

# The Crowd & I

**A PROFOUND, CINEMATIC MEDITATION ON OUR CROWDED PLANET**

**6–15 August**

Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane

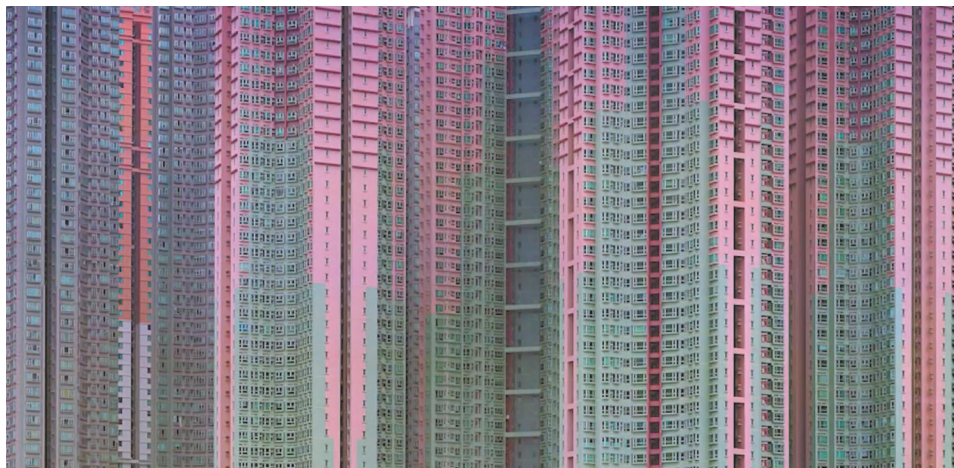
Praise for the ACO's cross-artform collaborations:

*"[Mountain] is a stunning achievement; you can't take your eyes or ears off it."*

– THE AUSTRALIAN ON MOUNTAIN

*"The world was transformed into something beautiful and mysterious, just like Henson's pictures. [Luminous] had given me a new way of seeing."*

– THE GUARDIAN ON LUMINOUS



From the banks of the Ganges to the mosh pits of Coachella; sprawling refugee camps to ever-expanding metropolises, humanity moves in swarms across the globe in ever vaster numbers, to celebrate, worship, protest, destroy and build anew. This relentless activity takes an epic toll, as we demand huge transformations in our relationship with our planet and the way we live together.

The **Australian Chamber Orchestra** will explore humanity's complex existence on our densely populated planet in **The Crowd & I**, a profound cross-artform collaboration between Artistic Director **Richard Tognetti**, director **Nigel Jamieson**, cinematographer **Jon Frank** and film and image makers across the world including **Michael Wolf**, **Ai Weiwei**, **Rufus Blackwell**, **Lior Sperandeo**, **John Jansen** and **Yann Arthus-Bertrand**.

With millions of people on the move every week – some by choice, many by circumstance – *The Crowd & I* explores the planet's extraordinary transformation during the most populous period of human history and the new ways in which we have come to live with one another, crowded together and separated from nature.

Tognetti says: *"What is it we feel when part of a crowd? Is it fear or empowerment? Do we lose ourselves, or find our real selves? Is a crowd a mob, an ignorant mass of unthinking beings? Or is it an intelligent body, capable of thought processes and invention of which individuals alone would not be capable? We spend much of our life in crowds: when we go to the football or attend a concert, when we cross the street at peak hour, when we worship, mourn, protest or feast, we often do so as part of a crowd."*

*"The Crowd & I examines the nature of the crowd, in its many manifestations, both human and in the natural world."*

**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

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Tognetti will direct the ACO live on stage, performing music from Shostakovich, Sibelius and Chopin to Osvaldo Golijov, Morton Feldman and his own new music, alongside striking imagery and footage captured from across the globe, from vast refugee camps, epic gatherings in the name of religion, and secular festivals where hedonism rules.

Jubilant, chaotic, and confronting in equal measure, *The Crowd & I* promises to be a life-changing experience.

### Artists

**Richard Tognetti** Creative Director & Violin  
**Australian Chamber Orchestra**  
**The Song Company**

**Jon Frank** Cinematography  
**Nigel Jamieson** Film & Staging Director

### Dates and Venues

**Canberra - Llewellyn Hall**  
Sat 6 Aug 8pm

**Sydney Opera House**  
Sun 14 Aug 2pm

**Melbourne - Arts Centre Melbourne**  
Sun 7 Aug 2.30pm  
Mon 8 Aug 7.30pm

**Brisbane - QPAC Concert Hall**  
Mon 15 Aug 7pm

**Sydney - City Recital Hall**  
Tue 9 Aug 8pm  
Wed 10 Aug 7pm  
Fri 12 Aug 1.30pm  
Sat 13 Aug 7pm

### Media Contact

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

**Caitlin Benetatos**

**E** [caitlin.benetatos@aco.com.au](mailto:caitlin.benetatos@aco.com.au)

**P** (02) 8274 3825

**M** 0422934693

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS