

Australian String Quartet presents *Tempesta*



Touring nationally from 30 June – 11 July 2016

As winter sets in, the Australian String Quartet is warming up for its second national season tour with its new line up, violinists Dale Barltrop and Francesca Hiew, violist Stephen King and cellist Sharon Draper. The tour, titled *Tempesta*, after Joe Chindamo's featured string quartet, will commence in Sydney on 30 June before touring to Canberra, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth in early July.

The program begins with Webern's *Fünf Sätze* for String Quartet op 5. This twelve minute work is both risky and exciting as it challenges the Quartet to work together as one instrument to explore a unique gestural sound world through melody, texture, rhythm and silence.

The Quartet's second work in the program takes a journey back to the very origins of the string quartet with Haydn's String Quartet in C Major op 20 no 2. This powerfully dramatic work, written by the father of the string quartet, has been described as one of the supreme achievements of the classical period.

Fast forward to the current millennium, the Quartet's next work was composed in 2013 by brilliant Australian pianist and composer, Joe Chindamo. Written in four contrasting movements, one can hear the influence of Chindamo's jazz harmony in this piece, particularly in the slow opening of the second movement which gives way to a cheeky yet elegant waltz-like scherzo. ASQ violinist, Francesca Hiew said, "It's difficult putting this piece into a genre! Joe is an individual voice of many different characters that seem to whizz past you in this effervescent work."

It is the final work on our program that brings us to the extreme tempest of the concert. Here, in his F minor quartet, Felix Mendelssohn's grapples with the loss of his beloved sister Fanny in a work which was to be his last. This deeply moving work is a tumultuous journey of emotion from beginning to end as the Quartet paints in vivid colours the sound of Mendelssohn's inner storm. Hiew says, "It is a very human illustration of the grief and fragility of a broken man. It's an incredibly moving work and unlike any of his other quartets."

Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Adelaide, the ASQ was established in 1985 and has had a major impact on the musical life of Australia, commissioning, premiering and performing many works by leading Australian composers. The ASQ is privileged to perform on a matched set of instruments handcrafted by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini between c.1743-1784. The exquisite instruments are on loan to the ASQ for their exclusive use through the generosity of Ulrike Klein and Ngeringa Arts.

For further information on the ASQ and the *Tempesta* tour visit the website at asq.com.au or phone 1800 040 444 for details.

ENDS

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TEMPESTA

with the Australian String Quartet

PROGRAM

Webern *Fünf Sätze* for String Quartet op 5

Haydn String Quartet in C Major op 20 no 2

Joe Chindamo *Tempesta* for String Quartet

Mendelssohn String Quartet no 6 in F minor op 80

TOUR DATES & TICKET PRICES

Sydney

Thursday 30 June, 7pm, City Recital Hall

Standard \$83, Concession \$63, Under 30 \$30

To book: City Recital Hall (02) 8256 2222, cityrecitalhall.com

Canberra

Sunday 3 July, 2pm, Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia

Standard \$75, Concession \$60, Under 30 \$30

To book: Call 02 6240 6701 or www.nga.gov.au

Melbourne

Monday 4 July, 7pm, Melbourne Recital Centre

Standard \$83, Concession \$63, Under 30 \$30

To book: Melbourne Recital Centre 03 9699 3333, melbournerecital.com.au

Brisbane

Wednesday 6 July, 7pm, Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank

Standard \$77, Concession \$55, Under 30 \$30

To book: QTIX 136 246, qtix.com.au

Adelaide

Thursday 7 July, 7pm, Adelaide Town Hall

Standard \$77, Concession \$55, Under 30 \$30

To book: Bass 131 246, www.bass.net.au

Perth

Monday 11 July, 7pm, Government House Ballroom

Standard \$83, Concession \$63, Under 30 \$30

To book: Ticketek 1300 795 012, ticketek.com.au

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

BACKGROUND

Australian String Quartet Biography



With a rich history spanning over 30 years, the Australian String Quartet (ASQ) has a strong national profile as an Australian chamber music group of excellence, performing at the highest international level. From its home base at the University of Adelaide, Elder Conservatorium of Music, the ASQ delivers a vibrant annual artistic program encompassing performances, workshops, commissions and education projects across Australia and abroad.

One of Australia's finest music exports, the ASQ has appeared at international music festivals and toured extensively throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, New Zealand and Asia in recent years. The Quartet frequently performs with leading guest artists and in recent years has appeared with internationally acclaimed artists including pianists Angela Hewitt and Piers Lane, mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter, clarinettist Michael Collins, violist Brett Dean and cellist Pieter Wispelwey.

The Quartet's performance calendar for 2016 comprises its National Season featuring three unique concert programs presented in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney; its own flagship festivals in the Southern Grampians and Margaret River and regional touring. With an active focus on recording, the ASQ will embark on a range of recording initiatives in 2016, including a project to record an anthology of Australian string quartets. The Quartet's commitment to secondary and tertiary education programs will expand as regional residencies also become a regular event for the ASQ.

The members of the ASQ are privileged to perform on a matched set of Guadagnini instruments. Hand crafted by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini between c.1743-1784 in Turin and Piacenza, Italy, these exquisite instruments were brought together through the vision of Ulrike Klein. The instruments are on loan to the ASQ for their exclusive use through the generosity of Ulrike Klein and Ngeringa Arts.

Dale Bartrop plays a 1784 Guadagnini Violin, Turin.

Francesca Hiew plays a 1748-49 Guadagnini Violin, Piacenza.

Stephen King plays a 1783 Guadagnini Viola, Turin.

Sharon Draper plays a c.1743 Guadagnini Violoncello, Piacenza, 'Ngeringa'.