



Australian  
String  
Quartet

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **The Australian String Quartet ‘Switches Off’ for Intimate Earth Hour Gig at the South Australian Museum**

To celebrate Earth Hour 2018, two South Australian institutions have teamed up to help aid the plight of the mother planet by co-presenting an environmentally low-impact evening of high-impact music. The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) and the South Australian Museum, with guidance from Carbon Neutral Adelaide, have put together a list of guidelines for the event which includes cutting out all non-essential electricity, a paperless marketing and operations strategy, paperless entry, sustainable catering, and zero-emissions transport to-and-from the venue.

*Close Quarters: Earth Hour* will take place during Earth Hour where the South Australian Museum, along with over 6 million fellow Australians, will turn off their lights as a symbol of support to protect our planet for future generations.

Launched by World Wildlife Fund-Australia in 2007, Earth Hour has become the world’s biggest grassroots environmental movement where landmarks and communities switch off their lights to show their support for a brighter future for the planet. Now celebrated in over 170 countries, 7,000 cities, with roughly 1 in 4 Australians taking part, Earth Hour has one mission: to unite people to show they care about our planet’s future.

*Close Quarters: Earth Hour* is part of the ASQ’s mission to break down the barriers of classical music, presenting music new and old in casual, intimate settings, at prices comparable to a night at the movies. The concerts, 60 minutes in length, provide the flexibility for music-lovers of all kinds to include an exquisite music experience into their nightly activities.

“Bringing people together to listen to music without the need for electricity is a fun way to celebrate our Earth, in the ideal surroundings of the South Australian Museum. What better way to pass the time in the dark than to make use of your heightened senses?” Stephen King - viola.

“The music that we play is one of the few artforms that doesn’t require power to make a wonderful sound. The string quartet often sounds best in a smaller space, which is why we enjoy performing in Close Quarters venues so much.” Sharon Grigoryan – cello.

This isn’t the first time the ASQ and South Australian Museum have joined forces. In 2017 they co-presented performances for *Yidaki: Didjeridu and the Sound of Australia* with William Barton.

**Close Quarters: Earth Hour with the ASQ**  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March, South Australian Museum  
Doors open 7:45pm, performance at 8:15pm  
Tickets from [asq.com.au](http://asq.com.au)

**For further information: ASQ Marketing and Communications Manager Samuel Jozeps on 0429 645 436 [sjozeps@asq.com.au](mailto:sjozeps@asq.com.au).**



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*Pictured L-R: Dale Bartrop, Francesca Hiew, Stephen King, Sharon Grigoryan Photo: Jacqui Way, Illustration: Chris*

### BIOGRAPHY

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 Quartet'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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 UKARIA.

*Dale Bartrop plays a 1784 Guaragnini Violin, Turin*

*Francesca Hiew plays a 1748-49 Guaragnini Violin, Piacenza*

*Stephen King plays a 1783 Guaragnini Viola, Turin*

*Sharon Grigoryan plays a c.1743 Guaragnini Violoncello, Piacenza, 'Ngeringa'*

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