

**MEDIA RELEASE**

2 August 2017

**A Homeward Journey – Australian String Quartet National Tour**

Ahead of its international engagements in North America in September 2017, the Australian String Quartet (ASQ) is gearing up for its second national season tour for the year, *Homeward*.

Commencing in Perth on Wednesday 2 August and touring to Canberra, Ballarat, Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide, the ASQ's *Homeward* program draws together works by Britten, Dvořák and Paul Stanhope, to compose a rich tapestry woven from themes of exile and return.

The program opens with Benjamin Britten's, String Quartet no 1 in D major. Arriving in America in his late twenties, Britten enjoyed a sense of supreme confidence as a composer. In his String Quartet no 1, he sets out to impress in a work that abounds in joie de vivre and originality.

Living and working in Sydney, Paul Stanhope is one of the most active Australian composers of his generation. His award-winning String Quartet no 2 – originally commissioned for Musica Viva Australia by Kim Williams AM for the Pavel Haas String Quartet – explores the plight of displaced Europeans as a result of World War II. The work offers a dramatic contrast to Antonin Dvořák's energetic String Quartet in G major, which concludes the program.

ASQ cellist, Sharon Grigoryan said, "The notion of 'home' holds deep meaning for us and it has been a rich and rewarding process to develop this program to share with audiences across the country. We look forward to inviting listeners on a powerful musical journey as we explore the diverse sound-worlds of Britten, Stanhope and Dvořák in this dynamic program."

For over 30 years, the Australian String Quartet (ASQ) has created unforgettable string quartet performances for national and international audiences. Dedicated to musical excellence with a distinctly Australian character, the ASQ's purpose is to create chemistry and amplify intimacy through experiences that connect people with string quartet music.

From its home base at the University of Adelaide, Elder Conservatorium of Music, the ASQ reaches out across Australia and the world to engage people with an outstanding program of performances, workshops, commissions and education projects.

The Quartet's distinct sound is enhanced by a matched set of 18th century Guaragnini instruments, handcrafted by Giovanni Battista Guaragnini between c.1743 and 1784 in Turin and Piacenza, Italy. These precious instruments are on loan for the ASQ's exclusive use through the generosity of Ulrike Klein and UKARIA.

**ENDS**

**For further media information – Angelina Zucco, Chief Executive, 1800 040 444  
[azucco@asq.com.au](mailto:azucco@asq.com.au)**

## TOUR DATES & TICKET PRICES

### **Perth**

Wed 2 August 7pm, Government House Ballroom  
Standard \$85, Concession \$62, Under 30 \$30  
Tickets – Ticketek 1300 795 012 / ticketek.com.au

### **Canberra**

Sun 6 August 2pm, Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia  
Standard \$75, Concession \$60, Under 30 \$30  
Tickets – National Gallery of Australia 02 6240 6701 / nga.gov.au

### **Ballarat**

Mon 7 August 7.30pm, Art Gallery of Ballarat  
Standard \$42, Concession \$38, Student \$25  
Tickets – Art Gallery of Ballarat 03 5320 5858 / artgalleryofballarat.com.au

### **Melbourne**

Tue 8 August 7pm, Melbourne Recital Centre  
Standard \$85, Concession \$62, Under 30 \$30  
Tickets – Melbourne Recital Centre 03 9699 3333 / melbournerecital.com.au

### **Brisbane**

Sat 12 August 7pm, Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank  
Standard \$79, Concession \$56, Under 30 \$30  
Tickets – QTIX 136 246 / qtix.com.au

### **Sydney**

Mon 14 August 7pm, City Recital Hall  
Standard \$85, Concession \$62, Under 30 \$30  
Tickets – City Recital Hall 1300 797 118 / cityrecitalhall.com

### **Adelaide**

Tue 15 August 7pm, Adelaide Town Hall  
Standard \$79, Concession \$56, Under 30 \$30  
Tickets – Bass 131 246 / bass.net.au

\$15 Student Rush tickets available at all venues one hour prior to the concert.

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