



AUSTRALIAN
STRING QUARTET
2025

40 ASQ
EST 1985

WELCOME

A string quartet is a living, breathing work of art. Sculpted by time, dedication, and passion, it is more than any one person's legacy—it is an idea that inspires us and tantalises all. It is a place for passion, exploration, and generosity of the human spirit. The aspiration for a shared, artistically rich future, has fuelled the Australian String Quartet (ASQ) since 1985. Now, as we enter our 40th year, that journey proudly continues.

The string quartet rings with the power of a chorus, yet simultaneously with the intensity of one solitary voice. There is no prerequisite nor permission required to be moved by the beguiling beauty of its music; it is for anyone. Come with us in 2025 as we cross this beautiful country with our national tours—*Rapture* and *Convergence*—and settle in for immersive bespoke festival experiences set amongst truly breathtaking landscapes from the foothills of Victoria's Southern Grampians to the stunning vineyards of Western Australia's Margaret River region.

Music from the past to the present, from Australia and afar; let us discover it all, together. Welcome to 2025 with the ASQ and here's to the next 40 years!

Best wishes

Michael, Chris, Francesca and Dale
Australian String Quartet

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.

“...FLAT
OUT
EXTRA
ORDIN
ARY...”

InReview

AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET

The ASQ is Australia's pre-eminent organisation dedicated to string quartet music and Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music.

Defined by excellence in performance and the joy of musical expression, our DNA comprises three inseparable parts. At the centre is our Quartet—four full-time musicians, each a creative force in crafting the world's most dynamic and intimate music. Surrounding the Quartet is an innovative production company that presents, tours, records, and promotes exceptional artistry. Sustaining this, is a vital community of partners including our national Board, visionary Patron—Maria Myers AC, Major Partner—The University of Adelaide, Instrument Partner—UKARIA and Government Supporters.

Together, we celebrate music from the past to the present, from near and afar, and strive to reflect contemporary Australia through our performances, collaborations, advocacy, learning programs, and development of new work. Our landmark ASQ Australian Music Fund supports our ground-breaking Australian Anthology project that proudly champions the work of Australian artists.

In our 40th year, we are energised by our purpose to create chemistry and amplify intimacy through experiences that engage people across regional and metropolitan Australia and around the world.

The ASQ is privileged to perform on a matched set of Guadagnini instruments on loan for our exclusive use through the generosity of UKARIA.

From left to right:

Chris Cartlidge plays a 1783 Guadagnini Viola, Turin

Michael Dahlenburg plays a c.1743 Guadagnini

Violoncello, Piacenza 'Ngeringa'

Francesca Hiew plays a 1748—49 Guadagnini Violin, Piacenza

Dale Barltrop plays a 1784 Guadagnini Violin, Turin



RAPTURE

Rapture pulses with a vital force through the music of Beethoven, Perica, Janáček and Golijov that illustrates the power of the string quartet to express our deepest desires and greatest fears.

Beethoven's String Quartet No.11 in F minor bursts forth, opening *Rapture* with unrivalled energy and intensity, setting the scene for a concert of remarkable contrasts. Experience the World Premiere of Australian composer Vanessa Perica's *No Feeling is Final*, a four-movement quartet drawing inspiration from the composer's own life and all its joys, twists and turns. Janáček's *Intimate Letters* then transports us to the fever dreams and passions of unrequited love before Golijov's tender *Tenebrae* reminds us of the wonder and fragility of human existence.

Beethoven

String Quartet No.11 in F minor, Op.95, *Serioso*

Vanessa Perica

String Quartet No.1, *No Feeling is Final*
(World Premiere)*

Janáček

String Quartet No.2, *Intimate Letters*

Golijov

Tenebrae for String Quartet

*Commissioned by the ASQ Australian Music Fund

Photo by Laura Manariti



Mt Barker (SA) Wed 7 May, 10.30am

Perth Thu 8 May, 7pm

Canberra Sun 11 May, 2pm

Sydney Mon 12 May, 7pm

Adelaide Fri 16 May, 7pm

Brisbane Mon 19 May, 7pm

Melbourne Thu 22 May, 7pm

CONVERGENCE

The sublime meets the sensational in *Convergence*, with music by Mozart, Ligeti and Schubert that ignites the imagination and brings the stunning voices of three legendary composers into focus.

With a warm and welcoming embrace, the grace of Mozart's lyrical *Prussian* Quartet in D Major opens this concert of music familiar, daring and masterful. Ligeti's groundbreaking String Quartet No.2 is an enthralling, kaleidoscopic journey through otherworldly textures and virtuosic writing for strings. The second half of *Convergence* reaches its emotional peak with one of the greatest quartets of all time, Schubert's enduringly popular fourteenth quartet—*Death and the Maiden*—a gripping celebration of life and death.

Mozart

String Quartet No.21 in D Major, K.575, *Prussian*

Ligeti

String Quartet No.2

Schubert

String Quartet No.14 in D minor,
Death and the Maiden

Mt Barker (SA) Thu 16 October, 10.30am

Adelaide Fri 17 October, 7pm

Canberra Sun 19 October, 2pm

Sydney Mon 20 October, 7pm

Sydney Tue 21 October, 10.30am

Perth Thu 23 October, 7pm

Melbourne Mon 27 October, 7pm

Brisbane Tue 28 October, 7pm

Photo by Laura Manariti



DUNKELD FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

The dramatic mountain ranges of Victoria's Southern Grampians set the scene for three immersive days of world-class music-making at our flagship bespoke festival. In 2025 we are joined by two outstanding guest artists—pianist Aura Go and soprano Sara Macliver—for a scintillating program of piano, voice and string quartet works. Musical highlights include Fauré's Piano Quintet No.2, Beethoven's monumental String Quartet No.13 in B-flat Major and *Grosse Fuge*, Amy Beach's Piano Quintet, a selection of songs by Golijov including *Tenebrae* and *How Slow the Wind*, and Fauré's exquisite song cycle *La Bonne Chanson* for voice, piano and strings.

If you seek a truly intimate and unique festival experience set against one of Australia's most iconic landscapes, then our *Dunkeld Festival of Music* is for you.

Festival one | Fri 28—Sun 30 March

Festival two | Sun 30 March—Tue 1 April

"Aura Go made a big impression, proving herself to be a great musician and brilliant pianist."—Hufvudstadsbladet

"The Night's unalloyed pleasures came in Sara Macliver's soprano arias."—The Age



Sara Macliver
Photo by Rhydian Lewis



Aura Go
Photo by Sarah Walker



MARGARET RIVER WEEKEND OF MUSIC

A cool ocean breeze drifts through the cellar doors of Vasse Felix, Voyager Estate and Leeuwin Estate, picking up the sounds of clinking cutlery, swirling wine, and fine music shared amongst friends who have gathered in Margaret River for our weekend of cultural and culinary delights.

In 2025 we are thrilled to welcome Western Australia's star soprano, Sara Macliver, as our guest artist for a program of music including a selection of songs by John Dowland, arias by Bach, Handel, Purcell and Vivaldi, Vanessa Perica's String Quartet No.1, Schubert's gripping *Death and the Maiden*, and Beethoven's String Quartet No.5 in A Major.

If you enjoy the thought of fine music, wine and food combined with the stunning coastline of southern Western Australia, then our *Margaret River Weekend of Music* is for you.

Fri 7—Sun 9 November

"Sara Macliver's purity of soprano tone is made for this repertoire."—The Australian



Sara Macliver
Photo by Rhydian Lewis



MARGARET RIVER VALETTE

TICKETS ON SALE

ONLINE BOOKINGS

To book online visit asq.com.au

PHONE BOOKINGS

All concerts and festivals can be booked by calling the Australian String Quartet on 1800 040 444, excluding the 10.30am Sydney matinee on Tue 21 October, which can be booked by calling the Sydney Opera House on 02 9250 7777.

VENUES

Adelaide

Elder Hall, The University of Adelaide

Brisbane

Ithaca Auditorium, Brisbane City Hall (Mon 19 May)
Queensland Conservatorium Theatre (Tue 28 October)

Canberra

Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia

Melbourne

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre

Mt Barker (SA)

UKARIA Cultural Centre

Perth

Hackett Hall, WA Museum Boola Bardip

Sydney

The Neilson, ACO Pier 2/3
(Mon 12 May & Mon 20 October)
Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House (Tue 21 October)

ON DEMAND

In celebration of our 40th year, we are making our On Demand platform free for all to enjoy. Watch over 70 live performances, interviews and insights into music for string quartet from anywhere you have an internet connection.

To enjoy, visit asq.com.au/on-demand and login or register to start viewing.

“THE
ASQ RE
MAINS
A SURE
FIRE
WIN
NER.”

The Age

40 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATIVE MUSIC

Music and mastery have been central to the ASQ's ambition since 1985.

We believe great music experiences are transformational. Whether we are presenting music in regional halls, the most revered performing arts venues around the world, or on the digital stage—our mission is to enrich communities and inspire Australians to live a more musical life.

As Australia's national string quartet, we celebrate the best of Australian music alongside the global canon of great works. To continue this important work for the next forty years, our Australian Music Fund seeks to raise one million dollars to enable the ASQ to commission, present, tour, record, and promote original Australian music.

As we mark our Ruby Anniversary, we invite you to help us to transform lives through the power of music by supporting our Australian Music Fund with a tax-deductible donation.



*To discover more about
how you can support us,
visit asq.com.au/support
or scan the QR code.*

“...A QUAR
TET THAT
CAN NOT
ONLY CON
VERSE
INTELLI
GENTLY
BUT SING
LIKE A
LYREBIRD
AS WELL.”

Limelight

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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Department of the Premier
and Cabinet



Australian Government



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I-NEX

Cul-de-sac
Creative



CLASSIC



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