

# ACO Appoints Stefanie Farrands as Principal Viola

MONDAY 18 MAY



The **Australian Chamber Orchestra** (ACO) is delighted to announce the appointment of Australian violist **Stefanie Farrands** to the position of Principal Viola.

Farrands, who grew up in Melbourne before embarking on a successful career as a chamber and orchestral musician in Australia and abroad, credits the ACO with inspiring her love of chamber music and describes joining the Orchestra as a long-held aspiration.

*"The ACO holds a special place in my heart because the Orchestra helped mould me into the musician I am today," said Farrands. "To grow up attending ACO concerts, followed by going through the ACO Emerging Artist program at the age of 19, sparked all kinds of dreams and introduced me to the world of chamber music."*

*"I'm honoured to join this group of musicians who all care deeply about their craft and constantly strive to push the boundaries; they re-think what is possible every time they come together. Playing with the ACO challenges me, feeds my soul and constantly inspires me to be a greater musician."*

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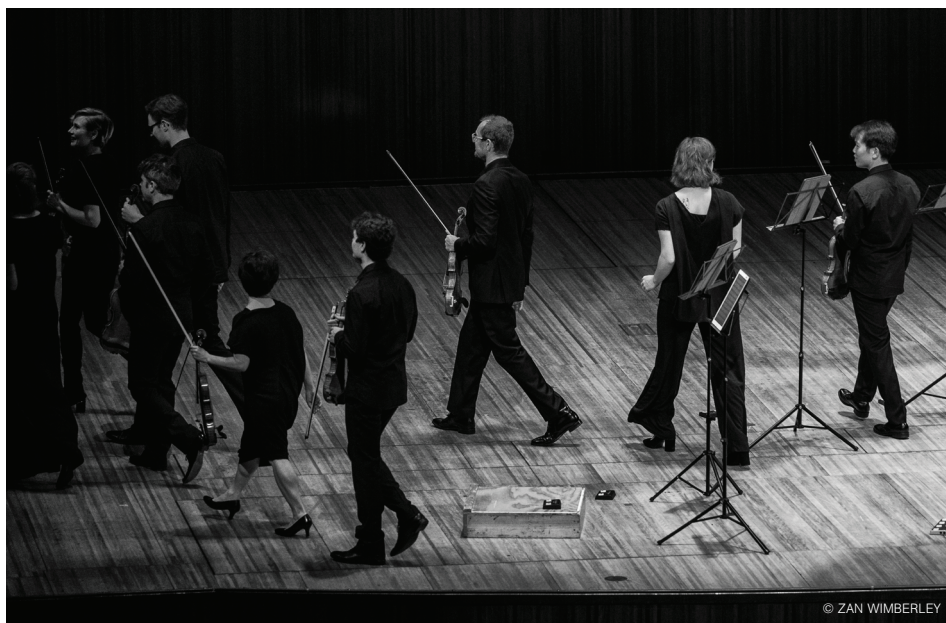
GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



This appointment follows an extensive four-year search, during which seven violists selected from an international pool of candidates were trialled for the Principal Viola position.

Prior to her appointment with the ACO, Farrands was Principal Viola with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra from 2015. She has performed extensively throughout Europe, America, Asia and Australia with orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and Camerata Salzburg and has performed as Guest Principal Viola with the Strasbourg Philharmonic, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Australian World Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Farrands has won numerous awards and chamber music prizes including the Asia Pacific Chamber Music Competition (as a member of the Hamer Quartet) and has been recipient of the Freedman Classic Fellowship. She grew up in Melbourne and studied at the Australian National Academy of Music before continuing her studies with the renowned violist Tabea Zimmermann at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin.



**‘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 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 its 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 its national and international touring schedule, the Orchestra has an active recording program across CD, vinyl and digital formats. Its recordings of Bach’s violin works won three consecutive ARIA Awards. Recent releases include *Water | Night Music*, the first Australian-produced classical vinyl for two decades, *Beethoven*, a collection of the ACO’s legendary Beethoven recordings, and the soundtrack to the acclaimed cinematic collaboration, *Mountain*.

## #ACO20

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