

AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET

2024



WELCOME

Four voices—one vision. The art of the string quartet has captivated musicians for centuries. Indeed, the combination of four parts in harmony with each other forms the very nucleus of musical expression as we know it. The power of the string quartet to speak to the human experience, in ways both profound and utterly fundamental, unites us in our purpose as the Australian String Quartet.

We feel exceptionally fortunate to pursue this art form in the footsteps of the fine musicians before us. Our mission to touch the hearts and minds of people across this vast country has given flight to the ASQ, ever since its formation in 1985. That mission remains as strong as ever.

We invite you to join us in 2024 for our two national programs, *Vanguard* and *Aurora*, or come along to one of our festivals in the Southern Grampians of Victoria or the Barossa Valley in South Australia. The four of us have delighted in choosing some extraordinary music that we are deeply passionate about, and we can't wait to share it with you!

**Dale, Francesca, Christopher and Michael
Australian String Quartet**

"...ravishing musical unity."
The Age

The Australian String Quartet acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and Owners of the lands on which we work and live across Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land and their continued living culture.

AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET

Since 1985, the Australian String Quartet (ASQ) has created unforgettable performances for audiences around the world.

Dedicated to musical excellence of the highest standard, we aim to create chemistry and amplify intimacy through experiences that connect people with music.

From our home base at the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music, where we are Quartet-in-Residence, we reach out across the world to engage people with an outstanding program of performances, workshops, digital content, 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.

From left to right:

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

*Christopher Cartlidge
plays a 1783 Guaragnini Viola, Turin*

*Dale Barltrop
plays a 1784 Guaragnini Violin, Turin*

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



VANGUARD

Pushing the boundaries of the genre, Beethoven and Korngold take the string quartet to new frontiers with these ground-breaking works.

When premiered in 1825, Beethoven's Op.127 quartet stunned listeners with its innovation of expression and form. This work heralded a dramatic shift in Beethoven's trajectory, having already taken the string quartet to unprecedented heights. In this, the first of his late quartets, we glimpse a far more personal, philosophical, and inward-looking approach to musical rhetoric.

Korngold's success as a Hollywood film composer cemented his place in history. As a serious composer of post-Romantic music, he produced some extraordinary works that have long been overlooked. His second string quartet is no exception—its highly romantic harmonies are sprinkled with surprises that imbue it with a fresh and highly original sound.

Australian composer Harry Sdraulig is making waves across the country with a string of compelling new works. We are thrilled to be giving the premiere performances of his second string quartet; a fitting companion to the dynamic powerhouses of this program.

BEETHOVEN

String Quartet in E-flat Major, Op.127

HARRY SDRAULIG

String Quartet No.2

*(National Premiere performances)**

KORNGOLD

String Quartet No.2 in E-flat Major, Op.26

Perth *Tue 18 June, 7pm*

Canberra *Sun 23 June, 2pm*

Brisbane *Thu 27 June, 7.30pm*

Melbourne *Mon 1 July, 7pm*

Sydney *Tue 2 July, 7pm*

Adelaide *Thu 4, 10.30am & Fri 5 July, 7pm*

**Commissioned by John Griffiths for his wife Beth*

*"...mastery on all fronts
– technically flawless, driven by
great passion and virtuosity..."*

Limelight



AURORA

There is a distinct core to the sound of Nordic composers of the 19th and 20th centuries. A powerful chordal resonance pervades the Mustonen and Grieg quartets on this program, which combine with Haydn to reveal a sound-world that shimmers with brilliance.

Haydn's Op.76 No.5 quartet shows the composer at the height of his craft. The miraculous slow movement, in the radiant key of F-sharp major, is one of Haydn's most sublime. In distinct contrast with the effervescent music around it, it is almost as if time stands still in the heart of this work.

Finnish composer Olli Mustonen describes his first string quartet as "a journey from darkness to light." Composed in 2016, it balances fervent rhythms and hymnal melodies with intertwining psychological and physical elements which are said to evoke travel into fantasy worlds.

Grieg's first string quartet is a rousing tour de force of romantic melodies infused with Norwegian nationalistic flair. Its four movements are marked by a raw emotional power that has earned this work its place as one of Scandinavia's most celebrated string quartets.

HAYDN

String Quartet in D Major, Op.76 No.5

OLLI MUSTONEN

String Quartet No.1

GRIEG

String Quartet No.1 in G minor, Op.27

Brisbane Mon 21 October, 7pm

Melbourne Mon 28 October, 7pm

Perth Thu 31 October, 7.30pm

Canberra Sun 3 November, 2pm

Sydney Wed 6 November, 7pm

Adelaide Tue 12 November, 7pm

Hobart Fri 22 November, 7pm

*"...this quartet is at the top of their game
– in full-bloom, you might say."*

Canberra CityNews



DUNKELD FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Our flagship festival offering celebrates twenty years in 2024.

Over three incredible days, in the heart of Victoria's Southern Grampians, we take you on a journey into the world of some of the greatest music for keyboard instruments and string quartet. Acclaimed baroque and classical specialist Erin Helyard joins us as the guest artist for works featuring piano, harpsichord and organ.

Festival one: [Fri 12—Sun 14 April](#)

Festival two: [Sun 14—Tue 16 April](#)

BAROSSA WEEKEND OF MUSIC

Our newest bespoke experience in South Australia's most renowned wine region.

Unwind with a premium weekend of music and hospitality centred around the Barossa Valley's very own Luxury Lodge, The Louise. This weekend offers you an escape unlike any other, featuring dining experiences that showcase the region's local produce paired with premium local wines and the finest music from the ASQ and our special guests Mark Simeon Ferguson, Kyrie Anderson, Bonnie Grynchuk and Ciara Ferguson.

[Fri 30—Sat 31 August](#)

This festival will go on sale in early 2024

"I loved every minute of this experience. Superb performances in such picturesque locations accompanied by wonderful food and wine."

Kay Freedman, festival guest



TICKETS NOW ON SALE

ONLINE BOOKINGS

To book now for our concerts and festivals in 2024, and for venue details, visit asq.com.au

PHONE BOOKINGS

All concerts and festivals can be booked by calling the ASQ on 1800 040 444, excluding *Vanguard* in Brisbane, *Aurora* in Hobart and our Sydney concerts.

Brisbane—book *Vanguard* by calling the Queensland Symphony Orchestra on 07 3833 5044.

Hobart—book *Aurora* by calling Theatre Royal on 03 6146 3300.

Sydney—book *Vanguard* and *Aurora* by calling the Sydney Opera House on 02 9250 7777.

ON DEMAND

Want 24/7 access to over 70 filmed performances, interviews and insights into music anywhere you have an internet connection?

Fill your every day with us by purchasing an On Demand Pass, starting at just \$7.

Purchase yours at asq.com.au/on-demand-passes

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Never miss an announcement or upcoming concert on the ASQ calendar. Join our mailing list at asq.com.au or by scanning the QR code to receive news relevant to your state directly to your inbox.



"Their speed, delicacy and finesse are at a level they can call their own. I've never heard them play better."

InReview



THANK YOU

The ASQ thanks our corporate partners, Patron Maria Myers AC, Artists' Circle supporters, and cherished community of donors who make our vital work possible.

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Creative

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All information in this brochure is correct at time of printing however may be subject to change.

SUPPORT US

As Australia's national string quartet, mastery is central to our ambition. Whether we are performing in regional halls, the most revered performing arts venues around the world, or on the digital stage—we are committed to presenting phenomenal music, championing Australian voices, and fostering new work of the highest artistic standards.

Now, more than ever, your support enables us to cement a place for professional string quartets in Australia, and helps ensure we continue to inspire people of all ages around the world.

To discover more about how you can support us, visit asq.com.au/support

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