

AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET FUTURE FUND *ff*

SECURING THE FUTURE OF STRING
QUARTET MUSIC IN AUSTRALIA





Four decades of dedicated music-making have brought the Australian String Quartet to an exceptional point in its artistic life.

Never before have we heard the Quartet play with such power and grace.

Now is the time to put financial measures in place to ensure this magical music-making stays with us and is fostered into the future.

The ASQ Future Fund provides the financial security that will allow the Quartet to continue bringing chamber music of the highest standard, to Australia and the world.

Maria Myers AC
Patron
Australian String Quartet

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET.

OUR FUTURE FUND. OUR WAY FORWARD.



Music makes memories which linger long after the last note is played, and the audience has left the room. But at the ASQ we are more than just concerts.

We are custodians of cultural memory, champions of artistic excellence and a place where new Australian voices are discovered and celebrated.

Most importantly, our responsibility goes beyond the need to be successful during our tenure. It's to leave the ASQ stronger for those who come after us. Stronger for musicians, for audiences, for our community.

But we can't do it alone.

At the ASQ we believe a Future Fund is about stewardship, where we convert generosity into continuity. Changing how our organisation thinks, behaves and is perceived. Changing the mindset from

survival and balance to stewardship. Showing that we are committed to enriching cultural life beyond us all.

We have set ourselves a goal of \$15 million. We are thrilled to announce the commitment of \$4 million from our Lead Donor, the Wright Burt Foundation. Standing alongside it is a group of donors who are already on the journey with us, bringing total gifts and pledges to \$4.725 million.

We invite you to consider joining us and building the ASQ for the future.

Sheena Boughen OAM
Chair
Australian String Quartet

WHY SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET?

INTRODUCING THE ASQ FUTURE FUND

The Australian String Quartet is building a \$15 million Future Fund to help secure the long-term future of Australia's leading organisation dedicated to string quartet music.

The Fund will provide a lasting financial anchor for the ASQ, protecting the Quartet at the heart of the organisation and giving future generations of ASQ musicians the continuity, confidence and freedom to think beyond the next concert, grant or funding cycle. It is a forward-looking act of cultural stewardship and an investment in the people, time and organisational capacity required for world-class string quartet music to remain a living and evolving part of Australian national life.

The ASQ Future Fund will launch with \$4.725 million in existing pledges towards its \$15 million goal, including an extraordinary \$4 million commitment from the Wright Burt Foundation. This early act of cultural leadership and generosity gives the campaign genuine momentum and invites others to help build a cultural legacy that will last for generations.

THE CHEMISTRY OF FOUR VOICES

A string quartet is one of music's most intimate forms; four equal voices, constantly listening and responding to one another, sometimes in harmony and sometimes in tension, creating something greater than any one voice could achieve alone. To experience a string quartet in full flow is to witness trust, mutual respect, discipline and courage embodied in music.

String quartet music is not background music. It invites us to listen closely. It creates a dynamic exchange between composer, musician and listener, transforming an intimate musical conversation into a shared experience of curiosity, connection and discovery. At a time when so much of life competes for our attention, the opportunity to slow down, listen deeply and engage with one another is more important than ever.

AN AUSTRALIAN QUARTET WITH A NATIONAL PURPOSE AND GLOBAL REACH

In 1985, four pioneering Australian musicians set out to embed the string quartet form into our national cultural landscape. More than forty years later, generations of musicians, staff, Board members, partners and supporters have built and sustained something rare – today's ASQ. The ASQ is a unique model, combining four full-time musicians and equal Co-Artistic Directors with a world-class creative production organisation capable of commissioning new work, touring a vast country, nurturing new artists, recording Australian music and representing Australian artistry on the world stage.

Since its formation, the ASQ has premiered more than 80 Australian works and built creative relationships that often extend over years or decades. It performs music from the past and present, champions Australian composers and creators, works across cultures and art forms, and connects people across metropolitan, regional and remote Australia. The Quartet is the artistic heart of the ASQ. The organisation around the Quartet is what enables that artistry to travel, grow and matter. Together, as one ASQ, our ambition is to evolve and thrive for generations to come.

For me, one of the great privileges of being part of the Australian String Quartet is time. Time to really live with the music. To return to it again and again. To interpret it, question it, refine it... and master it.

Dale Barltrop
Co-Artistic Director & Violin
Australian String Quartet



THE ART OF THE STRING QUARTET

The qualities that make the Australian String Quartet (ASQ) culturally valuable are also the qualities that make it financially vulnerable. String quartet music is intimate, painstaking and deliberately unscalable. Its impact can be amplified, but its craft cannot be commercially scaled or efficiently 'productised' without changing the thing itself.

Excellence requires more than individual virtuosity. It requires four exceptional musicians with the time, continuity and commitment to rehearse deeply, live with repertoire and grow together artistically. It also requires an innovative production company that enables and amplifies that excellence through commissioning, touring, recording, education, advocacy and the development of new work. This is what transforms a quartet into a national cultural institution. It is also why the ASQ cannot secure its future simply by selling more tickets or presenting more concerts. Sustaining excellence requires long-term investment in both the Quartet and the mission it serves.

BEYOND THE NEXT PERFORMANCE

The ASQ Future Fund is a forward-looking commitment to long-term sustainability. It will complement, not replace, the annual income that makes today's work possible. By building permanent investment capital, the Fund will give the ASQ greater resilience across economic cycles, political priorities and changing funding conditions, and greater confidence to plan beyond the next season, grant or fundraising campaign.

FOUR AMBITIONS. ONE FUTURE.

The ASQ is committed to sustaining artistic excellence, championing Australian creativity, connecting communities through music and futureproofing string quartet music for the long-term. The ASQ Future Fund will build long-term invested capital so these four commitments can be protected and pursued with greater confidence for generations.

The ASQ Future Fund does not replace ticket income, public investment, partnerships, Artists' Circle or annual philanthropy. All these sources of revenue and support help the ASQ operate in the short term. The intention of the Fund is to provide greater financial certainty over the long term, enabling the ASQ to plan with confidence across artistic seasons and funding cycles.

Confidence and continuity are what will provide the Quartet and the whole organisation with the capacity to devote more time to rehearse, sustain and nurture deeper creative relationships, invest more in Australian voices, reach more communities across a vast country and imagine what the unique form of string quartet music can become next. Long-term security is not the final ambition. It is simply the enabling condition for even greater artistic courage and cultural impact.

A REMARKABLE BEGINNING

The Wright Burt Foundation has made a \$4 million commitment as Lead Donor to the ASQ Future Fund. Its decision to support the ASQ Future Fund represents both extraordinary generosity and a powerful expression of confidence in the organisation, its leadership, and its future. Together with further founding pledges, the Fund will launch with \$4.725 million committed towards its \$15 million target.

The ASQ has already demonstrated it can endure, being more than 40 years old and stronger than ever. The creation of the ASQ Future Fund comes at a perfect time. The organisation is primed to take on the responsibility and expectation that an endowment generates and they have more than earned our support. It is a privilege to help get the fund off to a strong start and to ultimately become one of many who support the ASQ's unique and important place in Australian culture.

**Wright Burt Foundation
ASQ Future Fund Lead Donor**



OUR AMBITION FOR THE FUTURE

The ASQ Future Fund will help future generations preserve what is essential while continuing to evolve the unique form that is string quartet music. Its impact will be expressed through four connected commitments:

- Sustain artistic excellence
- Champion Australian creativity
- Connect communities through music
- Futureproof string quartet music

SUSTAIN ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

The Fund will help preserve the conditions in which excellence becomes possible: sustained artistic leadership, dedicated rehearsal and creative development time, professional renewal, deep exploration of the chamber music canon and the freedom to pursue ambitious multi-year projects. Excellence is not a finish line. It is a standard renewed through time, concentration and continual artistic growth.

CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN CREATIVITY

Australian music has been at the heart of the ASQ for more than forty years. The ASQ Future Fund will help the Quartet continue to commission new work, build long-term relationships with composers and creators, collaborate across cultures and art forms, and give Australian stories and artistic voices the chance to be heard nationally and internationally. It will support a distinctly Australian contribution to the form: ambitious, open, adventurous and generous in spirit.

CONNECT COMMUNITIES THROUGH MUSIC

Music is at its most powerful when it is shared. The ASQ Future Fund will help deepen ASQ's connection with audiences, communities and places across metropolitan, regional and remote Australia, while nurturing emerging musicians and ensembles. Whether the encounter happens in a concert hall, a school, a community venue or online, the ambition remains the same – to invite people into a shared experience of music, connection and discovery.

FUTUREPROOF STRING QUARTET MUSIC

The string quartet has endured because every generation has found something new to say through it. Its future in Australia cannot be taken for granted. The ASQ Future Fund will give ASQ greater confidence to embrace new technologies, develop audiences, support young musicians, invest in recording and new presentation formats, and pursue ambitious national and international ideas. The challenge is not simply to maintain what exists today, but to create the foundations for what comes next.

The ASQ Future Fund will allow us to keep pursuing bold ideas: backing new Australian voices, commissioning new works and creating music that could only come from here. This gives us the freedom to imagine what Australian music can become.

Chris Cartlidge
Co-Artistic Director & Viola
Australian String Quartet



OUR TURN TO SECURE THE FUTURE

The ASQ exists today because, for more than forty years, people have believed it was worth building and sustaining. Musicians, Board members, staff, donors, partners and supporters have collectively created something rare: a world-class string quartet that has championed Australian composers, nurtured artistic excellence and brought one of music's most intimate and powerful forms to communities across the country. Today's ASQ is the result of that shared commitment. Each generation has inherited the ASQ from those who came before, strengthened it in its own way, and passed it on.

Now it is our turn. The ASQ Future Fund is an opportunity to act as responsible stewards of something that took more than forty years to build and that, if lost, may never be rebuilt. It allows us to pass the ASQ on stronger, more confident and more creatively courageous than we received it.

This is not simply a decision about the future of one organisation. It is a decision about the cultural life Australia wishes to sustain, whether this country should continue to have a world-class professional string quartet of its own, and whether future generations should continue to experience the chemistry, intimacy, beauty, challenge and joy that the art form makes possible.



Since 1985, the Australian String Quartet has set a high bar for artistic ambition. As a leading arts organisation, the ASQ Future Fund ensures we can continue to do so for generations to come, strengthening our capacity to sustain artistic excellence, champion Australian creativity and approach the future with confidence.

Angelina Zucco
Chief Executive Officer
Australian String Quartet

PHOTO: JACQUI WAY

Almost 30 years ago, the Australian String Quartet came to my school. I remember watching those four musicians, awestruck, thinking, 'I wish that was my job.' Here I am, 30 years later, lucky enough to be living that dream. And now it is us who can have that kind of impact. I remember meeting a little boy on Kangaroo Island who told me he wanted to play cello like I do. And the cycle continues.

Michael Dahlenburg
Co-Artistic Director & Cellist
Australian String Quartet



WAYS TO SUPPORT

HELP US SECURE THE FUTURE OF STRING QUARTET MUSIC IN AUSTRALIA

The ASQ Future Fund is being built by people who believe string quartet music should remain a living and evolving part of Australia's cultural life. Every gift, whether made now, pledged over time or included in a will, contributes to a lasting source of confidence for future musicians, creators and audiences.

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE ASQ FUTURE FUND

- Make an immediate gift to the ASQ Future Fund.
- Make a pledge fulfilled over an agreed period.
- Give through a private or public ancillary fund.
- Include a gift to the ASQ Future Fund in your will.
- Begin a confidential conversation about a significant or tailored commitment.

The ASQ will work confidentially with supporters and their professional advisers to identify an approach that reflects their circumstances, intentions and desired legacy.

RECOGNISING GENEROSITY

Every ASQ Future Fund supporter becomes part of the community helping secure the next chapter of the Australian String Quartet. The ASQ will recognise that generosity with care and in accordance with each supporter's wishes, including the option to be acknowledged publicly or to remain anonymous.

Support for ASQ can take many forms across a lifetime. Someone may begin by giving annually, later make a significant commitment to the ASQ Future Fund, or choose to include the ASQ as a bequest in their will. We will value every contribution, and above all, the enduring commitment of those who choose to help secure the ASQ for future generations. Your gift to the Future Fund is tax-deductible, enabling you to make a lasting impact while receiving an eligible tax deduction.

Recognition will always reflect the supporter's wishes and the ASQ's discretion. It acknowledges generosity and does not confer artistic influence, governance rights or any benefits of equivalent value.

ASQ FUTURE FUND HONOUR ROLL

The ASQ Future Fund Honour Roll will acknowledge supporters whose generosity helps secure the ASQ's future. Recognition may appear in the ASQ Future Fund Impact Report, the ASQ Annual Report, website and selected campaign or program materials. ASQ Future Fund recognition will remain distinct from the ASQ's annual giving recognition, even where the same supporter participates in both. Supporters may always choose anonymity.

ASQ FUTURE FUND FOUNDATION DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge the following visionary donors who have joined our Lead Donor, the Wright Burt Foundation, in supporting the ASQ Future Fund through pledges and gifts committed to the Fund over a maximum of four years, to-date:

ASQ Future Fund Lead Donor - \$4 million
Wright Burt Foundation

\$100,000+
Richard Cavill Foundation
Kerrell and David Morris
Ian Wallace Family Foundation

\$50,000+
Diane Craddock

\$10,000+
Christobel Botten and Andrew Cuthbertson AO
Sheena Boughen OAM and Bill Caldicott
Bruce Cooper and Bronwyn Ross-Jones
Janet McLachlan and Ian McLachlan AO
Suzanne Stark and Denis Stark
Jayne Taylor and Patrick Taylor
Anonymous

ASQ Legacy Circle - Notified Bequest
Robyn Tamke

DISTINCTIVE RECOGNITION AND STEWARDSHIP

Beyond public acknowledgement, the ASQ will recognise generosity through thoughtful stewardship that brings supporters closer to the musicians, craft and creative life they are helping secure. These points of connection are expressions of gratitude that we hope will mark the moment when the generosity of our supporters helped secure the future of string quartet music in Australia.

LEAVE A MUSICAL LEGACY

A gift in your will can create an enduring connection between a lifetime's love of music and the artists and audiences who follow. By including the ASQ Future Fund in your estate planning, you can help ensure future musicians have the time, security and freedom to pursue excellence, champion Australian creativity and share string quartet music with communities across the country.

We understand that a bequest is personal and that family and loved ones come first. The ASQ can provide suggested wording and work confidentially with you and your professional advisers. You may choose whether your intention is recognised publicly or remains private, and you may change your intentions at any time.

Supporters who notify the ASQ that they have included a gift in their will may choose whether to share its indicative value. There is no obligation to do so, and every notified bequest will be recognised with equal gratitude. Where a supporter does choose to provide an indication of value, that information will be treated confidentially and will help the ASQ plan responsibly for the Fund's long-term future.

More than 40 years ago, the Australian String Quartet gave me my first experience of classical music and opened my heart to a world that has enriched my life ever since. Through their artistry, passion and commitment to excellence, the ASQ has brought me decades of delight, inspiration and connection, and over the years has become like family. Supporting the ASQ Future Fund with a gift in my Will is my way of honouring all the joy and memories they have given me. It's a great comfort to know that my gift will help the Quartet continue to inspire and enrich lives for generations to come.

Robyn Tamke
ASQ Legacy Circle

For centuries, string quartet music has survived because every generation has found something new to say through it. But its future cannot be taken for granted. If we want string quartet music to thrive here, we have to actively create its future. The ASQ Future Fund will give the next generation the freedom to do the same, so that string quartet music does not simply endure in Australia, but continues to evolve and thrive.

Francesca Hiew
Co-Artistic Director & Violinist
Australian String Quartet



HOW THE FUND WORKS

HOW YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE STEWARDED FOR GENERATIONS

A gift intended to benefit future generations carries a special responsibility. The Australian String Quartet will steward ASQ Future Fund contributions with discipline, transparency and a clear commitment to the purposes for which they were given.

A FUND FOR THE LONG TERM

Contributions to the ASQ Future Fund are accounted for as a separate reserve within ASQ's balance sheet. The Fund forms part of Australian String Quartet Inc and is not a separate trust or legal entity. Its investment objective is to preserve and grow capital over the long term while generating a relatively predictable and growing stream of income to support ASQ. The Fund is designed to operate in perpetuity and build a permanent corpus from donations and reinvested surplus income. The approved Investment Policy adopts a patient 10-year investment horizon and requires a diversified portfolio aligned with the ASQ's purpose and values.

HOW THE FUND WILL BE USED

The ASQ Future Fund distributions will support four agreed commitments: sustaining artistic excellence, championing Australian creativity, connecting communities through music and futureproofing string quartet music. In practical terms, this means helping protect the full-time Quartet, the time and artistic autonomy required for mastery, and the essential organisational capability that allows ASQ's work to be commissioned, produced, toured, recorded, promoted and shared. The ASQ Future Fund distributions will underwrite salaries and the core management costs of the organisation. These are the practical foundations through which the four impact commitments can be sustained.

INVESTMENT GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The ASQ Board has established the ASQ Future Fund and approved its Investment Policy. The Fund is managed by the Board with advice from the ASQ Future Fund Advisory Committee. The ASQ Future Fund Advisory Committee oversees implementation and investment

performance and advises the Board, while the CEO and ASQ team provide administration and reporting. Professional investment managers or advisers may be engaged to manage assets and provide specialist advice in accordance with the policy.

The Fund's investment objectives are to preserve and grow capital, generate sustainable returns, diversify assets, manage risk prudently and align investments with ASQ's purpose and values. The policy prohibits derivatives, cryptocurrency, speculative or high-risk investments, and investments that conflict with ASQ's values.

Under the ASQ Future Fund Policy, distributions will not begin until the Fund reaches \$5 million. Once they begin, annual distributions are limited to the income the Fund earns in that year and capped at 5% of its average market value over the preceding three years. The ASQ Future Fund Advisory Committee reviews performance at least quarterly, and ASQ reports on the Fund each year through a dedicated ASQ Future Fund Impact Report and its Annual Report. The Board reviews the Fund's policies from time to time to ensure they continue to serve the Fund's long-term purpose.

BEGIN A CONVERSATION

An ASQ Future Fund gift or bequest begins with a conversation.

We invite you to speak confidentially with the ASQ about what you value, the future you would like to help create and the form of support that is right for you.

All enquiries to:
Sheena Boughen OAM
Chair
Australian String Quartet

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SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR VISIT
[ASQ.COM.AU/FUTURE-FUND](https://asq.com.au/future-fund)

