



Australian  
String  
Quartet

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Food, wine and music: The Australian String Quartet's three-day-long love-affairs**

**The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) invites lovers of music, food and wine to its exclusive three-day festivals in the picturesque Australian regions of Margaret River (Western Australia) and Dunkeld (Southern Grampians, Victoria).**

Now favourite fixtures of the ASQ's annual program of events, these festivals invite courtiers of esculent and auditory beauty to engage all their senses, pairing the regions' breath-taking scenery and mouth-watering food and wine with achingly beautiful music performed by the quartet and some of Australia's leading musicians.

The **Margaret River Weekend of Music** and **Dunkeld Festival of Music** offer guests customised packages including gala dinners, picnic lunches and canapés matched with a sumptuous program of live music guaranteed to transport guests to their own utopia. Festival-goers in Margaret River will visit Voyager Estate, Vasse Felix, Clairault | Streicker Wines, Old Kent River Wines and Cape Lodge, while patrons in Dunkeld will visit the charming Mt Sturgeon Woolshed, the Myers's private library and experience the warm hospitality of the iconic Royal Mail Hotel.

This year the ASQ is thrilled to bring pianist Brenda Jones to Dunkeld to perform two masterpieces by Brahms with the quartet, alongside Dean Newcomb, Principal Clarinet, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Newcomb also joins Australia's acclaimed soprano, Sara Macliver to present works by Schubert, Handel and Mozart with the ASQ in Margaret River.

The Dunkeld Festival of Music has grown so much over the last few years that the ASQ now offers the identical experience back-to-back, keeping the affair as intimate as possible whilst meeting the event's high audience demand.

*"These festivals have become somewhat of a yearly pilgrimage for us. What started out 14 years ago as a novel experiential idea has become one of the most anticipated events on our calendar. It's when we can commune with fellow lovers of music, food and wine for a few days of inspiring company and spectacular surroundings."* Dale Barltrop – violin.

#### **TOUR DATES & DETAILS**

##### **Margaret River Weekend of Music**

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 April 2018

##### **Dunkeld Festival of Music**

Friday 13 – Sunday 15 April 2018

Sunday 15 – Tuesday 17 April 2018

*For further information contact Samuel Jozeps, Australian String Quartet Marketing and Communications Manager on 0429 645 435 or [sjozeps@asq.com.au](mailto:sjozeps@asq.com.au).*



*Pictured L-R: Dale Barltrop, Francesca Hiew, Stephen King, Sharon Grigoryan Photo: Shane Reid*

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 Barltrop 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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