

THE ACO OPENS 2022 WITH A TANGO CELEBRATION

PIAZZOLLA

1–14 February 2022

Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane



The **Australian Chamber Orchestra** (ACO) will open its 2022 Season with an intoxicating celebration of **Piazzolla** and the tango.

Led by ACO Artistic Director **Richard Tognetti**, the ACO's first national tour of 2022 will feature long-standing friend of the Orchestra, classical accordion virtuoso and arranger **James Crabb**, as soloist in a program driven by the exhilarating rhythms of South America.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be back performing with Richard and the ACO musicians," said James. "Every performance with them is always so artistically rewarding and a true celebration of what live music-making is all about. The evocative feast of music on this program is an emotional rollercoaster, full of energy, fun, and passion.

"This uplifting program is the ideal opener to a new season full of hope and I for one can't wait."

The tango was already a melting pot of influences before Piazzolla snatched it from boozy dives and put it into concert halls. He added a classical sensibility and cosmopolitan sophistication to the all-enveloping sensuality of the tango, and his music remains much-loved to this day.

Media Contact

For interview requests, images, media tickets or further information, please contact:

Caitlin Benetatos

E caitlin.benetatos@aco.com.au

P (02) 8274 3825

M 0422934693

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Alongside Piazzolla's popular *Libertango* and *Angels and Devils Suite*, the concerts will feature music by South American composers **Heitor Villa-Lobos** and **Carlos Gardel**, who, like Piazzolla, shared a passion for the Baroque. The ACO will also give the Australian premiere of American composer **Gabriela Lena Frank's** South American-inspired *Leyendas* while Australian composer **Elena Kats-Chernin** makes a welcome return with *Torque*, a work written for Richard and the ACO that Kats-Chernin describes as using 'angular rhythms (often borrowed from Tango) and wild gestures to give the impression of a human musical machine'.

James Crabb



"...an accordionist of dazzling virtuosity."

– THE INDEPENDENT, UK

"Crabb is as a consummate master of his instrument."

– THE SUNDAY TIMES, UK

Internationally praised for his breathtaking virtuosity and versatile musicianship, Scottish born James Crabb is widely regarded as one of the world's leading classical accordionists. He studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Music, Copenhagen with accordion pioneer Mogens Ellegaard and became professor there from 1995 until 2010. He also held a long-standing guest professorship at the University in Graz, Austria and was awarded the prestigious Carl Nielsen Music Prize in Denmark.

In 2019 James gave the world premiere of Brett Dean's accordion concerto *The Players* in Sweden, (recorded on the BIS label); featured in Co.3 Dance company's *In Line* production in Perth; play-directed Sinfonia Cymru, Wales; and performed the on-stage role in Dean's *Hamlet* with Cologne Opera. He resides in Sydney with his family.

Concert details

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA (arr. Crabb) *Libertango*
 ANTONIO AGRI / JOSÉ CARLI (arr. Crabb) *Desde Adentro*
 GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL *Concerto Grosso in A major, Op.6, No.11*
 ELENA KATS-CHERNIN *Torque*
 CARLOS GARDEL (arr. John Williams) *Por Una Cabeza*
 GABRIELA LENA FRANK *Leyendas – An Andean Walkabout: VI. Coqueteos (Australian Premiere)*
 HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS *Bachianas Brasileiras No.9*
 ASTOR PIAZZOLLA (arr. Crabb) *Angels and Devils Suite: Milonga del Ángel, Vayamos al Diablo, Romance del Diablo, La Muerte del Ángel*

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin
James Crabb Classical Accordion
Australian Chamber Orchestra

Sydney • City Recital Hall

Tue 1 Feb 8pm
 Wed 2 Feb 7pm
 Fri 11 Feb 1.30pm
 Sat 12 Feb 7pm
 Sun 13 Feb 2pm

Canberra • Llewellyn Hall

Fri 4 Feb 8pm

Melbourne Recital Centre

Sat 5 Feb 7.30pm
 Mon 7 Feb 7.30pm

Melbourne • Arts Centre Melbourne

Sun 6 Feb 2.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall

Tue 8 Feb 7.30pm

Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall

Mon 14 Feb 7pm

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‘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 its explosive performances and brave interpretations. Steeped in history but always looking to the future, ACO programs embrace celebrated classics alongside new commissions, and adventurous cross-artform collaborations.

Led by Artistic Director Richard Tognetti since 1990, the ACO performs more than 100 concerts each year. Whether performing in Manhattan, New York, or Wollongong, NSW, the ACO is unwavering in its commitment to creating transformative musical experiences. The Orchestra regularly collaborates with artists and musicians who share its ideology, from instrumentalists, to vocalists, to cabaret performers, to visual artists and film makers.

In addition to its 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, *Brahms Symphonies 3 & 4*, and the soundtrack to the cinematic collaboration, *River*.

In 2020 the ACO launched its inaugural digital subscription ‘ACO StudioCasts’, an acclaimed season of cinematic and immersive concert films.

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