



AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET



2026
National Tours
& Festivals

WELCOME

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.

At its heart, a string quartet is a conversation. Four voices listening and responding to one another, creating something greater than any one of us alone. Each performance is a chance to bring that conversation to life, inviting you to become part of the music we create together.

In 2026 you'll hear us dive into music that brims with personality. *Interwoven* sparkles with Haydn's wit, Prokofiev's fire, Clara Schumann's lyricism, and the vivid colours of Elizabeth Younan, one of Australia's most distinctive new voices. *Voyager* sets off in a different direction, with Garth Knox's shifting *Satellites*, Bartók's fierce fourth quartet, and Beethoven's mighty Op.130 with its towering *Grosse Fuge*.

We'll also be welcoming friends to join the conversation. At the *Dunkeld Festival of Music*, we play alongside Dimity Hall and Julian Smiles, two of the country's most inspiring chamber musicians, and the brilliant pianist Andrea Lam. Later, we return to the Barossa Valley for a weekend of music, good company, and the rich atmosphere of that region, and are joined by Punjabi-Australian singing royalty Parvyn Kaur Singh and the extraordinary multi-instrumentalist Josh Bennett.

And these are only some of the highlights. Across the year there will be more to discover—concerts around the country, collaborations with new voices, and projects that come to life both on stage and in the digital spaces that connect us.

For us, the magic of the quartet isn't only in the notes on the page. It's in the shared breath before the first sound, the stillness after the last, and everything that happens in between. We can't wait to share this journey with you in 2026, wherever we meet—in a concert hall, at a festival, or somewhere completely unexpected.

See you soon

Chris, Francesca, Dale and Michael
Australian String Quartet



Left to right: Michael Dahlenburg, Chris Cartlidge, Dale Barltrop, Francesca Hiew

The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) is Australia's pre-eminent organisation dedicated to string quartet music and Quartet-in-Residence at Adelaide University's Elder Conservatorium of Music and School of Performing Arts.

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—Adelaide University, 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 Richard Divall Australian Music Fund supports our ground-breaking Australian Anthology project that proudly champions the work of Australian artists.

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.

INTERWOVEN

A stunning array of musical threads that intersect in a program of vivid contrasts.

The shimmering tapestry of Australian composer Elizabeth Younan's *Interwoven* welcomes you into this moving program. This is followed by the vigour, wit and invention of one of Haydn's most defining works for string quartet.

In the second half, Prokofiev's folk-infused second quartet—written in wartime exile—bursts with colour, grit and lyricism. To conclude, Clara Schumann's *Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann* pays heartfelt tribute to the timeless melodic beauty of her husband's music.

The music of *Interwoven* captures the deeply human impulse to create, connect and express.



Photos: Laura Manariti

Elizabeth Younan	String Quartet No.1, <i>Interwoven</i>
Haydn	String Quartet in A Major, Op.20 No.6
Prokofiev	String Quartet No.2 in F Major, Op.92
Clara Schumann	<i>Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann</i> , Op.20 (arr. Éric Mouret)

Perth Mon 11 May, 7pm Hackett Hall WA Museum Boola Bardip	Mount Barker (SA) Thu 14 May, 10:30am UKARIA Cultural Centre
Adelaide Fri 15 May, 7pm Elder Hall Adelaide University	Canberra Sun 17 May, 2pm Gandel Hall National Gallery of Australia
Brisbane Tue 19 May, 7pm Queensland Conservatorium Theatre Griffith University	Sydney Wed 20 May, 7pm The Neilson ACO on the Pier
Melbourne Thu 21 May, 7pm Elisabeth Murdoch Hall Melbourne Recital Centre	

VOYAGER

An expedition to the outer limits of the string quartet.

Garth Knox's *Satellites* opens *Voyager* with a kaleidoscopic exploration of sound and texture that expands the sonic possibilities of the string quartet. Bartók's arresting String Quartet No.4, a tour de force of rhythmic energy, then takes you to a playground of Hungarian folk influences and raw emotion.

Beethoven's monumental String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op.130, unfolds with lyricism and grandeur, before concluding with the awe-inspiring *Grosse Fuge*, a work of uncompromising power that pushes the boundaries of musical form.

The music of *Voyager* charts a radiant course through beauty, complexity and boundary-breaking innovation.



ASQ

National Tour

Photos: Laura Manariti

Garth Knox

Satellites

Bartók

String Quartet No.4

Beethoven

String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op.130, and *Grosse Fuge*, Op.133

Perth

Mon 12 October, 7pm
Hackett Hall
WA Museum Boola Bardip

Sydney

Mon 19 October, 7pm
The Neilson
ACO on the Pier

Sydney

Tue 20 October, 10:30am
Utzon Room
Sydney Opera House

Mount Barker (SA)

Thu 22 October, 10:30am
UKARIA Cultural Centre

Adelaide

Fri 23 October, 7pm
Elder Hall
Adelaide University

Canberra

Sun 25 October, 2pm
Gandel Hall
National Gallery of Australia

Brisbane

Tue 27 October, 7pm
Queensland Conservatorium Theatre
Griffith University

Melbourne

Thu 29 October, 7pm
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
Melbourne Recital Centre

“AUSTRALIAN MUSIC’S AWESOME FOURSOME.”

The Daily Telegraph

Our Distinct Sound

We perform on a matched set of instruments by 18th century Italian luthier Giovanni Battista Guadagnini on loan for our exclusive use through the generosity of UKARIA.

**Dale
Barltrop**

Guadagnini violin
1784, Turin

**Francesca
Hiew**

Guadagnini violin
1748–49, Piacenza

**Chris
Cartlidge**

Guadagnini viola
1783, Turin

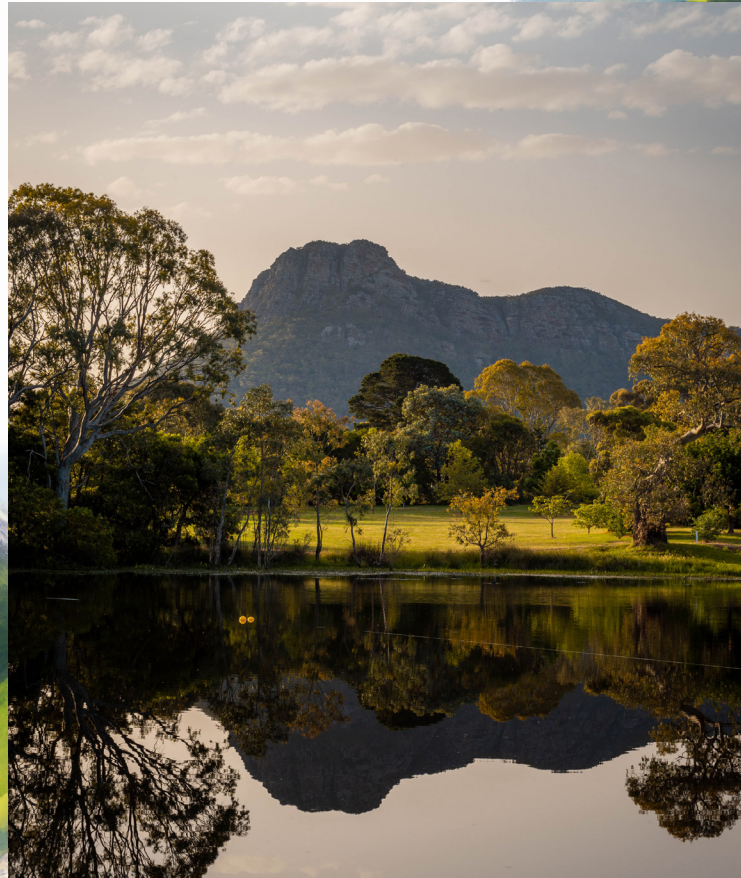
**Michael
Dahlenburg**

Guadagnini violoncello
c.1743, Piacenza ‘Ngeringa’



DUNKELD FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Three
remarkable
days of music
in Victoria's
Southern
Grampians.



Project Partner



ROYAL MAIL HOTEL

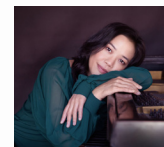


Photo:
Lisa-Marie
Mazzucco

Andrea Lam
Piano



Photo:
Keith Saunders

Dimity Hall
Violin



Photo:
Keith Saunders

Julian Smiles
Cello

Set against the dramatic backdrop of Victoria's Southern Grampians, the *Dunkeld Festival of Music* is our flagship bespoke festival. Across three extraordinary days, we invite you to immerse yourself in world-class music-making, presented in partnership with the acclaimed Royal Mail Hotel.

In 2026, we share the stage with three incredible guest artists—pianist Andrea Lam, and two lifetime members of the Goldner String Quartet, violinist Dimity Hall and cellist Julian Smiles. Beyond the concert hall, savour the Royal Mail's award-winning hospitality, all framed by one of Australia's most iconic landscapes.

If you're after a truly intimate chamber music experience, our *Dunkeld Festival of Music* awaits.

Festival One Wed 25—Fri 27 March

Festival Two Fri 27—Sun 29 March

BAROSSA WEEKEND OF MUSIC

Unique musical experiences set within South Australia's historic Barossa wine region.



An hour from Adelaide, the Barossa region offers exceptional wines, intimate cellar doors, acclaimed dining, and historic townships shaped by passionate artisans.

Join us for a memorable weekend of music set across iconic venues in Angaston, Tanunda, and Nuriootpa. Over the weekend, we invite you to share some of our favourite string quartets, along with performances by award-winning singer Parvyn Kaur Singh and multi-instrumentalist Josh Bennett. Blending classical Indian raga melodies and rhythms with contemporary genres like soul, jazz, and pop, Parvyn is internationally acclaimed for her genre-defying sound.

With festival packages and single tickets available, we welcome you to join us in the Barossa for an unforgettable weekend of world-class music, food, and wine.

Fri 18—Sun 20 September

This festival will go on sale in early 2026



Photo:
Claire Bishop

Parvyn Kaur Singh
Singer



Photo:
Sam Pickering

Josh Bennett
Multi-instrumentalist

BOOK NOW

Online Bookings

To book online visit asq.com.au

Phone Bookings

All concerts and festivals can be booked by calling the Australian String Quartet, with the exception of the Sydney matinee on Tue 20 October, which can be booked by calling the Sydney Opera House.

Australian String Quartet

1800 040 444

Sydney Opera House

02 9250 7777



WE ARE A COMMUNITY

Founded in 1985, the ASQ set out with a bold ambition to build close relationships with both city and country audiences by delivering outstanding music performances and championing Australian music. Four decades later, these founding philosophies, which include establishing close collaborations with local organisations and a passion for music education, remain central to our work.

Today, as Australia's leading organisation dedicated to string quartet music and the Quartet-in-Residence at the Adelaide University, we continue this rich legacy with our renewed commitment to making world-class string quartet music accessible to all. From our vibrant metropolitan centres to small regional communities, our annual touring program aims to connect with people through the power and intimacy of live string quartet performances.

We invite you to be part of a vital community of partners who sustain this work by making a tax-deductible donation to the ASQ's Public Fund. Together, we can continue to share the transformative power of music with people across regional and metropolitan Australia and around the world.



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

STUDENTS AND 40 & UNDER

To support younger audiences to access our performances, we offer tickets to our national tours at just \$15 for full and part-time students, and \$40 for people 40 & Under.

ON DEMAND

Watch over 70 live performances, interviews and insights about music for string quartet for free from anywhere you have an internet connection.

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

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.

Official Partners

Major Partner



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Learning & Engagement Sponsor



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WA Presenting Partner



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JUMP GATE



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