

# ACO delve into the 'classical' music of Jonny Greenwood, Sufjan Stevens and Bryce Dessner

## INDIES & IDOLS

14–29 June

Newcastle, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney



PHOTO CREDITS: JASON EVANS (GREENWOOD) / SHERVIN LAINEZ (DESSNER) / UNKNOWN (STEVENS)

“It was just amazing – I was so in awe of how good Richard and the ACO sounded and was so excited to be in the room with them. They’re very inspiring.”

– RADIOHEAD’S JONNY GREENWOOD FOR THE GUARDIAN

The **Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO)** is renowned around the world for its bold, experimental and stimulating approach to programming and performance. In June 2019 the Orchestra will continue its exploration of ground-breaking new music as it presents the works of three of the world’s most celebrated indie musicians, **Radiohead’s Jonny Greenwood**, **The National’s Bryce Dessner** and **Sufjan Stevens** alongside the sources of their inspiration, Polish composers **Karol Szymanowski**, **Witold Lutosławski** and **Krzysztof Penderecki**.

Throughout a two-week national tour, the ACO will perform Greenwood’s *Suite from There Will Be Blood*, which forms part of Greenwood’s critically acclaimed soundtrack to the Paul Thomas Anderson film of the same name, Sufjan Stevens’ *Suite from Run Rabbit Run*, a précis from his electronic music album *Enjoy Your Rabbit*, and the Australian premiere of Dessner’s *Réponse Lutosławski*. This music will be presented alongside Szymanowski’s surging String Quartet No.2, Penderecki’s *Aria* from *Three Pieces in Baroque Style* and Lutosławski’s *Overture for Strings*, a dizzyingly multifaceted experiment that has one foot in neoclassicism and the other in the avant-garde.

According to **ACO Artistic Director Richard Tognetti**, a number of well-known indie musicians are making waves in the world of contemporary ‘classical’ music.

“Increasingly, we’re finding that a significant number of the serious, so-called ‘classical’ composers are coming from the world of pop and indie music,” said Tognetti. “This includes Jonny Greenwood, with whom we’ve collaborated with in the past as our composer in-residence and who is now regarded as a film composer amongst the greats, as well as Bryce Dessner and Sufjan Stevens.”

For interview request,  
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Greenwood has a particularly close relationship with the ACO, having spent three months immersed in ACO rehearsals and concerts in 2012 as the ACO's composer in-residence. He said of the experience, *"It was just amazing – I was so in awe of how good Richard and the ACO sounded and was so excited to be in the room with them. They're very inspiring."*

All three musicians – Greenwood, Dessner and Stevens – describe themselves as being strongly influenced by the Polish 'classical' music tradition.

Greenwood is particularly inspired by Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki, telling *The Guardian*, *"[Penderecki's] pieces make such wonderful sounds. And it is a beautiful experience to hear them live. Because of the complexity of what's happening... it becomes a very beautiful experience when you're there. It's a celebration of so many people making music together."*

Bryce Dessner's *Réponse Lutosławski* is an homage to Lutosławski, whom he credits with having illuminated the way forward in his own musical development.

*"Réponse Lutosławski was written as an homage to Witold Lutosławski's amazing composition for string orchestra, Musique funèbre,"* said Dessner. *"It is written in five movements, each of which is inspired directly or indirectly by the Lutosławski score, which I spent months studying. I like to think that his music opened a window in a certain direction for me, or pushed open a door, through which I could then pass and take my journey with the music."*

*"With their great energy and virtuosity, I'm greatly looking forward to hearing what the ACO will bring to Réponse Lutosławski."*

## Indies & Idols

**14–29 JUNE**

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### PROGRAM

LUTOSŁAWSKI Overture for Strings

BRYCE DESSNER *Réponse Lutosławski* (Australian Premiere)

SUFJAN STEVENS (arr. Michael Atkinson) Suite from Run Rabbit Run

PENDERECKI Three Pieces in Baroque Style: I. Aria

JONNY GREENWOOD Suite from There Will Be Blood

SZYMANOWSKI (arr. Richard Tognetti) String Quartet No.2

### ARTISTS

Richard Tognetti Director

Australian Chamber Orchestra

### PERFORMANCE DATES

#### NEWCASTLE

Newcastle City Hall

Fri 14 Jun, 7.30pm

#### SYDNEY

Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Sun 16 Jun 2pm

City Recital Hall

Tue 25 Jun 8pm

Wed 26 Jun 7pm

Fri 28 Jun 1.30pm

Sat 29 Jun 7pm

#### BRISBANE

QPAC Concert Hall

Mon 17 Jun 7pm

#### PERTH

Perth Concert Hall

Wed 19 Jun 7.30pm

#### MELBOURNE

Arts Centre Melbourne – Hamer Hall

Sun 23 Jun 2.30pm

Mon 24 Jun 7.30pm



**‘The Australian Chamber Orchestra is uniformly high-octane, arresting and never ordinary.’**

– THE AUSTRALIAN

#### ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Australian Chamber Orchestra lives and breathes music, making waves around the world for their explosive performances and brave interpretations. Steeped in history but always looking to the future, ACO programs embrace celebrated classics alongside new commissions, and adventurous cross-artform collaborations.





Led by Artistic Director Richard Tognetti since 1990, the ACO performs more than 100 concerts each year. Whether performing in Manhattan, New York, or Wollongong, NSW, the ACO is unwavering in their commitment to creating transformative musical experiences.

The Orchestra regularly collaborates with artists and musicians who share their ideology: from Emmanuel Pahud, Steven Isserlis, Dawn Upshaw, Olli Mustonen, Brett Dean and Ivry Gitlis, to Neil Finn, Jonny Greenwood, Barry Humphries and Meow Meow; to visual artists and film makers such as Michael Leunig, Bill Henson, Shaun Tan, Jon Frank, and Jennifer Peedom, who have co-created unique, hybrid productions for which the ACO has become renowned.

Testament to their international reputation, the ACO were invited to commence a three-year residency as International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court in partnership with London's Barbican Centre from the 2018/19 season. This residency at one of Europe's most prestigious concert venues follows on from the success of ACO Artistic Director Richard Tognetti's time as the Barbican's first ever Artist-in-Residence at Milton Court Concert Hall.

In addition to their national and international touring schedule, the Orchestra has an active recording program across CD, vinyl and digital formats. Recent releases include *Water / Night Music*, the first Australian-produced classical vinyl for two decades, *Heroines*, recorded with Australian soprano Nicole Car, and the soundtrack to the acclaimed cinematic collaboration, *Mountain*.

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