

Australian Chamber Orchestra

RICHARD TOGNETTI – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ACO UP CLOSE

# TIMO-VEIKKO VALVE

SUNDAY 29 MAY, 2.30PM  
THE NEILSON, PIER 2/3

TUESDAY 31 MAY, 7.30PM  
HANSON DYER HALL



ASSOCIATE PARTNER



SERIES PARTNER



ACO GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Australian Chamber  
Orchestra is supported  
by the NSW Government  
through Creative NSW

# ACO UP CLOSE: TIMO-VEIKKO VALVE

During these last few years, while we haven't been able to travel as much, music has been the thing, the vehicle, that transported me, allowing me to visit my home country of Finland. Well, at least in my imagination it did.

When devising this program together with Aura, we immediately thought of Finland. We wanted to convey the essence of its vast, sometimes cold, landscape. Aura spent several years studying and living in Helsinki, my hometown, so I believe we share an understanding of the peculiar Finnish psyche and a love for its distant and unique character.

We are thrilled to introduce you to the music of Helvi Leiviskä, a pioneer of composition in Finland. I think it is safe to say that her evocative and original music had not reached Australia before these concerts.

I've had the privilege to work extensively with Aura in the recent past, and straight after these recitals, we will embark on a mammoth project together, recording the complete Beethoven Sonatas for ABC Classic.

In this program we thought it would be illuminating to place a sonata by JS Bach directly in conversation with the final Beethoven sonata, where he clearly looks back to the music of JS Bach: an epic fugue forms the final movement, bringing his sonata cycle to an ecstatic and decisive conclusion.

## Timo-Veikko Valve

Over the past year, I have had the immense pleasure of collaborating with Tipi on a Beethoven performance and recording project. Originally planned for the Beethoven 2020 celebrations, this project has been coming to fruition in bursts, interspersed with lockdowns and travel restrictions. These creative bursts have been highlights of a period during which all opportunities to play chamber music have found an extra special resonance.

For these *ACO Up Close* recitals, we are delighted to share a collection of works that hold personal meaning to us, that reflect our musical curiosities and conversations, and that shed light on the evolution of the cello-piano duo.

## Aura Go

# PROGRAM

Timo-Veikko Valve Cello

Aura Go Piano

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

JEAN SIBELIUS

HELVI LEIVISKÄ

HELVI LEIVISKÄ

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Kumi Taguchi Host (Sydney)

Zan Rowe Host (Melbourne)

Sonata in D major, BWV1028

Malinconia, Op.20

Sonatine, Op.14

Cantabile

Sonata No.5 in D major, Op.102, No.2

## TIMO-VEIKKO VALVE

Timo-Veikko 'Tipi' Valve grew up in Helsinki, surrounded by a family who were "musical, but not musicians", and who wanted music lessons to be a part of their children's lives. Tipi was encouraged to pick up the cello because one of the teachers at the local music school, upon seeing him as a toddler, declared that he "looks like a cellist." Tipi is still not sure what this actually means.

Tipi describes the Australian Chamber Orchestra as his "first and only job to date". His audition for the Orchestra was also his first and only audition, done while he was nearing the end of his studies at the Edsberg Music Institute in Stockholm after studying at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. He jokes that it was appealing that the audition was for a position in Australia, because if he "totally crashed and burned", no one at home would ever find out.

Tipi has been the Principal Cello of the ACO for 16 years. He describes playing with a small, tightly knit community of people as the natural habitat for someone with his musical personality and says the close relationship he formed with his ACO colleagues, old and new, was instant.

Tipi performs on both modern and period instruments and describes the cello as flexible and adaptive, both in its role in an ensemble or as a soloist across all forms of music. Tipi reflects this versatility and is enjoying a varied career as a musician, play-directing from the cello, and appearing as a soloist with many of the major orchestras across his two home countries, Finland and Australia. Tipi also has an active interest in new music, having commissioned and premiered concertos and other works written specifically for him.

He currently plays a 1616 Brothers Amati cello which is lent to him exclusively from the ACO Instrument Fund.

Timo-Veikko Valve's Chair is sponsored by Prof Doug Jones AO & Prof Janet Walker.

## AURA GO

Aura Go is an Australian pianist whose practice encompasses performance, collaboration, curation, education and artistic research.

She has been a soloist in concertos ranging from Bach to Gubaidulina, has directed concertos and large-scale collaborative works from the keyboard, is a passionate advocate for new and underrepresented music, and brings her imagination and adventurous spirit to older music, with a special affinity with the music of Mozart and Beethoven.

A frequent guest artist at international music festivals, Aura has performed at the Edinburgh Festival, Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, Rauma Festivo, PianoEspoo, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Australian Festival of Chamber Music and the Huntington Estate Music Festival, among others. Recently she took a leading role as pianist/actor in the new stage adaptation of Paul Kildea's book *Chopin's Piano* for Musica Viva. She is a member of the acclaimed KIAZMA Piano Duo with Tomoe Kawabata.

Aura is Head of Piano at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance at Monash University.

## KUMI TAGUCHI (SYDNEY)

Kumi Taguchi is the host of Australia's leading forum show, *Insight* on SBS. She has 25 years' experience in the media industry in Australia and Hong Kong.

Kumi trained as a classical violinist but shifted to journalism after university. Her first job included picking up dry cleaning and answering phones for the ABC's *7.30 Report*. Since then, Kumi has worked across radio, television, current affairs, long-form documentaries, more recently as the host of ABC's *Compass* and as a presenter for the ABC News Channel. Kumi is also known for hosting major live broadcast events, including the Invictus Games Sydney with a global audience of 60 million, *Stargazing Live* with Professor Brian Cox, the *Australian of the Year Awards*, and Sydney's *Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo*.

A keen adventurer, Kumi has run two half marathons, a marathon in the centre of Australia and sailed the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

## ZAN ROWE (MELBOURNE)

Zan Rowe is the ABC's National Music Correspondent and host of *Double J Mornings*. For more than 15 years, Zan has been a daily presence on ABC radio, TV and online.

Music is at the centre of every conversation and has brought Zan to the homes of millions via the annual ABC TV New Years Eve broadcast alongside Charlie Pickering, and into the podcast feeds of many with her award winning *Take 5* podcast.

When not tapping her foot or swooning to a song, Zan talks pop culture with Myf Warhurst on the popular *Bang On* podcast. She has hosted large scale events for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Art Gallery of NSW, Tropfest and Sydney Festival. Zan's passion for sharing stories, conversations, and creativity drives her every day.