



Australian
String
Quartet

Quartet-in-Residence
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FOR RELEASE
23 APRIL 2020

The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) launches *Australian Anthology*: a series of contemporary Australian recordings

During an unprecedented season of ‘national hibernation’, the Australian String Quartet continues to champion Australian art and music through digital realms. Over the course of the year, the ASQ is set to release new recordings by contemporary Australian composers, across digital platforms including Spotify, Apple Music, Google Play, and Youtube.

The project, *Australian Anthology*, aims to make accessible and promote Australian music, globally, and includes new work set for imminent release by some of the country’s top artists including **Nigel Westlake, Dr Lou Bennett, Kate Moore, Stephen Pigram, Anne Cawrse, James Ledger, and William Barton.**

Prior to its widespread release in December 2019, the ASQ’s *Australian Anthology* recording of composer **Paul Stanhope’s** String Quartet No. 2 had already achieved a global reach, featuring at the Venice Biennale of Art, 2019, thanks to a collaboration with visual artists James Darling and Lesley Forwood, and Jumpgate VR, *Living Rocks: a Fragment of the Universe*, curated by Lisa Slade and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

“Australian Anthology celebrates our great Australian composers of string quartets. Growing this collection is like breathing life into history for future generations. It is a vital part of making music, to work with living composers and present their music alongside a package of contextual and educational materials.”

– Stephen King, viola Australian String Quartet

“One of the great privileges of being a national music organisation is the opportunity to support independent Australian artists by commissioning, performing, recording and promoting their work. Australian Anthology takes a long-term view at building a living musical history that seeks to produce a trove of recordings, educational materials and resources to showcase the broad and diverse artistic voices of our Australian composers.” – Angelina Zucco, Chief Executive, Australian String Quartet

Release on 24 April 2020: *Tempesta* by Joe Chindamo

Commissioned and premiered by Sydney-based Acacia Quartet in 2013, *Tempesta* is Joe Chindamo’s first exploration of string quartet writing. Although perhaps best-known for his work as a jazz composer and musician, Chindamo cites string quartets from Ravel and Bartok as among his greatest influences.

*“Great interpreters have a knack for presenting music that is a hundred years old and making it sound as though it were composed yesterday, and imbuing new music with the gravitas of a finely matured wine. The ASQ undoubtedly belong to this elite group of performers, and I couldn’t be more thrilled that they chose to lend their erudition and passion to my *Tempesta* - thereby creating the definitive version.”* – Joe Chindamo

“(Chindamo’s) is an individual and distinctive voice, technically assured and multifaceted” – The Daily Telegraph

“The work has a most engaging immediacy... fascinating listening” – The West Australian

To hear the recordings, music-lovers can search Australian String Quartet on their music streaming platform of choice, find them via www.asq.com.au or follow the ASQ on social media for updates.



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AUSTRALIAN ANTHOLOGY – AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET

Already released

December 2019: PAUL STANHOPE String Quartet no 2

Release schedule (subject to change)

April: Joe Chindamo *Tempesta*

May: DR LOU BENNETT *Jaara Nyilamum*

June: KATE MOORE *Cicadidae*

July: WILLIAM BARTON *Square Circles Beneath the Red Desert Sand*

August: NIGEL WESTLAKE String Quartet no 3 *Sacred Sky*

September: STEPHEN PIGRAM *Walganyagarra Buru*

October: ANNE CAWRSE *A Room of Her Own*

November: ROSS EDWARDS String Quartet no 4

December: JAMES LEDGER *The Distortion Mirror*

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 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.

MORE INFORMATION

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