

**MEDIA RELEASE****EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST 2025**

## **The Australian String Quartet's 'BIG GIG' Celebrates 40 Years with Free Concerts**

**The Australian String Quartet (ASQ)**, the country's pre-eminent organisation dedicated to string quartet music, will celebrate 40 years with the **ASQ's BIG GIG**, a day of free performances, exhibitions and immersive experiences at South Australia's iconic **Adelaide Town Hall**.

Over three special community events presented in partnership with the **City of Adelaide** and **CreateSA** on **Sunday 28 September 2025** the ASQ's *BIG GIG* welcomes audiences into the world of Australia's pre-eminent string quartet. In partnership with supporting philanthropic foundations and community organisations, the ASQ is welcoming people from across South Australia to experience an up-close performance with the ASQ.

Each family-friendly session will feature an exclusive performance by the ASQ, a showcase of emerging string quartets, a celebration of the Quartet's rich history and an opportunity to be fascinated by **Square Circles VR**, an immersive artwork collaboration by Jumpgate, Go Patterson Films and the Australian String Quartet, directed by William Barton and Stephen King.

According to ASQ Chief Executive, Angelina Zucco, the ASQ's *BIG GIG* is an opportunity to celebrate the Quartet's ruby milestone with the South Australian community.

"Honouring our deep South Australian heritage, the ASQ's *BIG GIG* is our signature 40th Anniversary celebration for the community. It's a chance to celebrate the ASQ's rich legacy while showcasing the outstanding breadth of what we do as a national performing arts organisation," Ms. Zucco said.

Founded in Adelaide in 1985, the ASQ has been Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music since 1991.

"Our community and supporters have been at the heart of the ASQ since its formation—they've made it possible for us to share music that spans centuries and continents. What truly drives us as a quartet is the magical exchange that happens in live performance, those shared moments where music creates genuine connections. ASQ's *BIG GIG* is our chance to celebrate with our longtime supporters while introducing new people to the music we love".

We are also grateful for the generosity of our project partners in the City of Adelaide, CreateSA, and the private philanthropic foundations including the Aldridge Family Endowment and Ian Wallace Family Bequest who have made these concerts free and accessible, she said.

The ASQ's 40-year celebrations are a major coup for South Australian audiences. Minister for Arts, Hon Andrea Michaels, MP said:

"The Malinauskas Government is proud to support this event celebrating 40 years of the Australian String Quartet. I encourage people to come along and enjoy these free concerts at the beautiful Adelaide Town Hall and experience the magic of classical music".

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Lord Mayor Dr Jane Lomax-Smith said that the City of Adelaide is proud to be supporting the ASQ's BIG GIG.

"For forty years, the ASQ has been enchanting audiences with music that stirs the soul.", she said.

"This milestone BIG GIG is a chance for everyone to step inside our beautiful Town Hall, explore its history, and share in the joy of live performance."

"It's a celebration of music, community, and the creative spirit that makes Adelaide a UNESCO City of Music."

The ASQ's *BIG GIG* is the latest addition to the Quartet's 2025 program, which will conclude with their **Convergence** national tour in October.

"This has been a year of celebrating life and the power of music with audiences across the country", says ASQ violinist Dale Barltrop.

"*BIG GIG* presents a major moment to welcome audiences, old and new into the world of the ASQ. It's an opportunity to honour the Quartet's legacy and place in culture as a living, breathing work of art. It's also about setting the scene for a shared, artistically rich and exciting future".

Bookings for the ASQ's BIG GIG open on Wednesday, 20 August, and are free of charge. It is essential to book in advance to attend the auditorium concerts, as places are limited. Light refreshments will be available for purchase at the Adelaide Town Hall.

**ENDS | For all media enquiries, contact Jeff Smith on +61 402 677 389 or [jeff@jeff-smith.com.au](mailto:jeff@jeff-smith.com.au)**

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For more information and bookings for the ASQ's **BIG GIG** please visit:

<https://asq.com.au/liveconcerts/asq-big-gig/>

[Media Images](#)

### **Event Details:**

#### **ASQ'S BIG GIG CONCERTS**

**Venue:** Adelaide Town Hall, Auditorium

**Tickets:** Free, bookings essential (limited capacity)

**Times:** Concert 1 – 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm

Concert 2 – 4.00 pm – 5.00pm

Concert 3 – 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm

**Description:** An hour-long all-ages performance by the acclaimed Australian String Quartet featuring a variety of music, old and new, in celebration of the ASQ's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Tickets are free. Bookings are essential. <https://asq.com.au/liveconcerts/asq-big-gig/>

#### **ASQ'S BIG GIG ACTIVATIONS**

**Venue:** Adelaide Town Hall, Banquet Room, Foyers and Balcony

**Tickets:** Free, bookings are not required

Light refreshments available for purchase. Picnic boxes available for pre-purchase.

**Times:** 12.30 pm – 7.30 pm

**Description:** Join the Australian String Quartet and its community partners for a free afternoon of family activities at the Adelaide Town Hall. Enjoy performances by talented young local quartets, explore different string instruments with the Elder Conservatorium of Music's Open Music Academy interactive sessions, experience the Square Circles VR, view the ASQ's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibitions, and enjoy refreshments on the iconic Adelaide Town Hall balcony.

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### **BIOGRAPHY – AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET**

The Australian String Quartet (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 40<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Dale Barltrop** plays a 1784 Guadagnini Violin, Turin

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

**Chris Cartlidge** plays a 1783 Guadagnini Viola, Turin

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

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Australian String Quartet thanks its Official Partners: Major Partner – The University of Adelaide, Government Supporters – Create SA and Creative Australia; Instrument Partner – UKARIA. The Big Gig project has been made possible with generous financial and in-kind support from Create SA, the City of Adelaide; Adelaide UNESCO City of Music; The University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music and Open Music Academy; Country Arts SA; Access2Arts; Black & White Photographics; Jacqui Way Photography; Cul-de-sac Creative; I-Nex; the Square Circles project team – William Barton & Stephen King, Jumpgate, Go Patterson Films; and philanthropic foundations including the Aldridge Family Endowment and Ian Wallace Family Bequest.