

Richard Tognetti leads an adventure from Boccherini to Chick Corea

SKETCHES OF SPAIN

31 March – 13 April 2022

Newcastle, Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Wollongong



The beguiling textures and perfumes of Spain have captured the imaginations of artists around the world for centuries. This April, ACO Artistic Director **Richard Tognetti** and the **Australian Chamber Orchestra** explore musicians' enduring fascination with the streets of Madrid and Barcelona, performing music from Boccherini and Ravel to Miles Davis and Chick Corea.

Opening with Spanish-inspired favourites including Boccherini's *Night Music of the Streets of Madrid* and Bizet's *Carmen Suite*, the concert will feature a reimagining of Miles Davis' *Sketches of Spain* and American jazz legend Chick Corea's orchestral masterpiece, *Spain*, which will see the ACO collaborate with Australian jazz greats including ARIA award-winning pianist **Matt McMahon** and trumpeter **Phil Slater**.

"The ACO will delve into two of the most extraordinary musical imaginations of the 20th century, Miles Davis and Chick Corea, for the first time," said Tognetti "Chick Corea had an enormous respect for the classical canon and, in acknowledgement of his passing last year, we celebrate his incredible, and important, music. Then we have Solea from Miles Davis' *Sketches of Spain*, which was originally composed by the magnificent musician Gil Evans (who also conducted Davis' recording) who the ACO happens to have a connection with through Maria Schneider, a wonderful composer who once worked as Evans' assistant and who we collaborated with a few years ago.

Media Contact

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"For this program we've thought globally and acted locally as, in another first, we'll be working with Australian jazz musicians – some of the greatest jazz musicians on the planet – led by pianist Matt McMahon, to perform this remarkable music."

The recipient of the 'Freedman Jazz Fellowship' (2205), McMahon is one of Australia's most celebrated jazz pianists and composers. As a frequent attendee of ACO concerts throughout his career, he is eagerly looking forward to reorchestrating *Spain* in collaboration with Tognetti for these performances.

"I remember seeing an ACO concert when Richard had just become the Artistic Director and being interested to see in what direction the Orchestra would go – and I've enjoyed so many performances since that time," McMahon said. *"I love the way the ACO performs pieces that are hundreds of years old with the same spirit as they play new music, in collaboration with such a diverse array of artists. As an improvising musician there are plenty of times when I've thought 'I'd love to get involved with some of those colours I'm hearing' – I'm really looking forward to that actually happening now."*

"Spain is a tribute to the music of that country written by an American of Italian background. Chick Corea loved Flamenco and collaborated with many Spanish musicians, but to me Spain represents Chick's playful attitude to creativity, which advocated the freedom to explore music with great respect, but without concern for genre or rules. Our arrangement will reflect Chick's love of jazz, flamenco and classical music and have a few splashes of our own in there too!"

Concert details

DEBUSSY Images pour orchestre: 2. Ibéria: I. Par les rues et les chemins
 BOCCHERINI String Quintet in C major, G.324 "Night music of the streets of Madrid"
 RAVEL (arr. Tognetti) Violin Sonata No.2: II. Blues. Moderato
 BIZET (arr. Shchedrin) Carmen Suite: Selections
 ANON (arr. Tognetti) Yo era niña de casa alta
 MILES DAVIS Sketches of Spain: Solea
 VICTORIA Ave Maria a 8
 CHICK COREA Spain

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin
Matt McMahon Piano
Phil Slater Trumpet
Brett Hirst Bass
Jess Ciampa Drums
Australian Chamber Orchestra

Newcastle City Hall

Thu 31 Mar 7.30pm

Canberra - Llewellyn Hall

Sat 2 Apr 8pm

Melbourne - Arts Centre Melbourne

Sun 3 Apr 2.30pm

Mon 4 Apr 7.30pm

Sydney - City Recital Hall

Tue 5 Apr 8pm

Wed 6 Apr 7pm

Fri 8 Apr 1.30pm

Sat 9 Apr 7pm

Sun 10 Apr 2pm

Brisbane - QPAC Concert Hall

Mon 11 Apr 7pm

Wollongong Town Hall

Wed 13 Apr 7.30pm

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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.

#ACO22Season

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