



# *Australian String Quartet*

NATIONAL TOURS & FESTIVALS

2027



ASQ

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

Every encounter with music is an opportunity for curiosity, connection and discovery. We are delighted to share these moments with you—our fellow explorers—as we continue to celebrate the wonder, richness and human connection of the string quartet.

This year, our national program traces a thread across time and place, bringing together composers united by fearless spirit and boundless imagination. *Unleashed* binds the works of Mozart, Bacewicz and Shostakovich in their bold search in unexpected directions, revealing creations of wonder and uncompromising spirit. *Portraits* celebrates music's capacity to illuminate character and perspective, bringing together works by György Kurtág, Robert Schumann and Philip Glass with the World Premiere of an evocative new quartet by Australian composer, Alice Chance.

Collaboration is central to the ASQ, and in 2027 we are delighted to deepen those connections through exciting programs with Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and Corpus

Medicorum. We look forward to returning to Dunkeld and Margaret River for our flagship festivals, joined by special guests James Crabb and Daniel de Borah.

Nurturing the next generation of chamber musicians remains one of our greatest privileges. We are delighted to once again welcome talented young string quartets to our home at Adelaide University for the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet Weekends, where we join our colleagues at the Elder Conservatorium of Music and School of Performing Arts to deliver an intensive weekend of learning, collaboration and performance.

Wherever you are, we hope you'll stay connected with us beyond the concert hall. Through ASQ On Demand, our Inner Voices podcast and ever-growing Australian Anthology, we invite you to explore performances, conversations and insights—always free to enjoy via our website.

Thank you for being part of our community.

Dale, Francesca, Chris & Michael  
Australian String Quartet

**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.

**"THE ASQ CONTINUES ITS LEADING ROLE IN EXEMPLARY STRING QUARTET PERFORMANCE."  
—LIMELIGHT**

## NATIONAL TOUR

**The creative genius of three composers is unleashed in these seminal works, each one representing a milestone of achievement in string quartet craft.**

**The glorious radiance of Mozart's G Major quartet heralds a ground-breaking set of works dedicated to the great "Papa" Haydn, whose quartet mastery made an indelible mark on the young Mozart.**

**There is no doubt that the Polish violinist and composer, Grażyna Bacewicz, built on the influence of the classical masters and forged a fresh path of her own. Her seven quartets are strikingly original and full of infectious, folk-inspired explorations that deservedly earned her the reputation of being one of the 20th century's most prolific and successful female composers. The third quartet of Dmitri Shostakovich is a towering achievement of profound depth, written in the shadow of war and reverberating with personal struggle and resilience.**

## MOZART

String Quartet in G Major, K.387

## BACEWICZ

String Quartet No.4

## SHOSTAKOVICH

String Quartet No.3 in F Major, Op.73

## CANBERRA

Sun 11 April, 2pm  
Gandel Hall  
National Gallery of Australia

## BRISBANE

Mon 12 April, 7pm  
Queensland Conservatorium Theatre  
Griffith University

## SYDNEY

Thu 15 April, 7pm  
The Neilson  
ACO on the Pier

## PERTH

Mon 19 April, 7pm  
Hackett Hall  
WA Museum Boola Bardip

## MELBOURNE

Wed 21 April, 7pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall  
Melbourne Recital Centre

## MOUNT BARKER (SA)

Wed 28 April, 10:30am  
UKARIA Cultural Centre

## ADELAIDE

Thu 29 April, 7pm  
Elder Hall  
Adelaide University

# Unleashed

# Portraits

## NATIONAL TOUR

Let your imagination run wild as we delve into a fascinating array of characters, brought to life through music.

We begin in the delicate, distilled soundscape of Kurtág's *Six Moments Musicaux* with exquisite musical miniatures that evoke scenes or characters of influence on the great Hungarian composer. The cast of characters continue to unveil themselves in a brand new quartet by Australian composer, Alice Chance, whose music is full of play, imagination and wit. Schumann famously expressed the two emotional extremes of his personality through imaginary alter egos, Florestan and Eusebius. He masterfully slips between these opposing states in his first string quartet, a deeply poetic expression of love and longing. After the ecstatic closing moments of Schumann sweep you off your feet, the meditative world of Philip Glass offers the space to go inward, to reflect and to feel.

## GYÖRGY KURTÁG

*Six Moments Musicaux*, Op.4

## ALICE CHANCE

String Quartet No.3,  
*The Cattery* (World Premiere)\*

## SCHUMANN

String Quartet No.1 in A minor, Op.41 No.1

## PHILIP GLASS

*Quartet Satz*

## BRISBANE

Thu 26 August, 7pm  
Queensland Conservatorium Theatre  
Griffith University

## MOUNT BARKER (SA)

Thu 2 September, 10:30am  
UKARIA Cultural Centre

## ADELAIDE

Fri 3 September, 7pm  
Elder Hall  
Adelaide University

## SYDNEY

Tue 14 September, 7pm  
The Neilson  
ACO on the Pier

## PERTH

Thu 16 September, 7pm  
Hackett Hall  
WA Museum Boola Bardip

## CANBERRA

Sun 19 September, 2pm  
Gandel Hall  
National Gallery of Australia

## MELBOURNE

Mon 20 September, 7pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall  
Melbourne Recital Centre

\*Commissioned by the ASQ  
Richard Davall Australian Music Fund



**DALE  
BARLTROP**

1784 Guadagnini Violin,  
Turin



**FRANCESCA  
HIEW**

1748-49 Guadagnini Violin,  
Piacenza

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.

c.1743 Guadagnini Violoncello,  
Piacenza

**MICHAEL  
DAHLENBURG**



**CHRIS  
CARTLIDGE**



**An immersive weekend of music and hospitality like no other, in the shadow of the dramatic Mount Sturgeon.**

**DUNKELD FESTIVAL *of* MUSIC**

There is a unique magic when exceptional music making meets the grandeur of Victoria's Southern Grampians. The *Dunkeld Festival of Music*, our flagship bespoke festival, invites you into a three-day experience of music and hospitality, presented in partnership with the multi-award-winning Royal Mail Hotel.

In 2027, we join forces with two extraordinary guest artists—Scottish classical accordionist James Crabb, and pianist Daniel de Borah. Together we will present an illuminating program that blends the string quartet with these two beloved keyboard instruments.

The Royal Mail's celebrated hospitality provides the opportunity to reflect between concerts, and to gather, share and connect as a community.

**FESTIVAL ONE**

Wed 17—Fri 19 March 2027

**FESTIVAL TWO**

Fri 19—Sun 21 March 2027

"Listening to outstanding music in a beautiful venue against the backdrop of Mt Sturgeon and the Gariwerd is a unique and soul enriching experience."  
—*Festival guest, 2026*



**James Crabb**  
Classical Accordion



**Daniel de Borah**  
Piano



Project Partner

Headshot photos:  
Christoffer Askman  
Darren James

**Three exceptional days that bring together the delights of Western Australia's iconic wine region with unique musical experiences.**

There is a particular clarity to the light and the air where the Indian Ocean meets the storied soils of WA's South West. Our *Margaret River Weekend of Music* is designed as a special opportunity to experience the region through all the senses.

Over three days, the festival unfolds across some of the region's most standout cellar doors—Vasse Felix, Cape Mentelle, Leeuwin Estate, and our National Wine Partner, Voyager Estate. You are invited to immerse yourself in the region's hallmark culinary artistry and world-class winemaking alongside intimate musical encounters, shared amongst a community of like-minded listeners.

In 2027 we welcome the extraordinary Scottish classical accordionist, James Crabb. Renowned for his boundary-pushing virtuosity, Crabb's artistry will expand the sonic world of the string quartet, introducing a breathing, reedy brilliance to our matched set of Guadagninis as we explore music for string quartet and classical accordion.

Fri 12—Sun 14 November 2027



**James Crabb**  
Classical Accordion

"It is always a joy to attend the Margaret River Weekend of Music...the atmosphere and community of the audiences are wonderful, and the venues, food and wines—fantastic!"  
—*Festival guest, 2025*

**MARGARET RIVER** **WEEKEND** *of* **MUSIC**

Photo: Voyager Estate  
Headshot photo: Christoffer Askan



### Australian Anthology

Our Australian Anthology was established in 2019 as a way of ensuring that Australian works for string quartet are recorded and available to generations of listeners around the world. The Australian Anthology is continually growing and will soon boast over thirty works by Australian composers that reflect the proud diversity of voices that make up our nation's musical landscape.

Discover more and listen now by scanning the QR code or visiting [asq.com.au/australian-anthology](https://asq.com.au/australian-anthology)



### ASQ On Demand

Available 24/7 from anywhere you have an internet connection, enjoy over 70 live performances, interviews and insights about music for string quartet at ASQ On Demand.

To enjoy for free, visit [asq.com.au/on-demand](https://asq.com.au/on-demand) and login or register to start watching.

### Inner Voices Podcast

Learn about the incredible world of string quartet music through our unique and intimate perspectives as the ASQ. Listen to us talk candidly about our experiences of learning, rehearsing and performing major works of the canon. Season one is now streaming, with more on the way.

Listen now by scanning the QR code or visiting [asq.com.au/podcast](https://asq.com.au/podcast)



Photo: Ryan McCurdy, RISE Films

### String Quartet Weekends 2027

As Quartet-in-Residence at Adelaide University, we work intensively with students and emerging ensembles from the Elder Conservatorium of Music and School of Performing Arts. In 2027, we are proud to once again join a lineup of some of Australia's finest chamber musicians for the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet Weekends. Held in the stunning acoustics of Elder Hall, this weekend offers new and established string quartets from across Australia and New Zealand a rare opportunity to receive intensive coaching and professional development from leading mentors.

**WEEKEND ONE**  
Sat 8—Sun 9 May  
Elder Hall  
Adelaide University

**WEEKEND TWO**  
Sat 4—Sun 5 September  
Elder Hall  
Adelaide University

Spaces are limited; to register your interest, please contact Edith Salzmann at [edith.salzmann@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:edith.salzmann@adelaide.edu.au)



### Nurturing the Future

For over 40 years, we have dedicated our time and expertise to programs at schools and universities in both rural and metropolitan regions. Our focus extends far beyond instrumental technique, leaning deeply into the heart of chamber music: the art of collective empathy, listening, communicating, and performing together.

Through our masterclasses and workshops, we deliver a range of educational experiences aimed at inspiring the next generation of musicians.

If you would like to explore school group bookings for our concerts, or to express interest in the ASQ visiting your school, email [asq@asq.com.au](mailto:asq@asq.com.au)

# FEATURED COLLABORATIONS



Check our website for further announcements throughout the year.



## Kinship

Presented by  
Melbourne Chamber Orchestra

Have you ever wondered what Franz Schubert might have produced had he lived in the 21st century and immersed himself in the world of rave and techno dance music? Australian composer Matthew Hindson poses this exact question in his electrifying fantasy on Schubert’s final string quartet, *The Rave and the Nightingale*. We combine forces with our friends in the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra to present a program that contrasts the rich sonority of the string orchestra with the raw intimacy of the string quartet.

Thu 4 March, 7:30pm  
Sun 7 March, 2:30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall  
Melbourne Recital Centre

**ANNE CAWRSE**  
*Anon* from *A Room of Her Own*  
(arr. string orchestra)\*

**PURCELL**  
Suite from *The Gordian Knot Untied*, Z.597

**ELGAR**  
Introduction and Allegro for Strings, Op.47

**BEETHOVEN**  
*Heiliger Dankgesang* from  
String Quartet No.15 in A minor,  
Op.132 (arr. string orchestra)

**MATTHEW HINDSON**  
*The Rave and the Nightingale*,  
a fantasy based on Schubert’s  
String Quartet No.15

## Absolute Jest

Presented by  
Corpus Medicorum

We team up with Melbourne's formidable orchestra of medical professionals to perform *Absolute Jest* by John Adams, a concerto for string quartet and orchestra that takes themes by Beethoven on a wild, kaleidoscopic ride.

Sun 16 May, 5pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall  
Melbourne Recital Centre

**DVOŘÁK**  
Carnival Overture, Op.92

**JOHN ADAMS**  
*Absolute Jest*

**STRAVINSKY**  
*Petrushka* (1911)

## Beethoven Festival

Presented by  
Darwin Symphony Orchestra  
& Arafura Music Collective

Across one special week celebrating the music of Beethoven and marking 200 years since the composer’s death, the Darwin Symphony Orchestra presents the ASQ in three of Beethoven’s most iconic and beloved string quartets.

Thu 27—Sun 30 May  
Darwin

**BEETHOVEN**  
String Quartet in C minor, Op.18 No.4

**BEETHOVEN**  
String Quartet in C Major, Op.59 No.3,  
*Razumovsky*

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

\*MCO Premiere arrangement

Photo: Albert Comper/Photography

Photo: Jay Patel

**ONLINE BOOKINGS**

To book online visit [asq.com.au](http://asq.com.au)

**PHONE BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES**

To book over the phone for *Unleashed*, *Portraits*, the *Dunkeld Festival of Music* and *Margaret River Weekend of Music*, please call the Australian String Quartet on 1800 040 444.

Booking details for *Kinship*, *Absolute Jest* and the *Beethoven Festival* can be found at [asq.com.au](http://asq.com.au)

**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.

The ASQ was founded with a bold ambition: to build close relationships with city and country audiences by championing outstanding Australian music. Today, that founding philosophy continues to guide us. We believe that great music brings people together, bridging generations to spark shared moments of curiosity and connection.

A tax-deductible donation to the ASQ's Public Fund directly sustains our national touring program, bringing the intimacy of live chamber music to both metropolitan centres and regional communities. These gifts help us cover the real costs of taking great music on the road—from travel and accommodation to venue hire—ensuring that exceptional string quartet experiences remain accessible.

By choosing to give, you join a community of donors who keep the ASQ's music moving. We invite you to support us and help to share great music with audiences across Australia and beyond.

To discover more about how you can support us, visit [asq.com.au/support](http://asq.com.au/support) or scan the QR code.



# THANK YOU

The Australian String Quartet 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



Government Supporters



Instrument Partner



## NATIONAL TOURING PARTNERS

Learning & Engagement Partner



National Wine Partner

VOYAGER ESTATE  
MARGARET RIVER

WA Presenting Partner



## DIGITAL, DESIGN AND MEDIA PARTNERS



JUMP GATE



# ASQ

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**SPOTIFY** [Australian String Quartet](https://open.spotify.com/artist/AustralianStringQuartet)

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