

# SYMONDS BEETHOVEN ASQ IN CONCERT



AUSTRALIAN  
STRING QUARTET



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**As Australia's oldest and most distinguished tertiary music school, we have educated and inspired performers, composers, teachers and leaders in the arts.**

We are home to the Australian String Quartet – our quartet in residence – and host a vibrant community of talented musicians. In a supportive environment we nurture creativity, independence and excellence.

The Open Music Academy (OMA) is an exciting initiative of the Elder Conservatorium, offering South Australian students the opportunity to expand their musical horizons, led by the performance staff of the 'Con' and some of the best South Australian musicians and educators.

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# SYMONDS BEETHOVEN ASQ IN CONCERT

## WELCOME

*The Australian String Quartet acknowledges the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet. We honour their deep connection to this country, which was never ceded, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.*

It is a great pleasure to welcome you into this performance space.

We are extremely proud that our commitment to championing new work and contributing to the Australian voice is prevalent in this program. Jack Symonds' String Quartet No.2, funded through our Richard Divall Australian Music Fund, is the result of a rewarding collaboration with the Quartet forged over these last two years. It is a work that demonstrates the brilliance of the musicians of the ASQ and the diverse range of expression and colours they can achieve through their mastery of craft. What a privilege it is to share these World Premiere performances with you.

Beethoven's extraordinary Op.131 is a work the Quartet consider a "rite of passage". Its remarkable breadth across seven interlinked movements transports us into a deeply intimate world, leaving the listener altered at the end of its journey. Beethoven is said to have regarded it the personal favourite of his quartets and I cannot wait for the musicians to divulge to you its many secrets.

We hope the music of this program inspires you as much as it has the members of the ASQ over this last year. This concert is the culmination of a year-long journey into the incredible worlds that these two works offer us, and we believe that sharing this experience with you is a strong reminder of music's power to create community—something that the ASQ strives to maintain and build upon.

Thank you for being with us.

Sheena Boughen  
Chair







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# SYMONDS BEETHOVEN ASQ IN CONCERT

## Adelaide

Tuesday 18 October, 7pm  
Adelaide Town Hall  
Karna Country

## Melbourne

Monday 31 October, 7pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall,  
Melbourne Recital Centre  
Kulin Nation

## Sydney

Tuesday 1 November, 7pm  
Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House  
Gadigal Country

## Canberra

Sunday 20 November, 2pm  
Gandel Hall,  
National Gallery of Australia  
Ngunnawal Country

## Jack Symonds (b.1988)

String Quartet No.2 (World Premiere)\*

Part One: an abnormality of growth

- a. Andante amoroso
- b. Scherzo I
- c. Scherzo II (in imitazione) –  
Trio (senza energia) –  
Scherzo II (con difetti)
- d. Finale I

Part Two: a continuity of paradoxes

- a. Adagio inquieto
- b. Scherzino interrotto
- c. Adagio stagnante
- d. Finale I
- e. Finale II

On Beethoven: a prelude conversation

-Interval-

## Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

String Quartet in

C-sharp minor, Op.131

- I. Adagio ma non troppo  
e molto espressivo
- II. Allegro molto vivace
- III. Allegro moderato – Adagio
- IV. Variations
- V. Presto
- VI. Adagio quasi un poco andante
- VII. Allegro

*Duration approximately 90 minutes  
including interval*

\*Commissioned by the Australian String Quartet  
for the London season of ANAM Quartetthaus  
through the Australian String Quartet  
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AUDIENCES AROUND THE WORLD.

Dedicated to musical excellence with a distinctly Australian flavour, our purpose is to create chemistry and amplify intimacy through experiences that connect people with string quartet music.

From our home base at the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music, we reach out across Australia and the world to engage people with an outstanding program of performances, workshops, commissions and education projects.

Our 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 our exclusive use through the generosity of UKARIA.

*Dale Bartrop plays a  
1784 Guaragnini Violin, Turin*

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

*Christopher Cartlidge plays a  
1783 Guaragnini Viola, Turin*

*Michael Dahlenburg plays a  
c.1743 Guaragnini Violoncello,  
Piacenza 'Ngeringa'*



# BIOGRAPHIES

## DALE BARLTROP

VIOLIN

Brisbane-born violinist, Dale Barltrop, has concertised across Australia and the globe. He joined the ASQ in 2016 and also serves as Concertmaster of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Prior to this, he was Concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in Canada and Principal Second Violin of the St Paul Chamber Orchestra in the US.

A product of the Queensland Instrumental Music Program, Dale made his solo debut with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra at the age of fifteen and was Concertmaster of both the Queensland and Australian Youth Orchestras. Dale has also appeared as Concertmaster of the Australian World Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle and guest director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra. He has studied with William Preucil, Gerald Fischbach, Elizabeth Morgan and Marcia Cox.

## FRANCESCA HIEW

VIOLIN

Francesca joined the Australian String Quartet in 2016 after being a full-time member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and a core member of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. Highlights from her diverse performance career include playing in front of 10,000 people alongside Bruce Springsteen, recording with friend and fellow violinist Sally Cooper for *The X Factor*, and sight-reading Ravel's Duo with Dutch cellist, Pieter Wispelwey, in concert.

Francesca is devoted to fostering future chamber musicians and audiences. She enjoys teaching and has tutored emerging ensembles and violinists across Australia and internationally. Constantly refining her own theories on violin technique (an obsession inherited from her teacher William Hennessy), Francesca believes generosity and the sharing of knowledge can only strengthen our musical communities.

## CHRISTOPHER CARTLIDGE

VIOLA

Australian violist Christopher Cartlidge joined the ASQ in 2021, after ten years as a member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra where he held the position of Associate Principal Viola. He regularly appears as a guest in orchestras across Australia and New Zealand and as a soloist, Christopher has appeared with both the Melbourne and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras.

Christopher studied on a full scholarship at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music where he studied with Josephine St Leon, and at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM). During his studies, he was the recipient of several awards and accolades, including the University of Tasmania's Director's Prize, and inclusion on the University of Tasmania's Dean's Roll of Excellence. In 2015 he was a grand-finalist and multiple prize-winner in the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards.

## MICHAEL DAHLENBURG

CELLO

Michael is an Australian cellist, conductor, and educator. His prolific career as a cellist has seen him play in a variety of different musical settings. He was Principal Cellist of Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and has been Guest Principal Cellist with Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (NZ), and Orchestra Victoria.

Michael was a founding member of the acclaimed Hamer Quartet who won First Prize, Grand Prize, and Audience Prize at the 2009 Asia-Pacific Chamber Competition. As a soloist and chamber musician, Michael has given performances at festivals and concert halls around the world. He has studied chamber music with Gerhard Schulz, Paul Katz, András Kellar, Heime Müller, Barbara Westphal, Hatto Beyerle, William Hennessy and the Artemis, Tokyo and Jerusalem Quartets amongst many others.





## JACK SYMONDS

COMPOSER

Jack Symonds is a composer, conductor and accompanist, and Artistic Director of Sydney Chamber Opera. He studied composition at the Royal College of Music, London under Kenneth Hesketh and at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where he received the University Medal. Trained also as a pianist and trombonist, he continues to work regularly as a pianist, giving the premiere of many new works as well as frequently conducting his own and others' music, including major stage works by Britten, Benjamin, Janáček, Dusapin, Kurtág, Saariaho, Maxwell Davies, Kancheli, Rihm. He has also conducted the world premieres of Gyger's *Fly Away Peter* & *Oscar and Lucinda*, Finsterer's *Antarctica* (with Askol|Schönberg) and *Biographica*, Ricketson's *The Howling Girls* and Smetanin's *Mayakovsky*.

Significant composition premieres include *Climbing Toward Midnight*, an opera re-imagining the second act of Wagner's *Parsifal*, a piece for New York's JACK Quartet, the John Bishop commission for the 2021 Adelaide Festival, the Dostoevsky opera *Notes from Underground* (2011, restaged at Carriageworks in 2016), pieces for Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian String Quartet, the Composers Ensemble at Dartington where he studied with Detlev Glanert, cello works for Timo-Veikko Valve & Patrick Murphy, Jane Sheldon, four works for Australia Piano Quartet, the Streeton Trio, a viola d'amore and percussion double concerto for BIFEM and a 2015 concert series curated around his music by Affinity Collective which included three premieres. His debut CD '*Cycle and Song*' was released on Hospital Hill in 2016.

## Guadagnini Quartet Project

In 2010, UKARIA embarked on one of the most significant philanthropic projects in Australia's musical history - the acquisition of a unique quartet of rare stringed instruments (c.1743-1784) crafted by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini.

Guadagnini is one of history's foremost luthiers, in company with Stradivarius and Guarneri del Gesù. This matched set of instruments, held in trust by UKARIA and made available as a set in perpetuity to Australia's most outstanding string quartet, is unprecedented anywhere in the world. The current recipients are the Australian String Quartet.

The instruments included in the collection are:

1784 Guadagnini Violin (Turin)

1748-49 Guadagnini Violin (Piacenza)

1783 Guadagnini Viola (Turin)

c.1743 Guadagnini Cello 'Ngeringa' (Piacenza)

Through the generosity of Ulrike Klein AO, The Klein Family Foundation, Maria Myers AC,

Allan Myers AC, The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation, Didy McLaurin, Joan Lyons, David McKee AO and Pam McKee, and many other donors, UKARIA completed the project on 18 December 2017, raising the funds to acquire all four instruments at a total cost of \$6,183,188.

**This project has brought together a group of visionary patrons who understand the significant cultural value in a collection of this calibre.**

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**To every patron who contributed to this project we thank you for your support.**

**To learn more visit [UKARIA.com](http://UKARIA.com)**

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Be the first to hear about upcoming concerts, exciting new projects and our latest ASQ *On Demand* offerings. Join by scanning the QR code to receive updates straight to your inbox.



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