

AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET ARTISTS' CIRCLE



PHOTO: JACQUI WAY



“This was a performance with a great sense of mastery on all fronts – technically flawless, driven by great passion and virtuosity... ★★★★★”

Limelight, 2022



PHOTO: KANE MORONEY

GIVE THE GIFT OF MASTERY

The Australian String Quartet's (ASQ) Artists' Circle is a passionate group of people who are committed to supporting the only national full-time salaried string quartet to fulfil their artistic ambitions.

Each year, the ASQ reaches out across the world to engage people with an outstanding program of performances, workshops, commissions and education projects through the leadership of our musicians and Co-Artistic Directors, Dale Barltrop (violin), Francesca Hiew (violin), Christopher Carlidge (viola) and Michael Dahlenburg (cello).

As an exclusive member of the Artists' Circle, you will have a unique opportunity to share time with the musicians and experience the inner workings of this extraordinary quartet.

The Artists' Circle contributes vital support to the quartet's salaries and the tangible costs associated with a high-performance, international touring ensemble, including:

Borderless rehearsals – Creative development weeks for the quartet's flights of imagination

Luigi's annual airfares – Economy flights for the Guadagnini cello (nicknamed Luigi)

Fit as a fiddle – Well-being programs for musicians

Dressed to impress – Performance costumes and staging

Paperless touring – Digital equipment to keep the music flowing

Our aspiration for the Artists' Circle is to raise \$100,000 per artist, per year, to support our talented musicians. An Artists' Circle investment begins at \$25,000 per year, for a minimum of three years.

To join the Artists' Circle, or for more information please contact Chair, Sheena Boughen, on +61 418 656 916 or Chief Executive, Angelina Zucco, on +61 402 642 121, or email asq@asq.com.au.

Imagine four unique voices each with something exquisite to say, coming together to serve one another in the pursuit of artistic mastery. Music spurs us to contemplate the universal questions that bind us together as humans; to connect and to engage with each other and our world.

Together, these four musicians make a sound that is beyond the sum of their parts. Their mastery - the result of hours of daily individual and collective practice - makes way for all to experience the transcendent quality of music. This is unity.

The ASQ imagines a world where we put aside the things that divide us, our individual wants and needs, to reach higher realms of inspiration. For the audience the individual artistry and collective mastery – the deep work that is unseen and wants no recognition of its own – is offered to you as a gift.

We acknowledge and thank our donors who support the Artists' Circle. We have begun, and invite you to join us and be part of our quest.



PHOTO: KANE MORONEY

DALE BARLTROP VIOLIN

"The privilege of being able to travel around Australia, sharing our music and stories with people, is for me one of the most rewarding aspects of being in the ASQ. When I'm on the road I also make a point of seeking out the best local swimming spots to satisfy my passion for the water. The sense of freedom and fluidity I find in swimming is one that I constantly strive for as a violinist. It is also a state of mind that provides a powerful tonic for music-making and artistic expression."

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.

Dale Barltrop plays a 1784 Guadagnini Violin, Turin on loan through the generosity of UKARIA.



FRANCESCA HIEW VIOLIN

“Music has been a big part of my life from a very young age. My mother used to take me to ASQ concerts and only now do I realise the significance of these moments and how they informed and enriched me. I love travelling and connecting with different places and people but being home is irreplaceable. The happiness I feel being with family and sharing a meal together always puts things into perspective.”

Francesca joined the ASQ 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.

Francesca Hiew Plays a 1748-49 Guadagnini Violin, Piacenza on loan through the generosity of UKARIA.



CHRISTOPHER CARTLIDGE VIOLA

“Music has been the largest part of my life for as long as I can remember. For me, the sharing of ideas, emotions, expression and the pleasures of music through the Quartet give my life purpose. I’m at my happiest when playing Mozart, spending time with my dog Dobby or enjoying a nice wine—or a combination of all three!”

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.

Christopher Cartlidge plays a 1783 Guadagnini Viola, Turin on loan through the generosity of UKARIA.



MICHAEL DAHLENBURG CELLO

“What matters most to me are the small things like meeting the local cello students in the places we visit or seeing and feeling pure joy and excitement in the room after a concert. One of my earliest musical memories is being a young cello student at an ASQ concert and being inspired at a young age to one day be in the ensemble. Long may the ASQ continue to courageously inspire the small things.”

Michael is an Australian cellist, conductor, and educator who joined the ASQ in 2020. 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.

Michael Dahlenburg plays a c.1743 Guadagnini Violoncello, Piacenza 'Ngeringa' on loan through the generosity of UKARIA.



Scan the QR code and enjoy
the ASQ's performance of
Beethoven String Quartet
in C Major, Op.59 No.3,
Razumovsky



Sheena Boughen OAM
Chair

Angelina Zucco
Chief Executive

Australian String Quartet Inc.
Level 1 Hartley Building
The University of Adelaide
Adelaide SA 5005

asq.com.au

T: 1800 040 444

E: asq@asq.com.au

ABN 13 473 627 792