ACO acknowledges that its ongoing success is reliant on ensuring the ACO continues to have the skills and expertise necessary to achieve our goals. Succession planning across key Board, Artistic and Management roles within the Company is a focus for the Board and specific initiatives and practices in relation to this are articulated in the ACO's Strategic Plan and Risk Management Framework.

PRINCIPLE 3 Systems

The ACO has processes in place that independently verify and safeguard the integrity oversight and management and internal control. of the organisation's compliance and management This system is designed to identify, assess, monitor and manage risk. The Company's risk management reporting. The ACO Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee includes members policy, responsibilities and processes for review with appropriate audit. finance and risk management of the risk management system are set out in the expertise. The Committee meets prior to every Governance Manual. The policies are further Board meeting and comprises up to three Directors delineated in the company's Risk Management and, by invitation, the Managing Director, the Chief Framework. Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer. The Board has the ultimate responsibility for This Committee's responsibilities and duties cover overseeing the risk management framework review of the Company's management and statutory and monitoring business risks and is assisted accounts and accounting policies and the results of in discharging this responsibility by the FARM the annual audit as well as making recommendations Committee whose responsibilities in relation to the to the Board on the appointment, reappointment or Company's risk management system are contained replacement, remuneration and monitoring of the in the Committee's charter. effectiveness of the external auditors.

The ACO is committed to ensuring that the level and composition of remuneration is sufficient and reasonable and that its relationship to organisational and individual performance is defined. The Company's Remuneration Policy and Processes are set out in the Governance Manual. The Board's Nominations and Remunerations Committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending to the Board the remunerations of the Managing Director and the Artistic Director. Staff and executive salaries are approved by the Board as part of the annual budget approval process. As a not-for-profit charitable institution, payment of any fees or salaries to directors of the Company is prohibited, in accordance with its constitution.

PRINCIPLE 4 Manage Risk and Compliance

The ACO has established a sound system of risk

Organisational risk is under continual review. In accordance with the ACO's Risk Management Framework, the FARM Committee considers the Company's risk profile as part of the annual program and budget setting process and in turn reports to the Board.

In conjunction with an organisational review of policies, the ACO's WHS Management System was updated in 2022 to incorporate the ACO's new premises at Pier 2/3. This System provides for regular consultation with employees, mechanisms for WHS risk management, reporting of incidents and injuries, a workers' compensation framework and training of employees. WHS reports are prepared for each meeting of the FARM Committee and Board.

In March 2025, the ACO refreshed its Code of Conduct to reflect Live Performance Australia's Code of Conduct recently revised industry recommendations.

To assist the Board in discharging its responsibility in relation to compliance, the Board has delegated the monitoring and review of compliance to the FARM Committee. An Annual Compliance Calendar is maintained in order to monitor requirements and reporting obligations.

PRINCIPLE 5 Relationships

The ACO respects and observes its legal and other obligations, including the rights of all legitimate stakeholders. These principles are enshrined in the Company's Compliance Policy within the Governance Manual and Stakeholder Communication Strategies. The Board's duties and responsibilities specifically include ensuring effective communication with key stakeholders. The Code of Conduct sets the standard of ethical behaviour required of Directors, including ensuring that all stakeholders are recognised for the contributions they make and ensuring full, fair and understandable disclosure in reporting and public communications.

The Board both oversees and contributes to the ACO's organisational culture through oversight of how culture is defined and aligned to organisational strategy. The Board holds accountable the Managing Director and the Artistic Director for how culture is communicated and embodied.

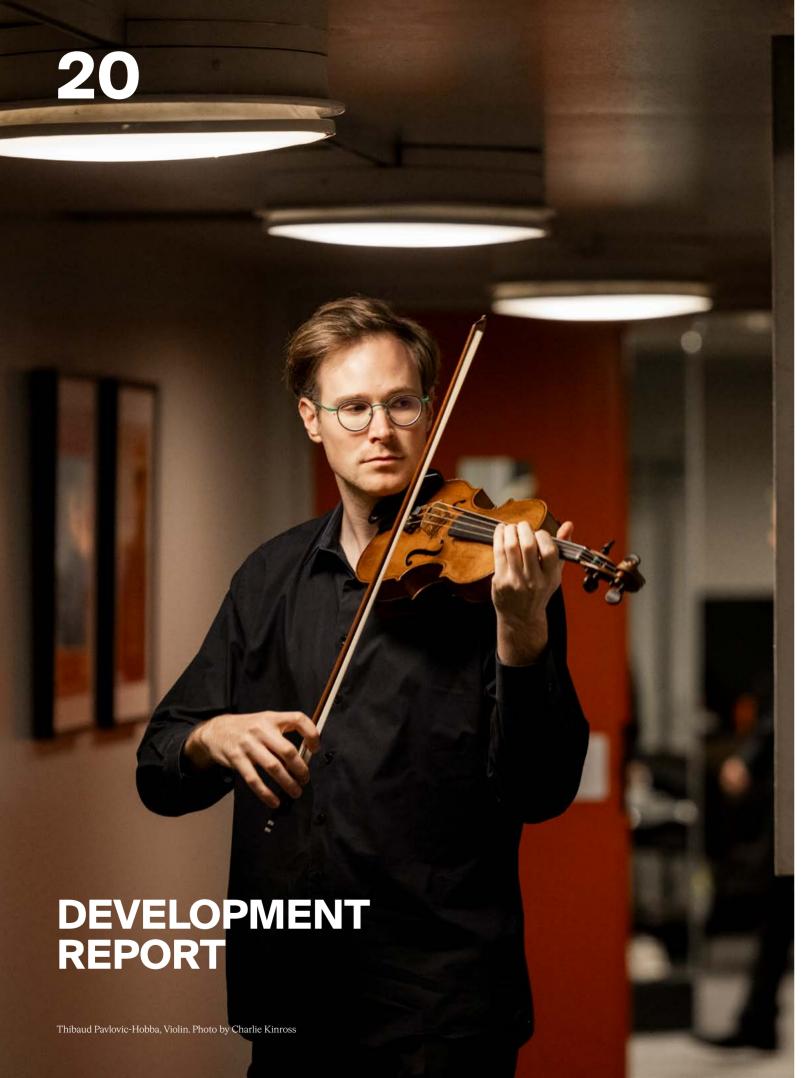
The ACO's procedures for handling conflicts of interest, actual or potential, are embodied in the Governance Manual.

Martyn Myer Ao Chairman 27 MARCH 2025

r Orchestra

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Maxime Bibeau, Principal Bass. Photo by Nic Walker



Partnerships



Wesfarmers Arts

In August 2024 the ACO announced that Wesfarmers Arts had become the Principal Partner of the organisation.

Wesfarmers Arts first joined the ACO as a supporting partner in 1998 as 'Perth Series Sponsor', successfully assisting the Orchestra in presenting its annual concert series in Perth. The partnership then expanded in 2014 to include support of ACO Collective, the ACO's education and regional touring ensemble.

In elevating its partnership to become Principal Partner, Wesfarmers Arts will provide essential support to the ACO in enhancing and expanding its national, regional and international touring schedule, allowing more audiences across Australia and around the globe to experience the Orchestra's world-class performances.

University of Melbourne

In September 2024, the ACO and the University of Melbourne announced the extension of their exclusive partnership for another seven years from 2025. This renewed partnership combines the world-class musical expertise of the ACO with the University's educational excellence and widereaching influence.

The renewed partnership builds on and extends the successful five-year collaboration (2020-2024) between the ACO and the University of Melbourne by enhancing professional training opportunities for students at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music within the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music and the broader University community, as well as paving the way for significant advancements in music education and program development. The agreement also supports the launch of the renowned ACO Foundations program in Victoria.

Left. ACO Principal Viola Stefanie Farrands, Wesfarmers Chairman Michael Chaney AO and ACO Artistic Director Richard Tognetti. Photo by Colin Murty

Right.

ACO Violin Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba giving a masterclass to University of Melbourne students.

Development Events

Fundraising & Patron Events

River: Private Rehearsal ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 31 January 56 Attendees

Melbourne Season Opening Reception Melbourne Recital Centre 3 February 78 Attendees

Canberra Season Opening Reception Canberra Theatre Centre 7 February 48 Attendees

Chairman's Council Cocktails Private home, Sydney 8 February 36 Attendees

Sydney Season Opening Reception Sydney Opera House 11 February 114 Attendees

Chairman's Council & Major Patrons Cocktails Hellenic Museum, Melbourne 22 February 37 Attendees

Major Patrons Cocktails ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 28 February

62 Attendees
Beethoven's Emperor: Private Rehearsal

ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 8 March 64 Attendees

ACO Next Melbourne Cocktails

Science Gallery 10 April 60 Attendees

New York Private Performance

Café Carlyle 16 April 100 Attendees





Above. New York private performance at Café Carlyle.

Chairman's Council Cocktails. Photo by Maria Boyadgis



Fundraising & Patron Events continued

Special Recital with Timo-Veikko Valve & Aura Go ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 17 April 33 Attendees

TarraWarra Festival Private Rehearsal ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 2 May 22 Attendees

ACO Collective Private Rehearsal Ian Potter Southbank Centre, Melbourne 6 May 34 Attendees

Mahler's Song of the Earth: Private Rehearsal ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 10 May 34 Attendees

Southern Highlands Private Performance Kangaloon 25 May 72 attendees

ACO Total Immersion: Private Rehearsal

ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 6 June 32 Attendees

Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky: Private Rehearsal ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 13 June

85 Attendees

ACO Next Sydney Cocktails Artspace, Wolloomooloo 12 July

29 Attendees

Silence & Rapture: Private Rehearsal ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 31 July

73 Attendees

Medici Patrons Dinner

ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 8 August 31 Attendees

ACO Next in The Studio

ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 29 August 72 Attendees

> Above. Pier Gala, Sydney. Photos by Anna Kucera





Fundraising & Patron Events

continued

ACO Collective Private Rehearsal

ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 7 September 45 Attendees

Chairman's Council & Major Patrons Dinner

Cutler & Co, Melbourne 2 October 43 Attendees

Chairman's Council Dinner ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 3 October 42 attendees

US Tour Private Rehearsal ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 4 October 22 Attendees

New York Private Performance Private home, New York 19 October 25 Attendees

Scotland Unbound: Private Rehearsal ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 6 November 56 Attendees

Pier Gala, Sydney Fundraiser ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 14 November 108 Attendees

Perth Fundraising Event

Private home, Cottesloe 21 November 325 Attendees

Vasse Felix Festival Private Rehearsal

ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 3 December 56 Attendees

Hong Kong Private Performance

The residence of the Australia Consul General in Hong Kong 6 December 40 Attendees

Partner Events

These included:

BNP Paribas Private Performance

ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 21 May

150 Attendees

ACO Prospective Partners & Venue Hire Clients

Private Performance ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 19 July 80 Attendees

Johnson Winter Slattery Private Rehearsal

City Recital Hall, Sydney 1 August 60 Attendees

BNP Paribas Private Performance

State Library Victoria 27 August 100 Attendees

Mutual Trust Private Rehearsal

ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 4 September 50 Attendees

Chubb Insurance Private Performance

ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 1 October 80 Attendees

American Express Private Rehearsal

ACO On The Pier, Walsh Bay Sydney 29 November 50 Attendees

Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong Private Performance

Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong 6 December 50 Attendees

Acknowledgements

ACO Life Governor

Guido Belgiorno-Nettis AM

ACO Life Patrons

Guido Belgiorno-Nettis AM Roxane Clayton Susie Dickson Alexandra Martin Fave Parker John Taberner & Grant Lang

ACO Medici Program

MEDICI PATRON The late Amina Belgiorno-Nettis

PRINCIPAL CHAIRS

Richard Tognetti AO Artistic Director & Lead Violin Gaby Kennard Peter McMullin AM & Ruth McMullin Andrew & Andrea Roberts Rosy Seaton & Seumas Dawes

Helena Rathbone

Principal Violin Margaret Gibbs & Rod Cameron

Satu Vänskä Principal Violin David Thomas AM

Stefanie Farrands Principal Viola peckyonhartel architects Robert Peck AM

Yvonne von Hartel AM Rachel Peck & Marten Peck Timo-Veikko Valve

Principal Cello Prof Doug Jones Ao & Prof Janet Walker см

Maxime Bibeau Darin Cooper Foundation

CORE CHAIRS

Violin Aiko Goto Anthony & Sharon Lee Foundation

Ilya Isakovich Meg Meldrum

Liisa Pallandi The Melbourne Medical Syndicate

Ike See lan Lansdown & Tricia Bell

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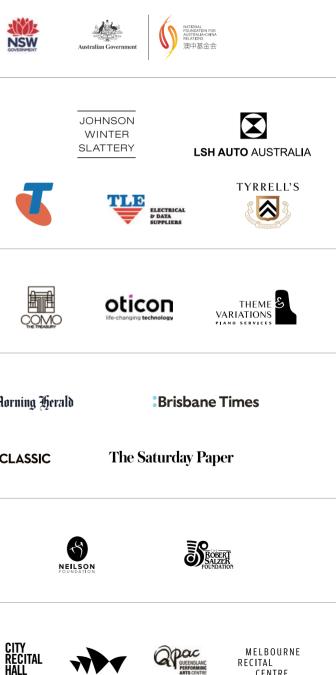
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