



Australian
String
Quartet

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MEDIA RELEASE
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Australian String Quartet Announces Mrs Maria Myers AC as Patron

The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) today announces the appointment of Mrs Maria Myers AC as its inaugural Patron, an appointment reflecting her generous ongoing work which sets a high standard for arts philanthropy in Australia.

Mrs Myers has served as a non-executive Director on the board of the ASQ since February 2002. During this time, Mrs Myers has been a tireless supporter of the Quartet and has championed its artistic aspirations for excellence on a national and international front.

Mrs Myers has a genuine passion for regional and remote Australian communities. During her active involvement on the board of the ASQ, Mrs Myers has maintained a strong commitment to ensuring that these communities have access to world-class string quartet performances and the Quartet's tours have extended right across Australia.

Most notably, Mrs Myers helped establish the ASQ's flagship regional festival event, the Dunkeld Festival of Music, which is currently in its 14th year of delivery. For this event, Mrs Myers, together with Mr Allan Myers, generously make available their home and regional properties for private performances by the Australian String Quartet and leading guest artists. The festival has grown to attract over 350 patrons each year and the artistic and financial success of this unique festival model has paved the way for the Quartet to create a 'sister' festival in Western Australia's Margaret River region as well as the development of further regional festivals across Australia.

Mrs Maria Myers AC said, *"I am delighted to be appointed as the ASQ's inaugural Patron. Through my many years of close association with the Quartet, both as a board member, and importantly concert attendee, I have seen the organisation grow and continually evolve. I am particularly proud of the quartet's commitment to the delivery of outstanding music across the country and its many regions and know I share the joy this brings with many fellow Australians."*

As a donor, Mrs Myers has contributed significantly to the ASQ and is the highest-level donor nationally to the organisation. Her very generous support has encouraged other patrons to support the Quartet and has significantly extended the ASQ's relationships and networks.

Chair of the Australian String Quartet, Mr Nicholas Callinan AO, said, *"For about half of the ASQ's three decades, it has been sustained, supported, saved and has succeeded in large part because of the energy and enthusiasm of Maria Myers. As the ASQ now prepares for new and exciting challenges, we have been keen to appoint a patron to stand for all that the ASQ is and hopes to become – Maria was our clear choice."*

Mrs Myers concluded a faithful 16-year term as a Director on the ASQ Board at the end of 2017 and continues her passionate advocacy and support for Quartet as its inaugural Patron.

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Publicity and Production

AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET



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 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 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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