



Australian
String
Quartet

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MEDIA RELEASE October 2020

Anne Cawrse's thought provoking homage to Virginia Woolf set to inspire in Australian String Quartet world premiere

The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) will treat South Australian audiences to the world premiere of acclaimed Australian composer Anne Cawrse's brand new work, *A Room of Her Own* in a special event on Saturday, 17 October 2020 in Adelaide's much-loved Elder Hall at the University of Adelaide.

The premiere, which was cancelled earlier this year as a result of COVID-19, is inspired by renowned writer Virginia Woolf's seminal 1929 essay, *A Room Of One's Own*. Commissioned for the Australian String Quartet by the Elder Conservatorium of Music with support of the John Bishop Memorial Commission.

For Anne, the Virginia Woolf essay came as a revelation and when the opportunity presented itself to write a brand new commission for the ASQ, the essay quickly became her inspiration.

"I had just started reading the essay and I thought what better standpoint to base a major work on than this text that has meant a great deal to so many people. I found the words incredibly eye-opening and relevant for how I am feeling about being a creative woman – what that looks like, and balancing all the aspects of life and creativity."

ASQ Cellist, Sharon Grigoryan said that the quartet is honoured that Anne has written this work specifically for the ASQ.

"What a thrill it will be to finally be able to bring Anne's creation to life. In what has been a very different 2020 to what we all expected, music that explores creativity, opportunity and expression is so important for audiences to hear as live music begins to return. Anne's work is haunting, poignant, and extremely emotive. The theme of exploring what it means to be a female composer in the 21st century is a timely and intriguing one that we are so enjoying exploring in rehearsals, and we can't wait to share with our audience. "

Professor Graeme Koehne AO, Director, Elder Conservatorium of Music says that the University of Adelaide is proud to partner with the Australian String Quartet, through the John Bishop Memorial Commission, to bring audiences the premiere of a new work by Elder Conservatorium alumna, Dr Anne Cawrse.

"John Bishop was the Director of the Elder Conservatorium and a pioneer of Australian music education. His legacy endures today through the activities of the Adelaide Festival and the Australian Youth Orchestra, both of which he founded. The present award celebrates his remarkable contribution to Australian culture.

The tradition of the John Bishop Memorial Commission extends back to 1968 and has enriched the repertoire of Australian music by inspiring chamber and orchestral works by some of our finest composers."

Complementing Anne Cawrse's work is Beethoven's famed 'harp' string quartet and Giovanni Sollima's *Sonnets et Rondeaux*.

Beethoven Sollima Cawrse

Saturday 17 October 2020, 7pm
Elder Hall

Program

ANNE CAWRSE *A Room of Her Own** (world premiere)
BEETHOVEN String Quartet in E flat major op 74 *Harp*
GIOVANNI SOLLIMA *Sonnets et Rondeaux*

Tickets

Adult \$45

Concession \$40

www.asq.com.au

For more information on the ASQ visit the website at asq.com.au or phone 1800 040 444 for details.
For further information on Anne Cawrse please visit www.annecawrse.com

For all media enquiries contact Jeff Smith, Jeff Smith Creative Consulting on 0402 677 389 or mrjeffsmith@gmail.com

ENDS

BACKGROUND

BIOGRAPHY – AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET

For 35 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 Guadagnini instruments, handcrafted by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini 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.

BIOGRAPHY – ANNE CAWRSE

Anne Cawrse is an Adelaide based composer of acoustic orchestral, chamber and vocal music. Anne's music blends soaring, lyrical melodies, dexterous rhythmic interplay and an unpredictably colourful harmonic palette. She is particularly fond of discovering the expressive musical potential hidden within the words of female writers.

Growing up in the small rural town of Freeling in South Australia, Anne moved to Adelaide to pursue studies in composition at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. In 2008 she completed her PhD in Composition under the supervision of Graeme Koehne and Charles Bodman Rae.

When she is not composing or teaching theory and composition at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Anne enjoys an idyllic existence by the beach with her husband Andrew and son Oscar. She enjoys good coffee, South Australian red wine, cheese tasting at the Central Markets and- when time permits- getting lost in a good book.

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